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Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Water authority raises rates

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — As one of 112 communities in southeast Michigan that buys filtered water from the Great Lakes Water Authority, the Park lacks market power to beat back a recently announced rate increase.

“We’re engaging with GLWA to see if there are any options,” Councilman Max Wiener said.

He knows his options are limited.

“At the end of the day,” he said, “our focus needs to be on what we can do internally in Grosse Pointe Park to make sure our (water and sewer) systems are more efficient and to minimize water loss.”

GLWA’s board of direc-

tors announced last week an upcoming fiscal year budget fueled by an average 5.8 percent rate increase for drinking water and 4.26 percent for wastewater treatment.

“It’s hitting all municipalities,” Wiener said. “Rates they’re talking about now are a little lower than originally proposed — about 15 percent lower — but they’re still high.”

The authority’s top administrator linked the increases to operating and capital improvement costs.

“Our regional system is at an inflection point,” CEO Suzanne Coffey said in a news release. “Aging infrastructure is deteriorating faster than

See RATES, page 4A



Zach Werenski with his parents, Kristen and Ken, after Team USA won the gold medal in hockey at the Winter Olympics last month.

Game of a lifetime

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Since his son, Zach Werenski, moved away at age 16 to train with USA Hockey’s national development program in Plymouth, Ken Werenski estimates he’s missed about five games, watching the rest in person or online.

That included Zach’s stint playing for the University of Michigan and his 10 years so far with the Columbus Blue Jackets in the NHL.

“I’ve even left social events so I could go home and watch the third period,” he laughed. “I always tell myself I can do it (not watch), but you never know what kind of amazing play you might see.”

He certainly wasn’t about to miss some of, if not the biggest, games in Zach’s career, that being the Olympics in Milan.

“I felt like when we left

See GAME, page 3A

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See section C

Farms OKs final plan for Pier Park

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Demolition of the Pier Park pool complex is scheduled to begin March 15, as the city officially embarks on a \$14 million renovation, including a new bathhouse, competition and recreation pools, a tot pool and an adjoining splash pad.

“We have, at this point, eliminated what we called a splash deck at the front of the entrance to the bathhouse area,” City Manager Shane Reeside said last week.

The only other notable change to the complex’s approved site plan is a reconfiguration of the shape of the tot pool — specifically, widening the portion with zero-depth

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Municipalities urge state to allow local control of zoning issues

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Several local officials from the Pointes and Harper Woods joined more than 100 representatives of Michigan municipalities last week to speak in opposition of a proposed package of bills that, as of press time, was before the House Regulatory Reform Committee.

The bipartisan effort spearheaded by Democratic Rep. Kristian Grant of Grand Rapids and Republican Rep. Joe Aragona of Clinton Township would preempt local authority by legalizing a one-size-fits-all

approach to several zoning issues, including duplexes, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), mini-

“What these bills would be doing is taking away control of the neighborhoods, not from elected officials, but from the people we represent.”

SHEILA TOMKOWIAK,
City of Grosse Pointe Mayor

mum setbacks, lot sizes and dwelling unit sizes.

“House Bills 5529 through 5532, along with related proposed legislation, if enacted, would not only strip local elected officials of their decision-making authority, it would

also dismiss years of community planning work and amount to a clear override from Lansing of local

voices and voter-backed decisions,” said Amy O’Leary, executive director of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, which organized the call to action in opposition.

Among those in atten-

dance at a press conference Tuesday, Feb. 24, were Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak, council members Maureen Juip and Terence Thomas and City Manager Joe Valentine from the City of Grosse Pointe; Grosse Pointe Farms Councilman Lev Wood; and Mayor Valerie Kindle and Councilman Ivory Toussant from Harper Woods.

“Us local community planners all got together to support the idea that local decision making is being threatened,” Wood said later that day. “This was

See CONTROL, page 3A

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Harry Gaggos
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Hellenic Museum of Michigan
executive director



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Jerry’s Club Party Store changes hands

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Not only will the frozen Coke machine remain a steady staple of Jerry’s Club Party Store, but new owner Grace Paschke also has a vision to add hotdogs to go to the summer fun offerings for local kids.

“At first, I was kind of like, ‘Well, no one can replace Jerry,’ and some of that still lives in me because people come in and they’re so upset that they’re gone,” Paschke said. “They say it’ll never be the same and I agree, but I think that if anyone is equipped to make it just as good but different, it would be a Grosse



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

From left, Jerry Stocking, Rose Peyrolo and new owner Grace Paschke with her parents, David and Gina Paschke.

Pointe family.”

Paschke and her dad, David, picked up the torch a little over a month ago, when Jerry Stocking

retired after 38 years at the helm of the corner convenience store.

He took over the store in August 1987, when its

original owner, Gene Stover, was ready to retire. It’s now entering its third generation in the same way.

“I just want to thank the community for 38 years,” Stocking said. “I couldn’t have asked for a better situation. I really enjoyed my work and dealing with all the people in the community and their support. It’s been phenomenal. What a great place to live, to raise your family and do business.”

Cashier Rose Peyrolo also bid farewell to her longtime post about a month ago.

She joined Stocking at Jerry’s in 1989.

“I always told him once he’s ready to retire, we’ll retire together,” she said.

Stocking met David Paschke about 25 years ago in an adult hockey league and watched

Grace and her siblings grow up, as they spent summers and countless days after school going by Jerry’s.

With a degree in marketing and fine arts from Western Michigan University, the lifelong Farms resident left behind an unfulfilling corporate marketing job to carry forward the iconic Jerry’s brand.

“I think it’s really rare to have a store that is this small and also personal,” she said. “A lot of times you go to stores and it might be small, but the owners aren’t making an effort to have a personal relationship with a lot of people, especially people

See JERRY’S, page 8A

PLANS:

Continued from page 1A

entry.

“We expanded that area, because that’s a popular area for young kids if they’re being introduced to water,” Reeside said. “Our current baby pool is very narrow.”

While landscaping plans have necessitated the removal of six trees, the city will replace them with nine new plantings, he added.

The total project budget has landed at \$14,798,800.

Construction costs rest at \$12,409,222, but city administrators also factored in escalation and contingency costs, as well as indirect costs, such as new pool furniture.

The Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation has committed to funding \$4 million of the project, with city administrators anticipating coming before council for approval of a \$10,798,000 general obligation bond to cover the rest.

“How do we pay for it?” Reeside acknowledged. “The plan has been to utilize our debt service that we’ve been paying for previous parks projects over the last 20 years for improvements that have been made with the construction of the community building, with the expansion of the harbor. Those bonds are now being paid off, so that debt is coming off the books as we now will be issuing additional debt.

“What we hope to see and we plan to see is a smooth transition,” he continued. “It’s not going to be a major change in our overall budget and those funds will be coming through our general fund, not a special millage or anything of that sort.”

Farms city council last week approved a \$3,489,693 contract with the Blake Co. for construction of the bathhouse, mechanical building and refurbishing of the current mechanical room into space for lifeguards.

Council in the same meeting then approved a \$5,253,379 contract with Baruzzini Aquatics for construction of the competition and recreation pools, tot pool and splash pad.

This summer

With the Pier Park pool complex closed for construction the entirety of this summer, city administrators got creative with leveraging community partnerships to ensure Farms residents still will have access to a pool in the upcoming warm weather months.

“Hopefully we’ll be the benchmark for other communities if they ever do this project,” Parks and Recreation Director Chris Galatis said.

Split between the city’s two voting precincts, residents in precinct one will receive a yellow park pass. The pass makes them eligible to swim at Lake Front Park in Grosse Pointe Woods May 25 to July 15. They then will have access to the Windmill Pointe Park pool in Grosse Pointe Park July 16 to Sept. 7.

The opposite schedule is set for residents in precinct two, who will receive an orange park pass.

Access to the parks

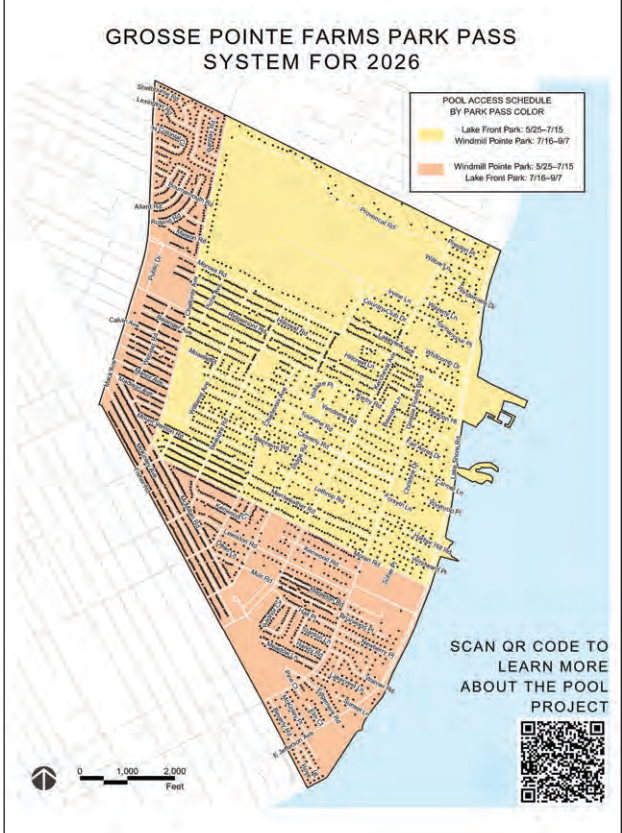
includes open swim, swim lessons and early-morning swim with registration. Farms residents will not have guest privileges at the neighboring parks.

“We were going to go with odd/even addresses,” Galatis said of the way to split residents between the neighboring Pointes, “and we realized very quickly that if I lived at an odd address and my friend lived at an even address, we would never see each other during the summer and kids wouldn’t be able to continue to play.”

Additional community partnerships mean the Farms synchronized swim team will meet in Grosse Pointe Shores and the Barracudas Swim Team will be hosted by the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Prior to the end of the school year, the Barracudas will meet at Brownell Middle School May 18 to June 12. It then will transition to Grosse Pointe South High School June 15 to July 21.

“Those time frames will be from 4 to 7 p.m., so it keeps similar to what (it would be) if we were at our own pool,” Galatis said. “And our home swim meets will actually be hosted at away pools, but



COURTESY IMAGE

Pool usage in the Park and Woods will be split for Farms residents between voting precincts 1 and 2.

we’ll have our swim team staff there to operate those so other parks don’t have that burden on them.”

The Farms’ roster of lifeguards has been encouraged to apply at other Pointe pools this season, as the city is hoping it doesn’t permanently lose a significant number to private pools.

“That is probably one of my biggest concerns about having the pool closed for an entire summer is the loss of those lifeguards,” Galatis said. “... The thought process and the hope is when we have this brand new pool, it’s going to be an enticement to come back.”

At Pier Park, residents

still will have use of the beach, kayak area, marina and portions of the park including picnic areas.

“The park is still going to be open, so I encourage everybody to still come out,” Galatis said. “Pickleball, platform tennis, tennis lessons (remain). We’re still going to be doing dance classes. We’re still taking picnic reservations, both indoor and outdoor.”

Amenities closing alongside the pool complex include the tot lot playground, bathhouse bathrooms, stand-up shower at the beach and the south parking lot.

It is still undetermined whether the concession stand will run this year.

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CONTROL:

Continued from page 1A

hardcore political action. ... None of our residents want us to be under the thumb of the state.”

In addition, 1,300 local officials representing 6.2 million Michigan residents electronically signed a letter of opposition within 48 hours prior to the press conference.

“What these bills would be doing is taking away control of the neighborhoods, not from elected officials, but from the people we represent,” Tomkowiak said. “That would mean that our residents would have no voice in what happens in their community. I find that unacceptable.”

One portion of the introduced legislation would prohibit local ordinances from requiring a minimum parcel or lot size greater than 1,500 square feet for detached single-family residences.

This means homes within the Pointes’ estate districts could be subdivided to within 1,500 square feet with no need for council approval.

The bills also would allow duplexes by-right as a permitted use in any district where single-family homes are allowed, as well as allow accessory dwelling units and mobile homes in any residential zone.

“When we did our master planning process, we heard from residents loud and clear that they do not want ADUs, or auxiliary dwelling units, in people’s garages in the backyards,” Tomkowiak said. “This would prohibit us from



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEMCOG

Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle speaks at a press conference last week in opposition of proposed statewide mandates that would take away local control of zoning issues.

stopping that.”

The package of bills additionally would mandate setback requirements of 15 feet or less from the front property line and five feet from the side or rear for dwellings or out-buildings; prohibit a minimum area requirement greater than 500 square feet for a dwelling; and take away parking requirements by mandating only one space per dwelling unit for multi-family residential use of property.

Parking requirements exist to prevent local streets from essentially becoming parking garages.

“Our parking requirements are not that steep,” Tomkowiak said. “A space and a half per unit in a multifamily, that’s reasonable. One (space) — that’s not reasonable. We’re the Motor City for crying out loud. We can’t do anything without a car.”

The package of bills was introduced as a way to make housing more acces-

sible to Michigan residents by encouraging the growth of housing supply via the removal of local regulatory barriers.

Local officials in opposition say the proposed statewide mandates oversimplify the problem and overlook broader economic pressures at play, such as rising labor and material costs, high interest rates and complex market dynamics.

“It’s so important that we make sure that we, as local officials, are accountable to the people who vote us in, not someone sitting up in Lansing deciding what is best for our communities,” Kindle said. “... We do not need people from Lansing telling us what is best for our community. Michigan is not a cookie-cutter community. What is good in one part is not necessarily good in another.”

Local officials emphasized the bill package would negate years of local master planning, as well as community input

at public hearings.

“This is preemption, which is the same thing that they’re trying to do by saying schools of choice has to be mandatory, not elective,” Tomkowiak pointed out. “Taking away local control is taking away the ability of people to govern themselves, which flies in the face of democracy.”

Officials in the City of Grosse Pointe are asking their residents to contact Sen. Kevin Hertel — senkhertel@senate.michigan.gov — and State Rep. Veronica Paiz — VeronicaPaiz@house.mi.gov — to request they vote “no,” should the package of bills come before them.

“I would encourage every single resident to write letters to our state legislators and to anybody else they know in Lansing,” Tomkowiak said. “Write letters, write them now. We’ve got to get out in front of this or we will have no ability to control our communities.”

Rec plan stalled

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Members of the Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Commission are wrestling with how to rate the civic value of park system amenities, from lakeside benches to swimming pools and movie theaters, without knowing their structural condition, the cost of providing them or the estimated expense of preserving them.

Resolution is expected this month when a consultant completes an assessment of park system assets.

“I don’t think there’s a desire to re-engage (the commission) without that,” Commission Chairman Michael Hindelang said during last month’s meeting.

Questions of cost force a practical element into an otherwise abstract exercise to determine which of the city’s recreation assets, most of which are decades old and showing their age, are of greatest worth to residents.

“Ultimately, the parks are about pleasing current residents, but also pulling new residents in,” Commissioner Terry

Ayrault said.

As part of the commission’s effort to draft a five-year asset management plan for the city’s two lakeside parks, members are to prioritize existing and prospective amenities they feel are or would be of greatest utility to everyone concerned.

“We’re planning for changing tastes and needs of the community in addition to what we want today,” Hindelang said.

Yet not knowing the cost of providing, maintaining or operating everything the park system has or could offer almost guarantees everyone’s want list will degrade into impractical wish lists.

The desire to draft an asset management plan has been discussed at commission meetings for more than two years. Council members in January awarded the city’s consulting engineers, OHM Advisors, an additional \$30,000 contract to help draft a formal plan.

“When discussions started more than a year ago, the phrase used was

See REC, page 8A

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, MARCH 9

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Main Street Grosse Pointe Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens’ Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Historical Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m.

GAME:

Continued from page 1A

we were going on vacation, but we had a few hiccups with the trip,” said Werenski, director of public safety in the Shores. “Our flight from Paris to Milan was cancelled, so we had to stay there an extra night. We missed the final round-robin game.”

Flying out the evening of Saturday, Feb. 14, Werenski, his wife Kristen and their contingent expected to be at Team USA’s final preliminary round game against Germany the evening of Sunday, Feb. 15, but they didn’t make it to Milan until Monday, Feb. 16.

Zach scored the first goal of the game — and his only one of the tournament — against Germany. He finished the Olympics with six points, a goal and five assists, good for third in points on the team.

“By the time we got there, it was heading into the quarterfinals, which is the start of the knockout rounds,” Werenski said. “I was hoping we didn’t go all that way for one game, but they ended up winning in overtime (a 2-1 win over Sweden Wednesday, Feb. 18).”

The contingent, about 20 strong, was able to have dinner with Zach Thursday, Feb. 19. It included Zach’s brother, Brad, his wife and son, aunts, uncles and cousins, plus Zach’s expectant wife, Odette, her sister and her father.

“That Thursday was an off day, but other than that they had practice, team meetings, team dinners,” Werenski said. “It was more important for him to spend time with the guys, building that

camaraderie.”

That gang was able to do some sightseeing on non-game days, including the Duomo di Milano — the Cathedral of Milan — construction on which began in the late 1300s.

“We also took a train ride to Lake Como and had lunch there,” Werenski said. “It’s absolutely stunning. The concierge at the hotel also hooked us up with some local restaurants for old-school Italian food.”

Friday, Feb. 20, saw Team USA beat Slovakia 6-2 to advance to the gold medal game.

“The semis and finals were typical hockey days, just waiting to go to the rink,” Werenski said. “I couldn’t sleep. I couldn’t eat.”

Sunday, Feb. 22, saw the team clinch gold as Zach got the assist on the game-winning goal less than two minutes into overtime for a 2-1 win over Canada.

All four of the players on the ice for the game winner have Michigan ties. (Olympic hockey overtime is three-on-three skaters plus goalie, as opposed to the usual five-on-five.) Aside from Zach, 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, is from Commerce.

“As soon as they scored, Dylan Larkin’s dad jumped into my arms and kept yelling, ‘The Michigan boys! The Michigan boys!’” Werenski laughed. “He’s originally from Toronto, so hockey means a lot to

him.”

Werenski said there was a family room at the rink where they waited for the players after the final game.

“They came up about 30 minutes after the medal ceremony and it was so emotional,” he said. “Laughter, tears, hugs.”

Then it was time for the party.

“We didn’t get back to the hotel until about 2

a.m. and had to pack for a 4 a.m. flight,” Werenski laughed.

Even days later, the excitement in his voice was palpable.

“Every time I see a video or read a story, I have to calm down,” he laughed. “Words can’t explain it. Everything he’s gone through, all the work he put in to make the team, all the years of training and it all came down to one moment.”

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Museum director steeped in his roots

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

Harry Gaggos has spent his professional career in the nonprofit realm and his new role is no different, but this one has a personal connection as well.

Gaggos last year was appointed the first full-time executive director of the Hellenic Museum of Michigan.

“It’s a personal blend of the interests and passions I grew up with and a desire to grow the museum,” he said. “I took this position because of the positive influence of my parents.”

Gaggos said he grew up attending Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in St. Clair Shores and Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Detroit, which he still attends with his wife, Irene, and their two daughters.

“I have watched Harry Gaggos grow up in the Greek community and always knew he would do great things,” said Olga Tecos, an HMM board member. “His pride and passion translate to strategic plans aimed at preserving our rich Greek heritage and his 16 years of experience as a non-profit professional was exactly what the Hellenic Museum of Michigan needed.

“I was overjoyed with optimism when I heard Harry would be the new director,” she continued.

“He brings so much hope, integrity, knowledge and love to this position.”

The museum, one of only two freestanding Hellenic museums in the country, is located at 67 E. Kirby in Detroit within the Detroit Cultural Center. The other, the National Hellenic Museum, is in Chicago.

“Most Hellenic museums are located inside churches or they’re just a room inside a larger museum,” Gaggos said. “It’s nice being in the cultural center because there’s a real openness to help each other.”

The Detroit Institute of Arts, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and the Scarab Club, among others, are located within the district.

Gaggos added the Michigan and Chicago museums plan to share exhibits. One he is excited about is running throughout March titled “#We Are Greek Warriors,” which celebrates the role women played in the Greek Revolution of 1821.

“It’s fitting because March is Women’s History Month,” he said. “We’re all about sharing our culture and our history.”

The building that houses the museum has a history of its own. It is where former Grosse Pointer Robert Pauli Scherer in 1931 invented the rotary die press used



Harry Gaggos, second from left, with, from left Hellenic Museum of Michigan staffers Matt Tarmina and Evans Tasiopoulos with board President James Andriotakis.

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to create soft gelatin capsules for medications and dietary supplements.

“Sometimes we get visitors who want to see the inside just because of that,” Gaggos laughed.

As for visitors, Gaggos said one of his goals is to increase the museum’s offerings and hire full-time staff.

“Museum-goers demand a meaningful experience,” he said.

Gaggos, who grew up in the City and graduated

from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2000, earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and economics from Kalamazoo College, then a master’s degree in public administration from University of Michigan-Dearborn.

He most recently was with the Local Initiatives Support Coalition, which specializes in community development in low- to moderate-income communities.

“I moved back right after college and started working at the Skillman Foundation,” he said. “I never thought about living anywhere else. My mom and sister are here and we spend a lot of family time together.”

He and his family live in the Woods today. He met Irene through a mutual friend during graduate school and together they have two girls, ages 11 and 7, who he wants to experience

growing up in the Pointes like he did.

“I love spending time with my girls,” Gaggos said. “It’s heaven on earth. This is a great community to grow up in.

“We lived on Neff and I remember my buddies were always over playing basketball in the backyard,” he added. “And I have a distant memory of the Kresge in The Village. I thought that was the coolest place.”

RATES:

Continued from page 1A

it can be replaced under the current funding model, while climate impacts and operational demands continue to rise.”

Coffey’s reasoning has a local parallel.

Park officials in recent years cited capital improvements when proposing a 10-year water system infrastructure improvement millage voters passed in 2022. Infrastructure improvements also were behind last year’s 23 percent

increase in the municipal water-sewer rate and up to \$7 million water-sewer system bond scheduled to be issued within a couple months.

Water meters

But municipal rates could ebb with citywide replacement of old water meters funded by the bond. Current meters are uniformly old. Many are worn with age.

“When they fail, that means they move slower and aren’t reading water-sewer usage correctly,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

Unregistered volume, meaning lost billings, are estimated throughout the city to average around 20 percent below actual consumption.

“Let’s say, due to new meters and mains, our loss gets down to the industry average of 12 to 15 percent,” Sizeland said. “That’s a huge savings.”

“Once those water meters are in and we have real data, my goal

would be the savings we realize in terms of water loss would get put back to residents,” said Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee.

“After we get good data from new meters, we’ll be able to do leak detection and see where the Park is at in its water-sewer usage to maybe make rate restructuring,” Sizeland said.

A rate cut isn’t guaranteed. Accurate water usage needs to be determined first.

“I want to make sure we can cut,” Wiener said. “Once meters are in and we have real numbers, we can work backwards. We have to control what we can control.”

GLWA’s costs

GLWA’s news release itemized three main reasons for the rate increases:

- ◆ A need to invest in aging infrastructure. “More than 220 miles of pipe, which equates to about a quarter of the regional system, require

replacement or decommissioning,” according to the statement.

- ◆ Higher operating expenses, including supplies, personnel and repairing broken water mains.
- ◆ Decreased investment earnings.

In the latter instance, reductions in U.S. Federal Reserve interest rates, which contributed to the lowest mortgage rates since late 2022, also ate into GLWA’s interest income.

“I don’t envy what GLWA is dealing with,” Wiener said.

As with the regional authority, the Park has had a tough time with water main breaks.

“Because of how extreme this winter was, we had a preponderance of breaks,” Wiener said.

Each costs about \$10,000, the head of public works has said numerous times.

“Over time, everything degrades,” Wiener said. “Everything becomes expensive to operate.”

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A painting of a white dove in flight, its wings spread wide, positioned above a pair of hands. The hands are cupped together, holding a small, dark, indistinct object. The background is dark, making the white dove and the light-colored hands stand out.

Painting by Taylor Mouroufas

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City of Grosse Pointe

Bike thefts

Two bikes were stolen from outside a store in the 17000 block of Kercheval one day apart last week.

An unlocked gray and white Trek bike was stolen at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27.

An unlocked orange and red Specialized bike worth \$300 was stolen between 11 and 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.

Threats

A 37-year-old Detroit woman was arrested for making verbal threats to another person while they both waited in line for the customer service representative at a store in the 16000 block of Kercheval at 11:35 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27.

Stop sign

A 41-year-old Southfield man was pulled over for not stopping at a stop sign at Lincoln and Kercheval at 1:15 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.

He then was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Stolen Ford

An unlocked Ford Expedition, with the keys inside, was stolen from

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

the 600 block of Washington between 1 and 2 a.m. Monday, March 2.

It was recovered hours later near Conner and East Outer Drive in Detroit.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Misled

A scam caller convinced a 23-year-old St. Clair Shores employee at a business in the 18000 block of Mack to break into the manager’s office using a screwdriver at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24.

The woman believed she was speaking with a

fire inspector, who told her to break into the office since she couldn’t find a key to locate a needed form.

Once inside, she was instructed to gather cash from a cabinet. Other employees got suspicious when she attempted to gather money from the cash registers and reported her to a manager.

The store did not wish to press charges against the woman.

Stolen BMW

A black BMW is suspected of having been used in a shooting in Detroit, after it was stolen from the 400 block of Belanger between 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, and 4:53 a.m. the next morning.

The vehicle was victim to a larceny from auto the week prior and the owner was unsure whether she had left it unlocked with the keys inside.

Prevented

Two individuals in dark clothing were captured on home security footage

attempting to open the door handles of a vehicle in the 300 block of Kerby at 2:35 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 26.

As the vehicle was locked, they were unable to gain entry.

Cocaine

A 36-year-old Detroit man was arrested for possession of cocaine at 8:17 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, after he was pulled over at East Warren and Mack for illegally tinted windows.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Footprints

An officer giving out tickets for overnight street parking followed footprints in the snow to discover two vehicles had been gone through, one each in the 1100 block of Torrey and the 19000 block of West Emory Court, sometime overnight into Wednesday,

Feb. 25.

A jacket worth several hundred dollars was taken from the first vehicle, while credit cards and a watch were stolen from the second.

Credit fraud

A resident in the 1500 block of Hollywood reported around 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, he was alerted by his credit report that a fraudulent student loan was opened in his name last year for \$3,000.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Wanted

Two traffic stops on consecutive days last week resulted in the arrests of drivers wanted on outstanding motor vehicle warrants.

The first, at 12:25 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, on Mack at Beford, netted a 48-year-old Detroit man

wanted in the Park.

At 7:45 a.m. the next day on Mack at Lakepointe, police arrested a 34-year-old Detroit man wanted on multiple warrants in Eastpointe.

Drunken driving

Police responding to a car crash at the intersection of Cadieux and St. Paul at 10:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, interrupted a foot chase between two motorists.

“Officers observed a male chasing another male in the middle of the street,” according to an officer. “(One of them) stated he was struck while stopped at the stop sign.”

Field sobriety tests led to police arresting the man, 51, of Detroit, accused of causing the wreck.

“The at-fault driver ran briefly, but stopped when an officer arrived,” an investigator said.

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

Almost redevelopment ready

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Multilevel housing options in commercial districts that were added to the new zoning ordinance help satisfy a diversified housing requirement needed for the city to achieve status as a redevelopment-ready community.

“On Kercheval and Charlevoix in the neighborhood mixed-use district, you can build up to

three stories,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “The fourth story must be set back. You could have a first-floor business with three floors of housing above. That wasn’t allowed previously.”

Sizeland made the comment during a Feb. 19 planning commission update on the city’s progress toward being rated a redevelopment-ready community.

“Redevelopment Ready Communities is a

voluntary technical assistance initiative offered through the Michigan Economic Development Corp., to empower communities in shaping their future by building a strong foundation of planning, zoning and economic development best practices,” according to a February 2026 MEDC assessment of the Park’s progress.

“This process has been going on in the city for

multiple years,” Sizeland said. “It’s about a three-year process for communities to go through the full Michigan Economic Development Corp., Redevelopment Ready Community.”

The City of Grosse Pointe became an RRC in late 2021.

“The program is voluntary and no-cost,” Sizeland said. “It helps communities strengthen their zoning, planning

and economic development practices. Our goal is to make the community more attractive to business investment by clear, efficient and predictable development practices.”

“Developing anything in this market is challenging right now just because of costs,” Commissioner Jimmy Saros said. “Anything we can do to streamline that process and encourage development shows we’re responsive — here’s your pathway forward to getting shovels

in the ground.”

Grants

“This better positions us for grants at the state and federal levels, partnerships and technical assistance where need be,” Sizeland said.

“Availability to grants is going to put us in the best position possible to have things come to the community that people would like to see,” Saros said.

“If you have a redevelopment project that has a

See READY, page 8A

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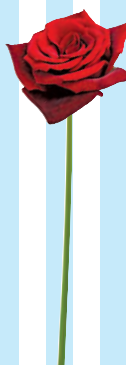
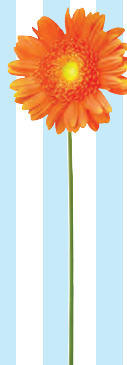
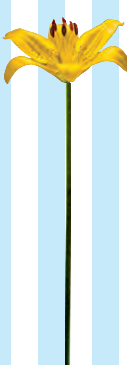
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Grosse Pointe News

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

SEAN COTTON: Owner

ANNE GRYZENIA: Publisher

JODY MCVEIGH: Editor in Chief

OUR VIEW

Saying the quiet part out loud

First and foremost, let us be clear. This editorial is in no way, shape or form about Grosse Pointe Public School System Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop. It has nothing to do with his career, his resume, his time in the district, his educational philosophy or his prior experience.

This is solely about recent actions taken by the GPPSS Board of Education that we believe are harmful to the district.

At its meeting Monday, Feb. 23, the board voted 5-2 to make an internal appointment for the superintendent position after Superintendent Andrea Tuttle announced she would retire effective Aug. 31.

The board majority — President Clint Derringer and trustees Colleen Worden, Valarie St. John, Laura Hull and Tim Klepp — declined the option of having a professional firm assist in a national search. Trustees Sean Cotton and Ginny Jeup voted against the internal appointment.

At the board’s first February meeting, Greg Sieszputowski, director of leadership development and executive search services for the Michigan Association of School Boards, outlined the district’s options.

“The landscape for superintendent searches are about 80 openings a year,” he said. “During the 2024-25 school year, for example, there were 81 openings, including nine intermediate school districts and 72 local districts. But only 26 of them were filled by people who had prior experience as a superintendent.”

The first option Sieszputowski laid out was a board appointment, which could include an internal and/or external search.

“You could save anywhere between \$7,000 and \$30,000 by not paying a search firm,” he said. “You could probably be done in seven to 14 weeks and wouldn’t need to appoint an interim superintendent.”

Sieszputowski, who happens to be a 1995 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, said there are drawbacks to both a board search and an internal appointment.

“While an internal appointment would have established relationships, it also can have negative community perceptions,” he explained. “It might be seen as just a performative process.”

In August 2023, after interviewing four search firms, the board picked MASB to help lead the search for a new superintendent at a cost of \$10,000. Services included an online survey and several in-person listening sessions with several stakeholder groups.

Several of the survey questions asked what qualities the district wanted to see in a new superintendent. It drew more than 840 responses, with a vast majority of respondents saying they wanted someone with superintendent experience.

By the end of November that year, the district had received 39 applications, of which seven were chosen for interviews. Dr. Tuttle and another finalist were brought back for second interviews, with the board unanimously voting to hire Dr. Tuttle in December.

In explaining why she favored an internal appointment, Ms. St. John had this to say: “It would be disrespectful to candidates who are applying when we kind of have a favorite in mind. It would be very obvious to candidates applying that there is someone primed up for the job and we either wouldn’t get the best candidates because they know that or they would apply not knowing and then have that resentment after they realize that the fix was in.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG BLANKENHORN

Pure Grosse Pointe

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Craig Blankenhorn shared this photo he took Feb. 27, featuring the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club in the distance. “I’m constantly intrigued by the ever-changing appearance of the lake, especially in winter,” he said. “This was taken at Pier Park.”

Let us repeat that: “The fix was in.” That is what is known as saying the quiet part out loud.

We find it interesting that Ms. Worden made the motion to go with the internal appointment, but in 2023, when the previous superintendent left two weeks before the start of the school year, she said “secret meetings” were involved in offering the role of interim superintendent to Christian A. Fenton.

The board at the time had little choice, since state law says districts must have a superintendent under contract or risk being taken over by the local intermediate school district.

In further action last month, the board majority also voted by the same 5-2 outcome to add two items to the agenda for its meeting March 9. One will be the appointment of Dr. Bishop, with the other authorizing legal counsel and Mr. Derringer to enter into contract talks with Dr. Bishop.

A motion by Ms. Jeup to have a public interview of Dr. Bishop only drew support from her and Mr. Cotton.

Mr. Cotton, who also owns the Grosse Pointe News, added, “It appears this was talked about by others. It’s an unfortunate series of events.”

During closing statements, after accusing “certain actors of trying to create chaos,” Mr. Derringer said, “We have spoken to each other,” but insisted no prior decision had been made. Yet he and others in the majority, using what appeared to be prepared statements, echoed each other in support of Dr. Bishop, using common words such as “stability,” “respect,” “longevity” and “leadership.”

Was Mr. Derringer also saying a quiet part out loud?

In a handbook about the Open Meetings Act issued by the Michigan Attorney General, it states an informal canvass by one member of a public body to find out where the votes would be on a particular issue does not violate the OMA, but no decisions can be made during those discussions in order to avoid the law.

It goes on to say: “Where board members use telephone calls or sub-quorum meetings to achieve the same intercommunication that could have been achieved in a full board or commission meeting, the members’ conduct is susceptible to ‘round-the-horn’ decision-making, which achieves the same effect as if the entire board had met publicly and formally cast its votes and would violate the OMA.”

Perhaps the most interesting comment of the night came from Taryn Loughlin, co-president of the Grosse Pointe Education Association, during the final round of public comment. She, earlier in the meeting during a series of stakeholder updates, had praised Dr. Bishop for his willingness to cooperate with the union on a

variety of issues. Her comments were then used by some board members as part of their reason to support Dr. Bishop as superintendent.

“My comments were taken out of context and I want to go on the record that the GPEA has been consistent in what it asked of the board and that is process and procedure,” she said. “We are not opposed to an appointment, but I do feel there is a lack of opportunity for stakeholders to get to know Dr. Bishop in a more intimate and professional way.”

Loughlin also said no one should make it sound like “the GPEA is on board with an appointment and picking someone all in one breath.”

It is not too late for the board to follow a process and conduct a national search, especially with six months to go before Dr. Tuttle’s retirement. In 2021, after a large-scale search, an internal candidate was chosen — albeit not unanimously — but there was competition involved. If the same thing happens this time, at least it would be an open, transparent process.

Districts across Michigan currently conducting superintendent searches using professional firms range from tiny Harbor Springs (711 students) to Dearborn (19,600) and many in between, such as Woodhaven-Brownstown (5,600), Wayne Westland (9,600) and Okemos (4,600). GPPSS should be no different.

The board majority might, however, suspect an actual search might not turn up very many applicants. All potential candidates would have to do is watch board meetings from 2025 and see how poorly the majority treated Dr. Tuttle and say, “Thanks, but no thanks.”

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.

Not inspiring confidence

To the Editor:

It is unbelievable that the board majority is moving forward with appointing Dr. Roy Bishop as superintendent without going through a real process. These “trustees” ran on transparency. There is none here.

This is not thoughtful leadership. The decision was rammed through without even attempting to reach consensus with the community these “trustees” are supposed to serve. There was no statewide or national search or structured evaluation. In fact, there was no effort to demonstrate that the best candidate was selected. Just a declaration that this is the choice and everyone else should fall in line.

The same loud voices who spent years smearing prior and current board members

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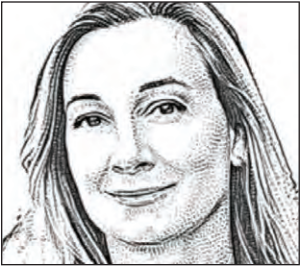
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80%	40%	80%	20%	20%	20%	40%
SUNRISE 7:00 am SUNSET 6:26 pm	SUNRISE 6:59 am SUNSET 6:28 pm	SUNRISE 6:58 am SUNSET 6:30 pm	SUNRISE 7:12 am SUNSET 6:54 pm	SUNRISE 7:10 am SUNSET 6:55 pm	SUNRISE 7:08 am SUNSET 6:57 pm	SUNRISE 7:07 am SUNSET 6:58 pm

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See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia

Games should unite, not politically divide



When the United States men's national ice hockey team and the United States women's national ice hockey team win gold on the world stage, it seems like the reaction should be simple. Elation. Celebration. Pride. End of story.

And yet, somehow, even that isn't safe from becoming political. And that is downright depressing.

These athletes dedicate their lives to a sport most people will never fully understand. Early mornings. Pressure. Missed holidays. Injuries. More missed social events. More pressure. Years of hard work punctuated by a few hours under blinding lights. They represent the flag at events like the Olympic Games, not a political party.

They personify commitment. Teamwork. Sacrifice. Excellence. And after they won, it was just pure joy. There's nothing like the scene of the women's bench going haywire after Megan Keller's OT goal — and of my daughter's smile while watching the replay on TV. I will never not light up when seeing Jack Hughes' missing teeth and ski goggles. It was electric and the joy was contagious.

It is exhausting to watch people twist a

moment of collective pride and unbridled happiness into another opportunity for division. If you dislike a president, so be it. But taking that frustration out on athletes who have poured their hearts and souls into representing their country diminishes everyone involved and makes you look miserable. Instead of asking the women's team how they felt about the win and their accomplishments, they are forced to answer questions about Trump's behavior. I actually saw a Facebook post calling the men's team "a bunch of losers." Why? Because they were on the phone with the President of the United States after they just won the first gold medal for the USA in 46 years? Give them a break.

These players did not lace up their skates for politics. They did it for the love of their country. For love of their teammates. For love of the game. I am willing to go out on a limb and say zero of the men or women players had politics on

their mind during the Olympic Games.

What makes sports so powerful is that they cut across our usual lines. In the stands and on couches across America, people who disagree about almost everything else stand up at the same time when a goal is scored. They hug strangers. They high-five neighbors. For a few beautiful hours, they are simply fans. I don't think that is trivial and it is so rare these days.

We all say we want unity. We say we want something to bring us together. Well, this is it. This is the epitome of what should unite us: young men and women achieving the absolute pinnacle of their sport while wearing "USA" across their chests.

Instead of searching for ways to turn that into another argument, maybe we could try something radical: Just enjoy it. Cheer the goals. Feel the pride. Let yourself be happy without attaching a disclaimer. Not everything has to be a Facebook battleground.



LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

over alleged process failures are now offering glowing, almost frantic praise of Dr. Bishop and attacking anyone who dares to ask basic questions. The hypocrisy is breathtaking. Fair questions about governance are not personal attacks. They are the responsibility of engaged citizens.

Even the teachers union has publicly stated it wants a formal process.

So who exactly is in charge? I used to think it was the union. Now I am not so sure. Who is this board majority doing the bidding of? Because it certainly does not appear they are exercising independent judgment.

Colleen Worden has repeatedly insisted that decisions should be made at the board table. Yet this decision was clearly a fait accompli prior to the start of last Monday's meeting.

This board majority looks intellectually inept for the responsibility it holds. Worse, it seems to believe the community is too naive to notice.

Not only have they done a disservice to the community by mishandling one of the most important responsibilities they

have, they have done a disservice to Dr. Bishop, because there will always be an asterisk next to his name. He wasn't afforded the opportunity to earn the position by going through the process; he was simply anointed to the position.

How this inspires confidence is beyond me.

KIMBERLY MOIN
Grosse Pointe Woods

Where's the transparency?

To the Editor:

SHAME. SHAME. SHAME. After watching the school board meeting Monday night, I am awestruck. How many times has the word "transparency" been used over the last many years? Rather than conducting a search for a new school superintendent, the majority of the board singularly focused on Dr. Bishop.

With a budget of over \$100,000,000, \$30,000 is a small price to incur for a candidate search.

No one disputes Dr. Bishop's credentials, but the Grosse Pointe communities deserve an open selection process in my opinion.

ROB SZABO
Grosse Pointe Woods



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Crime trends down in City for 2025

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Crime in 2025 was down approximately 12 percent, including a large decrease in vehicle-related crime, according to the City’s annual public safety report, which was presented to council in February.

“2025 was a successful year for the public safety department,” Public Safety Director John Alcorn said.

Part one crimes — a category for more serious crimes such as homicide, robbery, aggravated assault and motor vehicle theft — dropped from 88 in 2024 to 49 in 2025.

Among these was one aggravated assault, where a patient assaulted staff at a local hospital. The man was identified and arrested.

The city also experienced a single home invasion; however, the perpetrator was caught and arrested in real time, Alcorn said, adding there were no robberies last year.

There were six motor vehicle thefts in 2025 — none of them where the keys were left inside the vehicle — compared to 14 motor vehicle thefts the prior year, of which half were left unlocked with the keys inside.

Similarly, larcenies from automobiles went from 17 in 2024 to seven last year. Twelve of those were left unlocked in 2024, compared to five left unlocked in 2025.

The improvement in part can be attributed to a creative educational campaign led by the department in 2024, whereby the midnight shifts placed leaflets on vehicles parked

in the street which either congratulated the owner on the vehicle being secure or suggested they could do better.

“We’re very happy with the success we’ve had from that,” Alcorn said, “and we’re going to continue to come up with creative ideas on spreading that word and making sure we keep those numbers down.”

The drop in larceny from automobiles also means overall larcenies in the city were down from 64 to 41.

It was another story, however, when it came to part two crimes, which are comprised of less serious felonies and misdemeanors.

“We noticed an increase in non-aggregated assault and fraud,” Alcorn said, reporting part two crimes were up slightly from 127 to 139 in 2025. “Nationwide, I’m glad to say violent crime is down. Fraud continues to go up.”

There were 61 reported cases of fraud in the city in 2025.

“Twenty-five years ago, if a friend or family member called me and said, ‘Hey, I got this email or this phone call, it seems a little suspicious,’ I’d say, ‘Walk me through it. I’ll let you know what I think,’” Alcorn said. “And now, when I get those same phone calls ... I don’t even let them finish the story. I say, ‘It’s a scam.’ One hundred percent of the time it’s a scam and it always is.

“So keep that in mind, because every day they’re coming up with new, greater ideas on how to do it and it’s going to continue that way.”

The number of arrests in 2025 came down from 151 in 2024 to 108, which could in part be a reflection of the success of the Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Crisis Intervention Team, which aims to provide alternative avenues for those in crisis other than arrest — though it’s too soon to say for certain.

“We’re hoping that slight decrease is from our CIT program, but I’m going to give it a few years before we can make that claim,” Alcorn said.

Co-responder clinician Saranda Conn joined the CIT team last year and worked on approximately 150 mental health-related runs in the city alone.

The city also had two significant house fires in 2025. Both are believed to have been started by dogs in the home.

“We actually have a video when one jumped up to chase a cat, turned the burner on the stove, which caught the cutting board on fire and spread to the cabinets,” Alcorn said.

There also were 128 motor vehicle accidents last year, though no fatalities.

“I would like to thank the residents of Grosse Pointe City for their cooperation and trust and I extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the department of public safety for their dedication and professionalism throughout 2025,” Alcorn wrote in the report. “We remain focused on continuous improvement and on maintaining the high quality of life our community expects and deserves.”

READY:

Continued from page 5A

financial gap — a developer wants to do something that fits the city’s master plan and RRC best practices, but can’t get financing — and if a community is redevelopment ready, the MEDC will provide gap funding options,” said John Jackson, president of McKenna Associates planning consultants, while assisting Park officials in updating the planning ordinance in 2022. “They might be low-interest loans, a grant or whatever is reasonable to close the gap.”

“RRC is about creating clear, predictable development processes, which we’ve done with the zoning rewrite, transparent decision making, our alignment between planning and zoning and investor-ready systems,” Sizeland said. “It also signals that Grosse Pointe Park is proactive, not reactive, with our planning and development processes. We’re planning ahead, aligning policy with action and investing in good governance that takes development seriously.”

Nearly there

The MEDC report card rated the city 86 percent aligned with RRC essential expectations.

Those include but are not limited to having an updated master plan, a downtown or corridor plan and a public participation plan; aligning zoning with the master plan, including parking flexibility within zoning; and having a clear process to recruit and orient members of boards and commissions.

Certifications toward which Park officials continue to work include public postings of administrators’ contact information, developing an internal review process and preparing a commissioner training strategy.

“We’re hoping to have 100 percent completion by the end of this year,” Sizeland said.

Saros said all of eastside metro Detroit faces planning challenges.

“A real deal-killer is if a developer sees they need a variance,” he said. “Variances are time consuming, they’re expensive and take a long time. So, anything we can do so they align our zoning and planning with the market is very important.”

REC:

Continued from page 3A

more of a strategic plan,” Hindelang said. “Then, as OHM got involved, there is a five-year parks and recreation plan.”

A five-year plan helps jurisdictions qualify for various state grants. The

Park may not be eligible because access to its parks is restricted to residents and their guests.

“OHM is helping with the evaluation of assets and asset life,” Hindelang said.

“We’re working on the asset inventory right now,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “(OHM’s)

team was at the (Patterson Park) boardwalk last week getting numbers for what some of us think will need repairs over the next number of years. In the meantime, we’re asking commissions what they’re hearing from residents about what assets in the parks need improvement and what they’d like to see.”

“Without that list, I have a hard time understanding what we’re going to get out of that survey,” Commissioner James Ceuninck said. “We’re not communicating where we are. We have ‘this many’ things and ‘this much’ budget. So how do we frame this survey in a way that residents understand?”

“That’s absolutely

right,” Commissioner Roger Basse agreed.

Recreation Director Chad Craig said OHM is expanding its evaluation to include maintenance and upgrade costs.

“I anticipate we should have something by the March 11 (commission) meeting,” Craig said.

Reviewing everything

“How does the (Windmill Park swimming) pool fit in with our plan?” Commissioner Paul O’Donnell asked. “Is there going to be a replacement?”

Craig said employees of OHM and a swimming pool company determined the pool requires resurfacing, not rebuilding.

“My understanding is

the bones of the pool are fine,” Craig said.

Hindelang wants a longer-term plan for the kayak launch at Patterson.

“Kayak use has grown,” he said, “but the launch hasn’t changed in years. It’s something I’d like us to come up with a longer-term plan on. It’s basically a slippery concrete slab.”

Other features of the park system may have run out of relevance.

“I’ve never seen anyone throw a horseshoe in that park in my life,” Commissioner Paul Spratt said.

“Pickleball was not on our radar when I joined the commission,” Hindelang said. “Now, it’s probably greater than tennis in the commu-

nity.”

“The boardwalk (at Patterson) obscures our view of the lake,” Commissioner Michael Bannon said. “It’s also hard to access because there are only three access points. Once you get on the walk, all you see is ugly riprap.”

The boardwalk was given to the city in 1994 by the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation.

“It’s a wonderful resource,” Bannon said. “It would be nice to make it more accessible.”

“Maybe it’s a matter of having mini boardwalk scenic outlooks,” Ayrault said.

“All things come to an end,” Hindelang said. “It’s old enough that to talk about what comes next is what we’re doing.”



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JERRY’S:

Continued from page 2A

who come often.

“... We all have house accounts. By the third time that you come in, you know every kid in the family, the parents, and no one from out of town really understands this kind of slowed-down personal experience anymore.”

She isn’t looking to come in and mess with a good thing.

Paschke implemented a new point-of-sale system and recently resanded the floors and countertops, but otherwise, Pointers can expect the same old Jerry’s.

“What I’ve been saying, is when it comes to renovating or making something different, if anyone can notice it, we’re doing

it wrong,” Paschke said. “If people come in and are like, ‘Whoa, you changed this,’ we’re doing it wrong. But if people are like, ‘It looks great in here, but I don’t know what’s changed,’ that’s what I’m looking for.”

“... Things will change a little bit, but I don’t want the brand to change at all.”

With a month of retire-

ment under his belt, Stocking is thoroughly enjoying his next chapter. He plans to spend time traveling to see his children who live in Colorado, as well as dive headfirst into several hobbies, including antique automobiles, flying radio control airplanes and gardening.

“And I got a lot of catching up on the housework,” he said.

What he and Peyrolo both miss are the four generations of customers, who felt more like family.

“June was always my favorite time of the year, because it was the busiest,” Stocking said. “Schools were getting out, graduations, the golf course was open and all the kids were coming back from college. It just kept us real busy. June would go by like that.”

He watched kids grow up, go away to college, come back and have their own kids who would start coming into the store for a frozen Coke slushie.

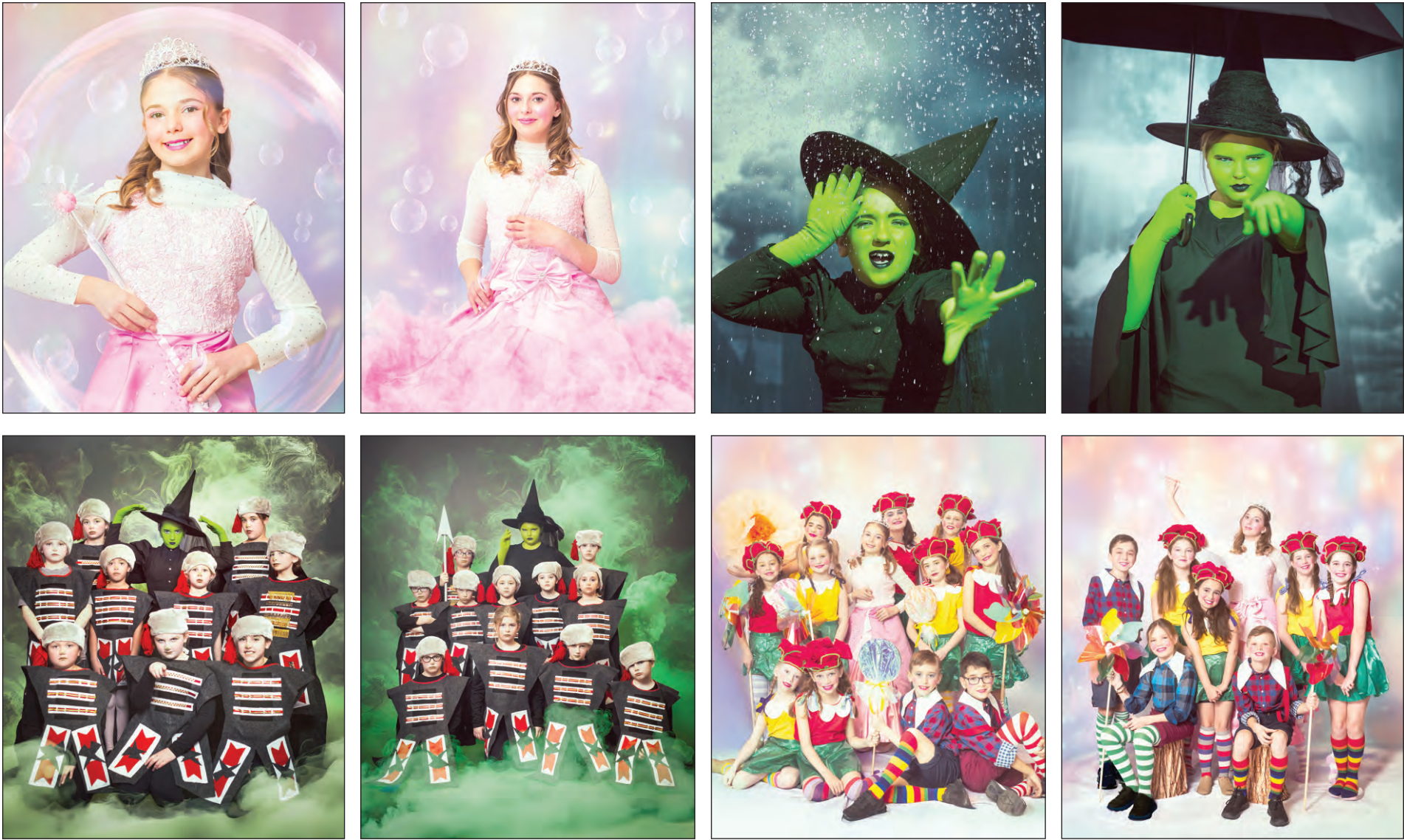
“And as these kids grew up, they still came in,” Stocking said. “Like I would say, we serve children of all ages.”



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PHOTOS BY MONI VALENTINI

Top row, from left, Kenzie Luyk as Glinda, with the Ruby Cast; Clare Lee as Glinda, with the Emerald Cast; Quinn Seiler as Wicked Witch, with the Ruby Cast; and Lucy Nyenhuis as Wicked Witch, with the Emerald Cast. Bottom row, from left, Wicked Witch and the Winkie Guards, with the Ruby Cast; Wicked Witch and the Winkie Guards, with the Emerald Cast; Glinda and the Munchkins, with the Ruby Cast; and Glinda and Munchkins, with the Emerald Cast.

GPT’s Youth on Stage presents ‘Wizard of Oz’ March 13-22

Grosse Pointe Theatre invites audiences to follow the yellow brick road this March as its Youth on Stage program presents “The Wizard of Oz — Youth Edition,” performed March 13 to 22, at Parcels Middle School.

The production features two completely different companies of young performers and technicians — the Ruby Cast and the Emerald Cast — each bringing its own personality and energy to the beloved story.

Director Virginia Lee said her passion for mentoring young performers drew her to the project.

“I’ve worked with Youth on Stage a few times and it’s always a fulfilling experience seeing the kids grow on- and off-stage,” Lee added. “Becoming a mentor is something I’ve wanted to do for a long time and directing allows me to help kids become more confident in theater and, I hope, in themselves.”

Nearly 200 children applied to participate in this year’s production. Just under 50 young performers were cast in each company, with registration determined through a lottery system, followed by auditions and rehearsals. Every participant in the program receives a role and rehearsals have been held on alternating days for the two casts.

Behind the scenes, more than 20 adult staff members, youth leaders, stage managers and a large team of student technicians have collaborated to bring Oz to life. Young crew members have been learning lighting and sound operation, theatrical makeup, set build-

ing and prop creation — skills that make live theater possible.

Lee said the young performers have embraced their characters enthusiastically.

“I like to give actors a bit of freedom as they develop their characters so they can make it their own,” she said. “The best kind of theater has a mix of ideas from the director and the talent and that gives everyone a stake in the production.”

The enduring popularity of Dorothy’s journey continues to resonate with audiences of all ages.

“It’s a classic, universally relatable hero’s journey that’s deeply rooted in American pop culture, thanks in part to the famous ‘The Wizard of Oz’ and its instantly recognizable songs,” Lee noted. “The continued popularity of stories set in Oz, including ‘Wicked,’ has also introduced new generations to this world.”

Audiences may notice a few playful surprises in this production.

“This isn’t your typical ‘Wizard of Oz,’” Lee said. “We’ve sprinkled in quite a few references for fans to discover.”

Working with two separate casts brings a special excitement to the show.

“We have two very different casts, each with its own strengths and qualities,” Lee said. “The shows they produce are going to be unique and I think that’s very exciting.”

See OZ, page 10A

Showtimes

- The Ruby Cast**
- ◆ 7 p.m. Friday, March 13
 - ◆ 7 p.m. Saturday, March 14
 - ◆ 1 p.m. Sunday, March 22
- The Emerald Cast**
- ◆ 1 p.m. Saturday, March 14
 - ◆ 1 p.m. Sunday, March 15
 - ◆ 7 p.m. Friday, March 20
 - ◆ 7 p.m. Saturday, March 21

- Sensory-friendly Performance**
- ◆ 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21



Dorothy with Toto, Tin Man, Lion and Scarecrow, with the Ruby Cast, left, and the Emerald Cast, right.

A Smarter Way to Choose Where You Get Care

By Jodie Rappe, M.D.



When it comes to choosing where to receive medical care, many people rely on word of mouth or personal stories from friends and family. While those experiences matter, they are anecdotal. What many consumers don’t realize is that objective, nationally recognized hospital quality data are publicly available and updated regularly.

These independent ratings can help patients make more informed decisions about where to seek care and can shine a light on hospitals that consistently deliver safer, higher-quality outcomes. For hospital quality, there are several objective sources that are easy for consumers to access.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) publishes Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings annually (www.medicare.gov/care-compare). Hospitals receive between 1 and 5 stars, with more stars indicating better performance. These ratings are based on dozens of measures grouped into five key categories: mortality, safety of care, readmissions, patient experience, and timely and effective care.

The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit focused on patient safety, issues Hospital Safety Grades twice a year (spring and fall). Hospitals are assigned letter grades from A to F, similar to a school report card. Leapfrog grades hospitals on their ability to prevent medical errors, injuries, accidents, and infections, using up to 22–30 evidencebased measures, including things like rate of hospital-acquired infections, medication safety practices, surgical complications, ICU staffing, and preventable safety events (www.hospitalsafetygrade.org). Note that you can also see “recent past grades” of your hospital in the upper right corner.

Vizient is a respected, memberdriven healthcare analytics organization used by more than 1,300 hospitals nationwide. Its Quality & Accountability Study annually evaluates hospitals across six domains: safety, mortality, effectiveness, efficiency, patient-centeredness, equity. While detailed scores are primarily available to member organizations, Vizient publicly recognizes topperforming hospitals each year (www.vizientinc.com/newsroom/news-releases/2024/vizient-announces-2024-top-performers-in-clinical-quality).

There are even more sources with different grading methodologies, including Healthgrades, the Fortune/PINC AI 100 Top Hospitals list, and U.S. News & World Report. The last also ranks specialties as “high performing,” meaning in the top 25% in the nation; currently for Corwell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital this includes Geriatrics, Pulmonology, and Lung surgery.

Hospitals don’t stand still, and neither do their quality scores. Revisit these sites periodically, watch for trends over time, and remember: every hospital is working every day to get better—for the patients they serve

Dr. Jodie Rappe is a boardcertified Family Medicine physician and serves as Chief Medical Officer at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, located at 468 Cadieux Road, Grosse Pointe, Michigan.



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Board of Ed to appoint new bond committee

Group differs from Bond Advisory Committee

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education voted unanimously at its meeting Monday, Feb. 23, to appoint a committee to help oversee spending the bond funds approved by voters last November. The Bond Oversight Committee will be

charged with reviewing the “planning, scope and fiscal integrity” of bond projects, according to the resolution that passed. This group is different from the Bond Advisory Committee the district appointed last spring. That group of about three dozen residents, administrators and district staff was tasked with helping GPPSS narrow down a list of pre-

ferred projects equal to around \$60 million after the district had identified another \$60 million in needs. The \$120 million bond was passed for 20 years by 70 percent of voters. The resolution went on to say the board “has previously utilized citizen oversight committees to provide review of bond-funded projects, costs and scope and finds that such a structure promotes accountability, transparency and sound governance.” The new committee

will have five members, with preference given to applicants with professional experience in construction, architecture, engineering, finance, facilities management or technology. Members will be appointed for the lifespan of the bond. Should there be a vacancy, the board president will ask each trustee for a recommendation and pick a replacement from that list. Trustee Ginny Jeup suggested the board be opened to new appli-

cants yearly, but President Clint Derringer said he felt that would involve too much bureaucracy. “I think we’d spend more time picking committee members than the committee would spend providing oversight,” he said. Derringer added the committee would hold open meetings and take public comment. “The whole idea is to provide more transparency to the public,” he said. To apply for the com-

mittee, visit shorturl.at/vBq0p. It asks for identifying information including name, phone number, email and address, affiliation to GPPSS, how many children — if any — are enrolled in the district, occupation and specific skill sets that would enhance the committee. Derringer said information will be kept confidential, but details such as names and occupations of those appointed will be made public. Deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Friday, March 6.

OZ:

Continued from page 9A

Performances of “The Wizard of Oz — Youth Edition” run March 13 to 15, and 20 to 22. A special sensory-friendly performance takes place at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21. This performance caters to those with autism, cognitive and sensory issues and features special accommodations to

make the theater experience comfortable. This performance is also perfect for young, first-time theatergoers. Tickets for this performance are available at gpt.org/sensory. Audience members are encouraged to consider attending performances by both the Ruby and Emerald casts to experience the full range of talent and creativity in this year’s Youth on Stage production. Tickets are available at gpt.org/wizard or by calling (313) 881-4004.

Grosse Pointe North High School Presents

Clue
High School Edition

MARCH 6th at 7:00pm
MARCH 7th at 2:00pm & 7:00pm

North to perform ‘Clue’

The Grosse Pointe North High School Drama Program invites the community to solve a “whodunnit” in its upcoming production of “Clue.” Performances take place at the Christian A. Fenton Performing Arts Center, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, at 7 p.m. Friday, March 6, and 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 7.

Based on the 1985 Paramount Pictures film and the classic Hasbro board game, “Clue” brings the well-known characters — Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock and Mustard — to life on stage. On a dark and stormy night, six mysterious guests assemble at Boddy Manor for an unusual dinner party where murder and blackmail are

the main course. When their host turns up dead, they all become suspects and must race to find the killer before the body count stacks up. The play is directed by Anna Fleury and produced by Scott Sowers. Tickets are \$15 for students and seniors, \$20 for general admittance and are available at gpn dramaclub.seatyourself.biz.

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Shaping Michigan
GPAA lecture looks at history of mapping in the Great Lakes State

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The fascinating history of how Michigan “became” the Mitten State will unfold during the next Grosse Pointe Artists Association lecture, “Michigan Mapped: From Your Hand to the Bumper Sticker,” at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 8, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Beginning with the Ice Age, when the Great Lakes were formed, Sierra Laddusaw and Mary Pedley, of the University of Michigan’s William L. Clements Library, will share how Michigan was mapped through the ages.

“They’re going to hear a story about how the shape of Michigan was perceived by different cultures, since geological time to now,” said Pedley, assistant curator of maps.

“It will be wonderfully illustrated with exceptional maps from our collection and a smattering of really important pieces that are held in other collections around the world,” added Laddusaw, curator of maps and graphics.

The curators promise their lecture won’t be a “dull slog” of showing, in chronological order, a long series of different maps, though historic images will be a focus of the presentation.

“Using different images, we’ll trace how this shape of Michigan, that hand, has varied depending on the cultural group that was interested in Michigan and the Great Lakes,” Pedley said. “We’ll really concentrate on how the shape of Michigan was formed by an interest in the lakes and waterways. And that changes over time and over cultural groups to an interest in land — how land and the possession of land become the guiding factor in the shape of Michigan.”

A 1664 map created by Pierre Duval, for example, shows what Samuel de Champlain encountered when he first came to New France, aka Canada. The map shows a very linear waterway, Pedley said, and for good reason.

“What’s important in terms of the shape of Michigan is that these Great Lakes all line up,”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WILLIAM L. CLEMENTS LIBRARY IMAGE BANK

This 1664 map created by Pierre Duval shows Samuel de Champlain’s travels and his encounters with Native Americans, who guided him or described routes and lakes to him. The linear shape of the lakes and their connecting waters reflect indigenous mental maps and ephemeral mapmaking.

she said. “They don’t form that mitten that we’re all familiar with. The idea Champlain has is from indigenous peoples themselves who viewed the Great Lakes as waterways, as routes from one place to another, and those routes were always linear. The idea of the Great Lakes being a water route was extremely important. When we think about indigenous people, their main means of transportation was canoe. They were fishing people, they farmed as well, but they moved from one place to another, so that linear approach dominates early European mapping.”

Added Laddusaw,

“You’ll see on some maps how long it takes by days on your canoe to cross. The verbal communication of the route becomes evident on maps, because these map makers are dependent on indigenous people in the area understanding where they are and how to get from place to place.”

“Our ideas in terms of the width of things were really irrelevant in terms of what indigenous peoples were looking at,” Pedley noted.

Changes to mapping began about 100 years later, in the mid-18th century, when longitude became a factor. Enter Jacques-Nicolas Bellin, a map maker with the French Navy.

“Bellin took other sources and set them against a grid of latitude and longitude and that’s how the lakes began to take on a shape that’s not linear anymore, but is made up of two peninsulas, with Great Lakes that feed into each other,” Pedley said. “They also take on the names of the Great Lakes as we know them. It was really the French who were doing all the mapping, because it’s part of French Canada — New France. And it stays New France until 1763, and the end of the French and Indian War.”

The region took on another new look when the Great Lakes became part of the Northwest Territory and again when



Orange Risdon’s 1825 “Map of the surveyed part of the territory of Michigan.” Risdon was one of the early participants in the Public Land Survey System in Michigan. His map of southeast Michigan shows how Native American lands were severely reduced by the grid of township and range.

land was divided into townships and range, splitting the landscape into six-mile squares. Another 1844 land survey created the final shape of the state with its counties.

“When we say, that’s not what Michigan looks like, we’re saying that’s not what we think Michigan looks like,” Pedley said. “Our idea of Michigan comes from a very Western science, a longitude and latitude grid that’s confirmed by satellite imagery. We think that’s the correct view, but they’re all right ones. It’s a matter of says who?”

“We’re hoping to show that maps really reflect what’s important to a people,” she continued. “There’s no correct map or incorrect map. They’re all legitimate because

they all express a point of view and the point of view becomes more interesting when you understand the time and the culture that produced the image.”

The curators said anyone interested in maps and Michigan history will enjoy the presentation.

“If you love a map, it’s going to be interesting,” Laddusaw said. “If you are invested and interested in Michigan history, as it moves through time, we’re touching on really important people in Michigan history ... the impact carried forward into our lives now and, as you step backwards in time, looking at all the people who interacted with the water and the land and their journeys are really important in how Michigan came to be as a state.”

Those interested in maps and Michigan who cannot attend the lecture are welcome to explore the Clements Library’s vast digital collection.

“We have many, many maps from our collection digitized online,” Laddusaw said. “We have a number of digitized collections online that are freely open to the public ... and everything is in the public domain.”

Aside from maps, Pointers may find interest in the David Tinder Photography Collection — clements.umich.edu/subject/tinder-collection/ — which includes photo postcards from Tinder, a collector of Michigan photography.

“The Clements Library website is a rich place to look for not only the digital archive and image bank, but also previous presentations that relate

See MAPS, page 6B

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8 hobbies seniors can cultivate now

By Grosse Pointe News Staff

Retirement often is characterized as a carefree time in life when adults who spent years in the workforce get to enjoy the fruits of their labors. But upon retiring, many retirees find themselves fighting restlessness and boredom. A recent study from Indeed found that more than 3 percent of workers who retired a year earlier already had reentered the workforce.

Retirees who like the freedom of not working but are confronting empty time on their hands can consider exploring a new hobby to help them pass the time in a rewarding and engaging way.

Identify new (or old) interests

Many retirees discover new passions in retirement, while others turn back the clock and revisit favorite pastimes from their youth. A good way to begin cultivating a new hobby is to jot down a list of activities you always found interesting but never had the time to learn or became too busy to fully invest in. Some seniors hit the links for the first time in retirement, while others return to school to study subjects they find interesting but did not engage with during their college years. The options are endless and jotting down a list of new or old interests is a great way to get the ball rolling.

Look into your community

City parks and recreation departments and libraries may offer an array of free or affordable opportunities for seniors to engage with a new hobby. The Helm at the Boll Life Center in Grosse Pointe Farms has a plethora of programs for seniors, from weekly crafting sessions or wellness programs to movies and games. In addition to providing fun ways to discover a new hobby, programs and courses are great ways to meet fellow retirees. The Helm is located at 158 Ridge Rd., and may be reached online at helmlife.org.



Everyone has knowledge to share with youngsters, above.

Put your experience to use

Retirees with years in their field don't have to go back to work to make use of their professional expertise. Contact local youth organizations or outreach programs sponsored by churches, libraries or local law enforcement agencies and offer to share your expertise with young people. Such opportunities allow retirees to continue to engage with their professions and help a younger generation of aspiring professionals gain valuable insight into fields they're interested in. Those who are tech-savvy can create a social media channel or podcast to share their knowledge with the next generation.

Here are a few trending hobby ideas to explore locally:

• **Needlepoint**
Keep those fingers busy with beautiful needlepoint art. The Wool and the Floss offers weekly opportunities to learn and shop, so you can get started with confidence. They have a library of tutorials to help you hone your skills or get ideas for future projects. You can even make a gorgeous needlepoint inset table to adorn your home with a personal touch. Learn more at woolfloss.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WOOL AND THE FLOSS

The Wool and the Floss needlepoint art, above left, and needlepoint inset table, above right.

• **Dance, dance dance!**
Brush up on your moves, have fun and stay fit — all with one activity! The Grosse Pointes have their very own Arthur Murray Dance Studio on Mack Avenue, teaching dozens of styles of dance, from ballroom to swing, mambo and more. For information, reach out to arthurmurraygrossepointe.com.

• **Mahjong**
Get in on the table flow and enjoy socializing with The Helm's Mahjong club. Meeting every Wednesday, the group plays the American version of this ancient and enjoyable game. Find out more at helmlife.org.



Pickleball, above, is the fast-growing sport everyone wants to try! It's an indoor/outdoor racket sport where two or four players use a ping pong-type paddle to hit a plastic ball over net. Both men and women are jumping in to get moving and spend time with friends.

• **Pottery**
Eastside Clay pottery studio is located in St. Clair Shores and offers exciting opportunities for newbies to get their hands wet. Learn to throw a pot and paint it; the studio will bake it in the kiln for you. Workshops and classes are available or sign up for the mailing list at eastsideclay.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EASTSIDE CLAY

A ceramic artist at the potter's wheel, above left, and a finished piece by Eastside Clay owner Deanna Clyne.

• **Writing**
Whether you want to capture your life story for your grandchildren, keep a daily journal or pen poetry, writing is a great way to express yourself. It's a fine solo activity or one that can create friendship opportunities via writing clubs and workshops. City Writers Detroit meets mornings online to write and encourage one another. Find them via meetup.com. Poets can attend the Poetry Jam and Mini Workshop at the Grosse Pointe Public Library on Thursday, April 2. To register, contact grossepointe.librarycalendar.com.

• **Art and art history**
Grosse Pointe has a hidden gem at The War Memorial in the Grosse Pointe Artists Association. In addition to annual exhibitions, they offer incredible art and art studies classes throughout the year. Coming in March/April: Exploring Watercolor with Saveria Giovinazzo, One-day Painting Workshop with Marcia Hales and Mapping the Mitten, a lecture on Michigan's earliest cartography. For details and registration, visit gpaa.org.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GPAA

Art classes at GPAA at the War Memorial. above left. Palette Knife Painting in Oils with Linda Boyle, above right.

• **Geneology**
Access both Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.com from the Grosse Pointe Public Library and discover your family tree. Peruse all the public records you need to trace your relatives and learn more about family history on-site at the library building. Check out grossepointelibrary.org.

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Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

Not a creature was stirring

I have a love/hate relationship with mice. On the one hand, they're adorable. They're tiny; they have little wiggly noses and an impressive collection of long whiskers. They're apparently fastidious about grooming themselves and keeping their nests clean and they're invaluable for scientific research, especially research about human diseases.

On the other hand, they're rodents. They eat our leavings and leave their poop.

One of my vivid childhood memories: standing in a circle around a neighborhood cat as she devoured a mouse (She ate the ears first.). I felt sorry for the mouse and

never really warmed up to cats after that experience.

A few years ago I discovered mice had settled down for the long winter night in my attic. Not wanting to deal with traps and the disposal of dead things, I opted for poison. The box of poison assured me the mice would GO OUTSIDE to die. I scattered blue poison pellets around the attic. The attic door was in my bedroom. I checked occasionally to see if the pellets disappeared. They did. I scattered more.

One day I was moseying around in my bedroom, barefoot, minding my own business, when right there — under my ironing board (I am one of approximately two dozen people living in

North America who still irons) — was a tiny rodent staggering in ever narrowing circles, limping, stumbling, occasionally pitching forward.

Apparently, the little guy partook of the aforementioned blue pellets, then squeezed his tiny pliable body under the door between the attic and my bedroom. Soon he developed a pounding headache, blurred vision and his little tummy started to churn.

I hate to admit this: I screamed.

How dumb was that? I was home alone. Who would hear my scream? Who would rescue me? And rescue me from what? A sick baby mouse?

Give me credit. At least I didn't leap onto a chair.

Mickey toppled over. I slapped an empty clear plastic box over him and watched as he gasped and shuddered. Even worse, as I slid the lid of the box under his piteous convulsing body, I caught his back leg under the edge of the box. I felt bad about that.

He had a perfect set of tiny whiskers; a minuscule nose, still wiggling; soft gray fur; and a white underbelly. He was extremely cute.

I flipped the box over — now covered with a lid — and considered carrying him outside and releasing him. I called a neighbor and blurted out my predicament. She reminded me that Mickey was full of poison and would be a toxic meal for the hawk

who lives in our neighborhood or for the cats who occasionally meander through my yard, looking for the perfect place to pee.

So I released his little leg from between the lid and the box and let him fall back and die. He died peacefully, alone. I placed him gently in the trash.

I broke down and — for the first time ever — called a pest control company.

The exterminator salesman arrived first. He was charming. Business-like. Knowledgeable. Comforting. He put paper boots over his shoes before he stepped into my living room. He tuned in to my distress. He sympathized. He examined the scene of the crime. He

searched for clues. He found evidence. We agreed on a date and time for the actual Mouse Killer to come and do the dastardly deed.

A few days later, the Killer arrived. I had expected a Dickensian character: Fagin perhaps, or Uriah Heep; a skeletal, stooped over, unkempt man dressed in rags and covered with rat hairs; a sniveling, shuffling ne'er-do-well who would wring his hands with delight as he crept around my attic sniffing out rodent nests.

Hardly. The Mouse Killer was charming, knowledgeable and business-like. He also wore paper boots. He analyzed the situation and placed a few baited traps.

I haven't seen a mouse since.

Something for everyone on tap in March at The Helm

Activities at The Helm in March offer a little something for everyone — from informational presentations to exercise classes to social activities.

March begins with a new four-session class to teach the ins and outs of using a smartphone. The first class starts with the basics and each class progresses, moving

deeper into smartphone functions, to help people use their phones more confidently.

Smartphone 101 runs 1 to 2 p.m. every Wednesday in March and costs \$10 per class. Registration is required.

Drums Alive kicks off 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. the first Thursday in March and every Thursday after. This evi-

dence-based class improves physical, mental and social well-being through rhythmic drumming exercises. Guests will engage in drumming routines while using stability balls and drumsticks. There is no charge for this class for any Wayne County resident 60 and above. Registration is required.

Learn about auditory

health and the link to cognitive function at a Lunch & Learn presentation from Grosse Pointe Audiology. Presenters will stress the importance of hearing health and how untreated hearing loss can increase the risk of cognitive decline, dementia and social isolation. There will be dis-

See HELM, page 4B



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COME SEE OUR TREASURES!

We're highlighting the "fun" side of Grosse Pointe Historical Society's collections today. We have everything from local Monopoly sets and jigsaw puzzles to vintage matchbooks, varsity letters, and mugs. These ephemera items capture the Pointes in a way that nothing else can.

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit us online at gphistorical.org

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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.

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 grandparents 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 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, Andrew Neeme (Busi) of Austin, Texas, and Jonathan Neeme of Grosse Pointe Woods. He is lovingly remembered by his siblings, Edmond "Tom" Neeme Jr. (DeLana), Robert Neeme (Katherine) and Barbara Hedmark (James).

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

Leigh Leonard Backon

Leigh Leonard Backon, 55, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026.

Born Dec. 26, 1970, Leigh was the beloved wife of Steve Backon and devoted mother to their 17-year-old daughter, Charleigh, who was the center of her world. Nothing brought Leigh more joy than her family. Her love for Steve and Charleigh was constant, deep and unmis-takable.

Leigh had a rare and beautiful gift: She loved to make people laugh. She was endlessly focused on others, always lifting spirits and bringing lightness to every conversation. She lived the truth behind Maya Angelou's words: "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." People always felt better after talking with her.

Leigh loved the warmth of the sun, the peace of the water and especially being around her dogs, who brought her constant comfort and happiness. These were some of the places and moments where she felt most at ease. But more than anything, Leigh loved her family and the people in her life. Her kindness, humor and the joy she brought to others will never be forgotten by those she knew and loved.

Leigh was predeceased by her father, Dwight Leonard; and her beloved grandmother, Florence, who lived to the remarkable age of 101 and held a special place in Leigh's heart.

She is survived by her loving husband, Steve Backon; cherished daughter, Charleigh; mother, Sharon Miller; brother, Rick Leonard (Linda); niece, Emma; and nephew, Alec. She also leaves behind many

extended family mem-bers and dear friends whose lives were made brighter by knowing her.

A gathering will be held at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 8, until a 1 p.m. memorial service at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Leigh's spirit lives on in the laughter she cre-ated, the love she gave and the countless lives she touched.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Henry George Arsenault

Henry George Arsenault, patriarch of the Arsenault-McMillan family, 98, of St. Clair Shores, passed away peacefully at home Friday, Feb. 27, 2026, surrounded by his lov-ing and devoted family.

George was born Sept. 30, 1927, the third of five children to Anna (nee Babin) and Joseph Ernest Arsenault. He was raised in Detroit and attended Holy Redeemer High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduation and served in the Signal Corps at Fort Bliss in Texas, as well as Fort Dix and Fort Monmouth in New Jersey. After leaving the U.S. Army, he received associate and bachelor's degrees from the Detroit College of Business. He later obtained a master's degree in political sci-ence from the University of Detroit.

George spent the greater part of his career with General Motors as a financial analyst and financial data programmer before retiring in 1988. He later joined a division of Chrysler as a systems information director and enjoyed another 10 years.

In 1952, George mar-ried his first wife, Margaret Elizabeth Foley, whom he met during high school. They raised their seven children together before Marge passed away in 1964, after a prolonged illness.

George met his sec-ond wife, Delores Ann Shmina McMillan, a widow with 10 children,



David James Neeme



Leigh Leonard Backon



Henry George Arsenault

at a Catholic club for widows and widowers. George and Delores married in June 1966, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Parish, creat-ing a family of 17 chil-dren. The event was memorialized on the front pages of The Detroit News and Detroit Free Press.

They raised their fam-ily in Grosse Pointe Park, agreeing from the beginning to never use the terms "step," "your" or "my" children, only "our" children. They enjoyed 48 years of a loving marriage, which, in addition to raising a large family, included a shared love of bowling, cross-country travel and card games, as well as many family functions with children and grandchildren.

A strong proponent of lifelong learning, George advised his chil-dren that if they could read, they could learn anything. George's love of learning was broad and included analyzing the writings of Greek philosophers, studying the Civil War, teaching himself how to write computer code and eventually writing books himself. George was the proud author of four books that capture his incredible life story and philosophies: "My Blue Heaven," "One Plus One Equals Nineteen," "Seven Come Eleven" and "Bits and Pieces."

Throughout their lives, George and Delores were faithful and devout parishioners at St. Clare of Montefalco and were involved in several church committees. For more than 30 years, George was an active member of the Men's Club of Grosse Pointe and served in many capacities, including as president. George also was a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus.

George loved to drive; one of his favorite places was behind the wheel. After Delores died in 2014, he spent six months taking vari-ous trips around the

country to visit his sis-ter, children and grand-children, coast to coast, bragging that he put 36,000 miles on his car in six months.

Until his passing, George continued read-ing The Wall Street Journal, working on crossword puzzles and reciting his favorite poems. Friends, family, hospital workers, wait-ers and occasionally complete strangers were regaled with his recitation of "If" by Rudyard Kipling, or "The Face on the Barroom Floor" by Hugh Antoine d'Arcy. He wrote a chapter in "Bits and Pieces" titled "Poems That Taught Me Something."

His family of 19 was his greatest life accom-plishment. He knew it was no ordinary task to take on the challenge of raising a blended family with 17 children, but he did it anyway, having faith that if someone did something for the right reasons, everything would work out.

George was prede-ceased by his parents, two brothers and two sis-ters; two wives, Delores and Marge; sons, Mark Arsenault, Donald McMillan and Timothy McMillan; sons-in-law, Ken MacKool and James Albulov; and great-grand-children, Austin Griswold Roney and Violet Amelia Moore.

He is survived by his children, Jaimen McMillan (Dorothea), Joseph McMillan (Janice), Mary Ann Arsenault, Patricia McMillan MacKool (Michael Ryan), Patrick Arsenault (Diane), Ann McMillan Salinger (Burt), Margaret Arsenault Roache, Martin McMillan (Donna), Robert Arsenaut DuPont, Steven McMillan (Sharon), Susan McMillan, Aileen Arsenault (Nolan Hampton), Janet Arsenault (Pedro Barbosa) and Mary Ann McMillan Dollinger (Steven); and daughters-in-law, Jan Rewers McMillan and Brigid McMillan.

He also is survived by

his grandchildren, Scott McMillan (Mitzi), Brian Roney (Gwen), James McMillan, Kevin Roney, Lara McMillan-Moore (Jeremy), Kate MacKool (Matthew McCreary), Julianna Van Wagner (John), Chris McMillan, Colleen Murray (Seamus), Mike MacKool, Sarah Shapiro (Ryan), Chantal DeNella, Jackie Jaffe (Alex), Katie Thoits (Scott), Mark Albulov (Brea), Erin McMillan, Michal Sabogal (Gonzalo), Anna Albulov (John Crowley), Ryan Arsenault, Eric Salinger, Jimmy McMillan (Andrea), Michelle McNulty (John), Michael McMillan, Elise Arsenault, Max Albulov (Andrea), Lindsay McMillan, Alex McMillan, Jared Salinger, Justin Dollinger (Amanda), Peter McMillan (Christina), Lauren Kouril (Phil), Lilly Arsenault, Colin Gallagher, Shane Dollinger, Shane Gallagher, Benjamin McMillan, Pat Roache, Tara Dollinger (Shambhu Rajeev), Christian McMillan and Trevor Dollinger.

His legacy also includes 48 great-grand-children, three great-great-grandchildren and many beloved nieces, nephews and treasured friends.

Visitation will be held from 1 to 8 p.m. with Rosary at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5, at Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. He will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. until a 10:30 a.m. celebration of life Mass Friday, March 6, at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, con-tributions may be made to St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230, stclarem.org/electronic-giving; the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207, solanuscasey.org; or a charity of the giver's choice.

A r r a n g e m e n t s entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

HELM:

Continued from page 3B

cussion about sound stimulation for a healthy brain and an over-view of the newest hearing aid technology. Hear Today, Think Tomorrow takes place noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 10. Cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

Express creativity with Art Journaling for Seniors, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning March 31. This six-week Wayne County Community College District class is a personal diary about thoughts, feelings and ideas expressed through words and mixed media. There is no charge for this class for Wayne County resi-dents 60 and above, but registration is required.

The month also includes special social activities including St. Patrick's Day-themed bingo 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, March 12; a day-tour of Hamtramck Wednesday, March 18,



that includes lunch at Polish Village Café; three movies; and an Out to Lunch Bunch gathering at Daily Jam in Grosse Pointe Woods. Visit helmlife.org for more information about and costs for these activities.

Registration is required for all activi-ties at The Helm. Register at helmlife.org or call (313) 882-9600.

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Newly opened studio brings artist closer to clients

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Angelo Sherman was sold on the skylights. As soon as he saw them letting in late summer sunshine throughout the loft for rent above the Sprout House in Grosse Pointe Park, he was sold on the space. The Detroit artist has been making it his own since August and is ready

to let clients in. He has an easel set up directly below an entry-way skylight, but his artwork — decades of paintings that cover the gamut of genres — is hung neatly throughout the studio. He has a wall dedicated to Detroit sports figures — Al Kaline, Justin Verlander and Miguel Cabrera among them — as well as a wall featuring impres-

sionist pieces and a room of abstract mixed media work. Other paintings feature tributes to Dali and Basquiat, as well as replicas of the masters who inspired him when he was working security at the Detroit Institute of Arts. “When I was a museum guard, I’d copy the masters to hone my skills,” he said, referencing a replica of Van Gogh’s self-portrait. It hangs above his take on the Mona Lisa, complete with a Salvatore Dali mustache — another tribute to artists he admires.

“Each painting in here, there’s always a story behind my work,” Sherman said, “... either a plain story or a crazy story.”

While inspired during his days at the DIA, Sherman’s artistic story started decades prior, as a child making copies of comic strips. “I started out as a cartoonist,” he said. “My father taught me to do little doodles. He used to show me little tricks with comics because I’d be copying comics when I was 4 or 5. In kindergarten, the teacher would go out and call other teachers in, so there’d be two or three teachers looking over my shoulder while I was drawing. ... I slowly graduated into painting. “... My genres jump

back and forth between serious paintings and cartoons,” he added. “I get bored with art. That’s why you see so many styles.”

He’s inspired by history and pop culture, both of which may be found in his work: a black-and-white painting of actor Sidney Poitier; caricatures of James Bond and Elvis; an abstract representing the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

“Lots of movies inspire me too,” he said. “If I like a movie, I’ll do my own interpretation of it.”

Art collectors now may view his work locally as Sherman officially opened his studio on Kercheval this week, inviting guests noon to 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, by appointment only. He’ll host a show and sale exhibition through Thursday, March 12.

“All my customers are from Grosse Pointe,” he said. “... I decided it’s best to be closer to customers than to make them drive out to see me.”

He’s taking advantage of his new location, starting a series of Grosse Pointe-inspired paintings that echo his Art in the City series, through which he’s painted Detroit scenes since 2000.



PHOTOS BY JODY MCVEIGH

Angelo Sherman stands next to his painting of Brine Oyster House, while holding his painting of Trader Joe’s.

“Now that I have a studio here, I’m starting the Grosse Pointe Swag series,” he said. “I’m trying to figure out what makes Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe, besides the money.”

His first painting in the series was inspired by a visit to The Helm, where he was inspired by watching people dance. He’s also captured Brine Oyster House, Trader

Joe’s and the former Standard Oil station in the Park.

“I’m going to be doing more, catching people enjoying themselves,” he said. “It’s in the impressionist style, with a palette knife. I enjoy plein air painting.”

He’ll also flex his cartooning skills by offering live sidewalk caricatures

See STUDIO, page 6B



Sherman’s wall featuring Detroit sports figures includes a painting of returning Detroit Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander.

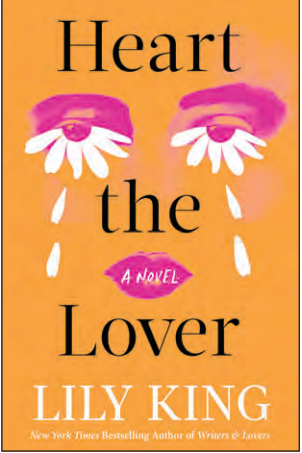
GPPL announces 2026 Books on the Lake authors

The Grosse Pointe Public Library has another unforgettable experience planned for the 2026 Books on the Lake author event. This year’s authors are Lily King and Virginia Evans.

“‘Heart the Lover,’ a 100 Notable Book of 2025 by The New York Times, and ‘The Correspondent,’ on The New York Times best-seller list for 15 weeks, both deal with love and grief,” GPPL Library Director Jessica Keyser said. “Everyone’s talking about both authors and their books.”

The brunch takes place Saturday, April 18, at Ford House. Tickets are \$40 per person. They go on sale online Monday, March 16. Books will be available to purchase at the event provided by The Book Beat.

“Heart the Lover” is King’s seventh novel. “Wonderful, witty,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GPPL

Lily King is the author of eight novels. Her latest book, “Heart the Lover,” was named a 100 Notable Book of 2025 by The New York Times.

heartfelt,” said The Washington Post, “a funny novel about grief. ... It’s dangerously romantic.”

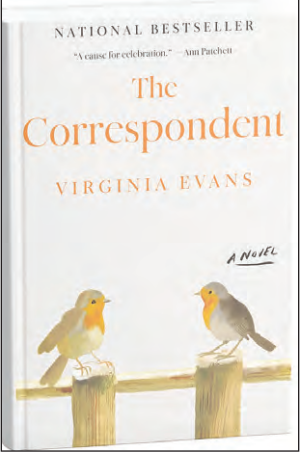
The novel shares a narrative thread with King’s fifth novel, “Writers and Lovers,” a New York Times best-seller and winner of the New England Society Book Award for fiction. King grew up in

Massachusetts and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Arts degree in creative writing from Syracuse University. She has taught English and creative writing at universities and high schools in the U.S. and abroad. She is the recip-

ient of a MacDowell Fellowship and a Whiting Writer’s Award.

“The Correspondent” is Evans’s debut novel. It’s in an epistolary format, which means the novel is a series of letters. “Evans’s enchanting epistolary novel revolves around prickly septuagenarian Sybil Van Antwerp ... [with] a dash of mystery that keeps the pages flying,” noted The Washington Post.

Evans is from the East Coast. She attended James Madison University for a bachelor’s degree in English literature, as well as Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, for a Master of Philosophy degree in creative writing. She lives in



Virginia Evans’s debut novel, “The Correspondent” has been on The New York Times bestseller list for 15 weeks.

Winston-Salem, N.C., with her husband, two children and red Labrador, Brigid.

Books on the Lake presenting sponsors are Wayne County Community College

District, Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library and the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation.

For more information, visit grossepointe library.org.

AAUW GP hosts Women’s Day celebration

The Grosse Pointe chapter of the American Association of University Women is celebrating Women’s Day by hosting “Women Leading the Way,” from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms.

“We have invited inspiring speakers from our community — accomplished women who have built their own businesses, mentor others and serve as role mod-

els,” said Eva Habib, AAUW GP president. “Their careers are wonderfully diverse, including a physical therapist, a wealth manager, an independent executive director and owners of a floral shop and spa salon.”

Panelists include: ♦ Kelly DeLind, PT, DPT — co-owner of Form Physical Therapy

♦ Lina Bowman, MBA — wealth manager with Bowman Asset Management Inc.

♦ Marla Nemanic — independent executive

director of Lemongrass Spa Products

♦ Mary Ghanem — owner of Marie Bloom Floral Designs

♦ Olga Tecos — owner of Areetee Spa Lunch and beverages are served at 12:30 p.m.

Cost to attend is \$20. Checks may be mailed to AAUWGP, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Registration is required by Sunday, March 1.

For more information, contact Roseanne Horne at rosewa33@aol.com.

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Michael’s

The next Lunch, Laugh and Learn at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in Grosse Pointe Woods takes place Thursday, March 19. Guests will meet Arcos, the newly hired public safety dog for Grosse Pointe Woods, and his handler, Officer Duncan Gill, who will discuss K-9s, how they are selected for service and their special policing skills. Lunch is at noon, followed by the program at 1 p.m. Reservations are required by Tuesday, March 17. Call (313) 884-4820.

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

WEDNESDAY
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6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

Open auditions for Rodgers & Hammerstein’s ‘Cinderella’ are March 13-14

Grosse Pointe Theatre will hold open auditions for Rodgers & Hammerstein’s “Cinderella,” the Broadway adaptation of the enchanting musical, Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14, with callbacks Sunday, March 15.

This Broadway version — with a modern twist — features Rodgers and Hammerstein’s music and songs, including “In My Own Little Corner,” “Impossible/It’s Possible,” “Ten Minutes Ago” and others. This adaptation by Douglas Carter Beane introduces hilarious moments, several new characters and surprising twists, yet remains the heartfelt tale of a resilient, caring and smart woman who falls in love with her prince.

In addition to the nine principal adult characters, there will be an ensemble of townspeople who will play various roles. Those younger than 18 must be able to portray a young adult. Visit gpt.org/auditions/cinderella-auditions/ for a full list of character descriptions, music cuts and to

download and fill out audition form to bring to auditions. A non-returnable headshot is appreciated.

Grosse Pointe Theatre’s production of Rogers & Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” will be performed June 5 to 21. It is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.

A pre-audition dance workshop takes place 7 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at Grosse Pointe Theatre, 315 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe. Everyone cast in the show will be required to do some dance and movement, so attending the pre-audition workshop is recommended. Those who attend should wear clothing and shoes they can move in.

Auditions take place 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, March 13, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 14. Callbacks occur between 1 and 5 p.m. Sunday, March 15, also at 315 Fisher.

For more information, email Director Timothy Higgins at cinderella.director@gpt.org.

MAPS:

Continued from page 1B

to Michigan that are in our Bookworm series,” Pedley noted.

“If somebody’s trying to find something and they’re not getting to it, there’s an Ask a Librarian button,” Laddusaw added. “We’re very good at replying quite quickly. ... We love doing it and we love when people have questions. Don’t be

afraid to reach out and ask.”

“Michigan Mapped” is the third in a series of five Your Old Mansion lectures. Presenters donate their time for the lectures, so all proceeds support Grosse Pointe Artist Association programming, including Tuesday Night Out for Veterans, A Morning Out and Promising Artists.

Register for the lecture online at grossepointeartcenter.org.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

- ◆ Beginning CAD Modeling, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 9, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Women in African Aromatics: Self-Care and Scent Rituals with Terees Wester, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 9, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, March 10, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ 7th & 8th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ In Hot Mug Book Discussion Group, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at LeRouge Boulangerie, 15215 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Playtime Pop-ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 12, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ DigiLit Series, 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Art As Power: Aesthetics and Expression During the Holocaust, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at

Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Library Bigs & Littles, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Reader Dog, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

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 Giovinazzo, 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.

The Helm

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

- ◆ The movie “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.

POST Detroit

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

- ◆ Community Clothing Swap, noon to 8 p.m. Friday, March 6.
- ◆ Enamel Workshop: Wall Hangings, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Cost is \$100.
- ◆ Drop-In Workshop: Wire Wrap Rings, noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 8, or 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 15. Cost is \$50.
- ◆ Bring Your Pup to make a Custom Paw Print Tile, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 8. Cost is \$65. Sessions must be booked in advance.
- ◆ Mixed Media Abstract Collage Workshop, 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, March 8. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Puff Pipes, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 8. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Hand Lettering Workshop: Intro to Pointed Pen Calligraphy, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 13. Cost is \$75.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 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.

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 familycenterterhelps.org or RSVP to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

- ◆ American Red Cross CPR/AED Training, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3.
- ◆ 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.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. The speaker is Chris Tull, executive director of Humble Design Detroit, which helps people move from homelessness into stable housing. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

STUDIO:

Continued from page 5B

during the same studio hours, but with no appointment needed.

Once warmer weather descends on the Pointes, he plans to set up an easel outside of the Sprout House where passersby can stop, chat and have their caricatures drawn.

“I’m available for birthday parties, store openings, business and corporate events,” he added.

Those interested in visiting Sherman’s studio should call (313) 918-5773.



PHOTOS BY JODY MCVEIGH

From left, Sherman’s caricatures of “Jailhouse Rock” Elvis, “Fat” Elvis, James Bond, a dog and The Godfather.

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Cristina Muresan, Violin

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LIFE & LEISURE



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City teen takes on starring role in ‘The Diary of Anne Frank’

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Josephine O’Reilly is no stranger to the stage. Since age 9, she’s been enjoying the energy and atmosphere of performing — something she said makes her feel “unconditionally happy.” “It just seemed like the perfect environment for me,” she said. “All the rehearsals and shows felt so right.”

The University Liggett School seventh grader next takes the stage in the Birmingham Village Players production of “The Diary of Anne Frank,” running March 6 to 22.

“I thought this was a great chance to learn more about history,” said O’Reilly, who prepared for her audition by reading the book, which endeared her even further to the role. “I fell in love with her as a person. She was this intelligent, mature, funny, sweet girl. I thought, I’d love to play her. She’s part of such an important story everyone should know.”

“The Diary of Anne Frank” is based on excerpts from the author’s diary that detail the two years she and her family spent in hiding from Nazis during World War II. It’s a heavy role for the young actress, not only because O’Reilly will be portray-



The production takes place March 6-22.

ing a real person, but because of the emotion tied to it.

“My process has been more about me making sure I represent her so I’m true to her,” O’Reilly said. “I feel like if she was in the audience every single night, I want her to be happy with the way I’m representing her.”

As for the emotional weight of the production, O’Reilly and her cast mates are making sure they’re there for each other.

“It’s different from other shows I’ve done; it’s got really emotionally heavy scenes,” she said, noting that pauses during

rehearsals often are filled with silence. “When we’re onstage, we get so in-tuned with the emotions. Then we stop and we take a breath — breathe in, breathe out. Someone will tell a joke to relieve the tension. It’s different, but it’s an important skill to learn.”

Another new facet O’Reilly will face during this production is remaining onstage the duration of the play.

“That’s definitely something I’ve never done,” she said. “This time I’m onstage almost all of intermission, too.”

With no time between scenes to make backstage adjustments, everything needs to be in perfect order before the show even starts.

“We’re very organized, very planned,” she added. “Me and the cast are handling it well.”

Three-day-a-week rehearsals have been bumped up for tech week, with more and longer rehearsals in store. O’Reilly thanked her parents and teachers for their help keeping her organized and showing her grace.

“My teachers have been great about everything,” she said. “They’re forgiving. ... My parents have been helping, too.”

Despite the long days, O’Reilly maintains that theater is where she’s meant to be.

“Even when it’s really hard work, I stay happy the whole time,” the City of Grosse Pointe resident said. “I love theater. I hope to do this for the rest of my life. This is

where I’ve been my happiest.”

During its run, March 6 to 22, show times for “The Diary of Anne Frank” are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays.

“Everybody should know this story,” O’Reilly added. “It’s so important to know about all this history and to understand what can happen when the world is filled with so



COURTESY PHOTOS

Josephine O’Reilly stars as Anne Frank in the Birmingham Village Players production of “The Diary of Anne Frank.”

much hate — that one person talking can lead to something bigger. It’s an important story to be told, especially right now.

“... Since I have been working on the role, I have really come to understand that Anne’s optimism in parts of her

diary was not innocence,” she added, “but rather her intentional choice not to let hatred and evil define her existence.”

Individual tickets are \$30 and may be purchased by calling (248) 644-2075 or visiting birminghamvillageplayers.com.



O’Reilly rehearses a scene from “The Diary of Anne Frank.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT MUSIAL

Show of support

This house on Renaud at Morningside declared support for Grosse Pointe’s own Zach Werenski, whose assist set up the game-winning overtime goal of the U.S. vs. Canada gold-medal game during the 2026 Winter Olympic Games.

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Gabby

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Be diplomatic about decluttering

Dear Gabby: My husband thinks “spring cleaning” means aggressively throwing out anything that hasn’t been touched in a year or two. I think it means reorganizing and putting things in labeled bins from The Container Store. He wants to toss kids’ artwork, old hockey jerseys and a chair he claims is “structurally questionable.” I want to keep the memories — and the chair (it’s vintage!). How do we decide what goes and what stays without ending up in separate wings of the house? — Cluttered in the City

Dear Cluttered: Spring cleaning is less about dust and more about diplomacy. Here’s your (hopefully) no-fail compromise formula:

1. The Three-Box Rule: Keep, Donate, Reconsider. Anything you “reconsider” goes in a sealed bin for six months. If you don’t open it by Halloween, out it goes.

2. Memory Cap: Each child gets one memory bin. When it’s full, something must graduate to the recycling bin. (Photograph the art. Let go of the broken pottery project. You get the idea.)

3. The Chair Test: If a guest would hesitate before sitting in it, your husband wins. Remember, marriages have survived basement floods, middle school group chats and varsity sports tryouts. They can survive a purge. And if all else fails, put the questionable chair in the garage and call it “out-door seating.”

— Gabby

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



Too neighborly for my own good

DEAR ANNIE: My neighbor has taken “borrowing a cup of sugar” to ridiculous levels. In the past six months, she’s borrowed my ladder, my hedge clippers, two baking pans and, most recently, my patio chairs for her daughter’s graduation party.

She always promises to return things “tomorrow,” but I usually have to go ask, and sometimes they come back a little worse for wear. She’s perfectly pleasant, and we have to live next to each other, but I’m starting to feel like the neighborhood rental

shop. How do I put a stop to this without seeming totally unreasonable and rude? — Tired of Lending

DEAR TIRED OF LENDING: Generosity is a virtue, but it sounds like she’s taking advantage of it. The next time she bor-

rows something, be cheerful but specific: “I’ll need it back by Sunday at 5.” A clear return time prevents awkward chasing later. If she keeps missing the deadline, it’s perfectly fair to say, “I’ve decided to keep my things at home from now on. I’ve had trouble



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF BEE-HIVE PRODUCTIONS AND THE WONDER COMPANY.

Movie poster for the 2024 movie “Sacramento,” featuring left, Maya Erskine as Tallie, Michael Angarano as Rickey, Michael Cera as Glenn and Kristen Stewart as Rosie. Written by Michael Angarano and Christopher Nicholas Smith and directed by Michael Angarano.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Sacramento”
2024 - Rated R
1 hr 29 min
★★★★☆

We’ve certainly seen our fair share of buddy/road trip films over the last decade or two. They’re usually centered around a couple of wild college kids who are involved in a series of madcap adventures. Or they focus on two older guys helping each other work through a mid-life crisis or some other personal problems. “Sacramento,” however, is in a class by itself. It’s a different sort of film about a couple of eccentric, borderline irritating characters in their early 30s who both could use a bit of therapy. It reminded

me a little of the recent film “A Real Pain” which, if you haven’t seen it, I highly recommend. “Sacramento” was directed, co-written (along with Christopher Nicholas Smith), and stars Michael Angarano (“Almost Famous”). Right from the first couple scenes, you know you’re in for a fun ride. We witness Rickey (Angarano), standing on the shore of a peaceful lake, buck naked. From across the way a woman Tallie (Angarano’s real-life wife Maya Erskine), shouts at him. Soon, they’re sitting together on a dock where they eventually end up sharing a kiss. End of scene. We jump ahead a year and join another couple Rosie (Kristen Stewart)

and Glenn (Michael Cera) in their LA home. Rosie is very pregnant and we find Glenn in their nursery testing the durability of a wooden baby crib. The fact that it makes a tiny squeak and is slightly loose drives him crazy. He starts rattling the side panel, then starts aggressively shaking it until the crib falls to pieces. It’s obvious that this father-to-be has some anxiety issues. Then he gets a phone call and finds out that there may be some cuts at his workplace and his job may be on the chopping block. Rosie reassures him that they’ll be just fine should he get fired. She can work and he can be a stay-at-home dad. Yikes! Then Rickey, after his



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



group therapy session, where he wrestles control of the meeting from the therapist (and is told not to return), shows up at Glenn’s house. At first Glenn tries to hide from him but eventually has to face his old friend. They’ve been close pals since childhood but haven’t hung out together in quite some time. Rickey informs him he’s taking a road trip to Sacramento to scatter his recently deceased dad’s ashes, and the two should go together. It’ll be a great opportunity for them to reconnect. Glenn is reluctant to join him but is encouraged by his wife. You can sense she could really use a little break from her neurotic husband. Rickey shows him his ride, the old Chrysler convertible that they used to tool around in back in the day. After they go for a spin, Glenn is sold. Thus the road trip begins. This is one of those dialogue-driven films, and their combative banter begins the second they hit the highway. You immediately begin to suspect something’s amiss when Rickey is questioned about their destination, Sacramento. He says he wants to spread his father’s ashes into the ocean. When he’s informed that Sacramento is actually a couple hundred miles inland, he says, they’ll spread them off a cliff overlooking a river or something. A short time later, while Glenn is in a convenience store buying

snacks, we see Rickey emptying a can of tennis balls and scooping up some dirt from the parking lot. Aha. It’s all a big ruse. As in all good road trip movies, there are a few interesting characters they meet along their journey. In this case, they meet two attractive women in a bar. Jess (Iman Karram) and Arielle (A.J. Mendez) are co-owners of a wrestling venue. They end up taking our dynamic duo home after a night of serious drinking. There’s a comical scene where Rickey and Glenn square off in the wrestling ring. It’s one of numerous laugh-out-loud sequences in the film. I really enjoyed the look and feel of this quirky little comedy. Both Michael Cera and Michael Angarano did outstanding jobs and there was a natural chemistry between the two. I wish Ms. Stewart had more screen time however—I love everything she’s in. The cinematography by Ben Mullen was great and a special shout out goes to Art Director Krista Lu and Set Decorator Marianne Lu. They gave the movie a very retro feel to it. A lot of the scenes featured slightly washed out, pastel colors. It almost felt like it was set in the early 1970s instead of the present day. The soundtrack by Peter Erskine was also noteworthy (pun intended). If you’re in the mood for a very entertaining, offbeat road trip film,

definitely put this one in your queue. I think you’ll be amused. Where to watch: Streaming for free on Kanopy with your library card. Also on Hulu and to rent on Prime, Apple TV, YouTube, and Fandango. Note to parents: The film is rated “R” due to language. I’d probably rate it PG-13. My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you’d actually buy it!

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

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



If you cannot tell by now, I am officially in my home decorating era. I have big visions, lots of saved Pinterest photos and a very real budget. I am trying to find pieces that look elevated, feel high quality and can survive kids, dogs and the daily mystery messes that appear out of nowhere. Lately, I have been on the hunt for furniture that checks all of those boxes without costing as much as a car. I'm sure you have heard of Quince by now. They either have a massive marketing budget or they have successfully infiltrated every social media algo-

rithm in America. Either way, I have been influenced. I have ordered pants, sweaters, accessories, dresses and more from Quince and always am impressed with the quality for the price. Recently, I made my first foray into Quince furniture and ordered the Sierra Performance Basketweave Curved Arm Sofa for my living room. I



went with the flax color, which is the perfect neutral. It has that warm, textured, designer look that works with basically any decor style.

So far, I genuinely love it. This sofa is made in Los Angeles by expert craftspeople and the frame is built with solid wood and ultra-durable, kiln-dried engineered wood sourced from responsibly managed forests. It feels sturdy, not flimsy. The cushions are soft, but still supportive, and made with a foam and recycled fiber blend designed to give that sink-in comfort without needing constant fluffing. The fabric is the biggest selling point for me. It is upholstered in contract-grade performance basketweave material that is

Oeko Tex-certified and designed for high-traffic areas, which is exactly what families need. Even better, the cushion covers are removable and machine washable on a gentle cycle, so spills and messes feel far less terrifying. Delivery also was surprisingly easy. Quince includes free white-glove service, so they brought it in, assembled it, placed it where I wanted it and removed all packing materials. I am giving this sofa 4 out of 5 alligators for now, only because I have had it for a few months and cannot speak to long-term

durability yet. But so far, I am seriously impressed. The quality feels comparable to much higher-end brands, with a price tag closer to the affordable retailers. Find out for yourself on quince.com. We LOVE testing out new things! Tell us about your favorite item or something you want us to try for you! Drop us a line at media@grossepointe-news.com.



4 Out Of 5

Teriyaki salmon

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Fish Fridays are back, and as in years past, salmon reigns supreme in our household. The kids love it, I love it and we rarely have leftovers. The only question is where to buy it. For quality, I love the Faroe Island salmon at Fresh Farms Market. The fish is consistently top notch. If you hurry, you can catch a huge sale — salmon is on sale for \$14.99 a pound until March 7th. This fast and easy recipe features a homemade teriyaki sauce that couldn't be simpler. Fresh garlic and ginger are simmered in soy sauce, brown sugar and rice wine vinegar, creating a savory-sweet base. A spoonful of chili crisp adds just the right amount of heat. I whisk in a cornstarch slurry to thicken the sauce until glossy and rich, then brush it generously over the salmon before roasting it quickly in the oven.

I love serving this alongside an Asian cucumber salad made with thinly sliced cucumbers tossed in those same teriyaki flavors. After a short marinade, the cucumbers become flavorful, crisp and perfectly refreshing next to the warm, caramelized salmon. It's simple, affordable and a total hit which is exactly what Fish Friday should be.

Cheers, Mombeau

Teriyaki Salmon

4 6 oz salmon fillets

½ cup soy sauce

¼ cup rice wine vinegar

¼ brown sugar

1 tsp chili crisp sauce

2 garlic cloves, minced

2 tsp ginger, minced

1 tsp cornstarch

2 tbsp sesame seeds

Start by making the teriyaki sauce. In a small saucepan, add the soy sauce, brown sugar, chili crisp sauce, garlic and ginger. Whisk together and bring to a boil, then reduce down to a simmer. Simmer for five minutes. Then mix one teaspoon of water with the one teaspoon of cornstarch to make a slurry. Pour into the sauce and whisk until thickened. Turn the heat off and let cool slightly. Preheat your oven to 425 degrees. Lay the salmon, skin side down, onto a foil lined baking sheet. Brush about one tablespoon of the sauce over each piece of salmon. Sprinkle the tops with sesame seeds. Bake for 12 minutes. Serve with any remaining sauce.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Taste buddies! Sponsor Mombeau's Table in this highly-visible spot! To reserve this space, call (313) 882-6900



Basic wine advice

TV beer commercials usually emphasize the near-freezing temperatures at which big beer companies want us to consume their beers. This is proof that the beer in question is so bland that taste is not what matters most. The colder you serve any beverage, the less

likely you are to be able to taste the flavors that make it what it is supposed to be. Serious beer and wine lovers know that ice cold wipes out character. This is how large beer companies want their products consumed. Craft brewers, by contrast, want us to taste the uniqueness they offer.

Fine wine lovers do the same. Cool is best for quality wines. At such levels, aromas and tastes are accessible and allow for a slow enjoyment of the nuances. I once heard a friend who had just returned from London complain that the British drink their beer warm. In his view, 65 degrees Fahrenheit was warm. I reminded him that he was used to drinking his domestic six packs at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. The basic advice I give newcomers to wine is that, with a few exceptions, fine wine should be served at about 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Yet some restaurants serve whites and reds all wrong.

Servers have told me that red wine should be served at "room temperature." But the phrase "room temp" comes from the French phrase "a chamber," referring to rooms in unheated French chateaus. I often ask for an ice bucket so I can cool down a too-warm red wine. This unnerves some servers who have told me that red wine shouldn't be chilled. Similarly, white wines in restaurants are often served too cold. One awful tactic is when a waiter constantly jams a wine bottle into an ice bucket,

even after it has been cooled enough to enjoy. Fine wine, such as quality chardonnays and sauvignon blancs, is best at the same 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit that's best for reds. In some small cafes, even those that carry a great selection of top-rate wines, whites are often served too cold. This happens due to economic factors. Health departments often mandate that restaurant refrigerators remain at 40 degrees Fahrenheit to protect food from spoilage. Some cafes can't afford to buy a second cooling unit for keeping wines cold. So, white wines are

cooled in the fridge. Aromatic white wines such as riesling, gewurztraminer and viognier can withstand colder temperatures, but temperatures lower than 50 degrees Fahrenheit can harm the delicate aromatics of some older white wines, such as classic older rieslings. The best strategy for quickly cooling down a white or rose is to buy a small quantity of plastic liquid-filled cubes that may be frozen. Two or three dropped into a room-temp wine will cool it in a few minutes. **Wine of the Week:** NV La Ina Fino Sherry,

Jerez (\$18) — Dry Fino Sherries can be distinctive aperitif wines. They may be served ice cold. Best with olives, almonds and bites of hard cheese, the best Fino Sherries are fresh and young. This reliable brand now has only 15 percent alcohol. Finos used to be closer to 20 percent. This wine is light and crisp. Also, try it alongside a creamed soup. To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2025 CREATORS.COM.



GROSSE POINTE THEATRE PRESENTS

THE WIZARD of Oz YOUTH EDITION

Sensory Performance Sat, March 21 @ 1 pm

MARCH 13-22, 2026 PARCELLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

gpt.org/wizard



Grosse
Pointe
News

THURSDAY

COMICS

Peanuts

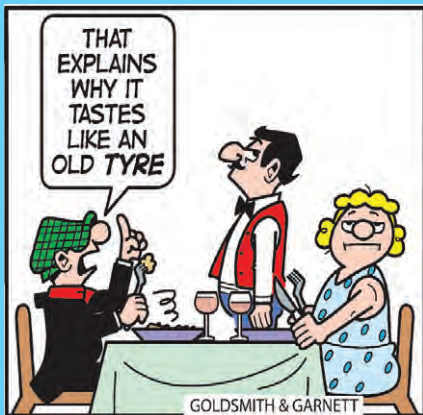
Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

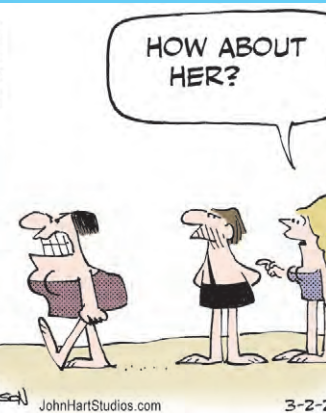
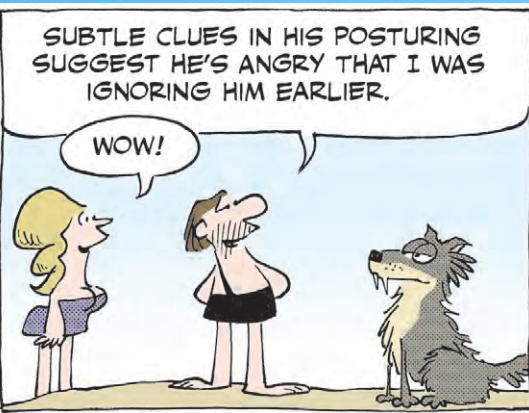
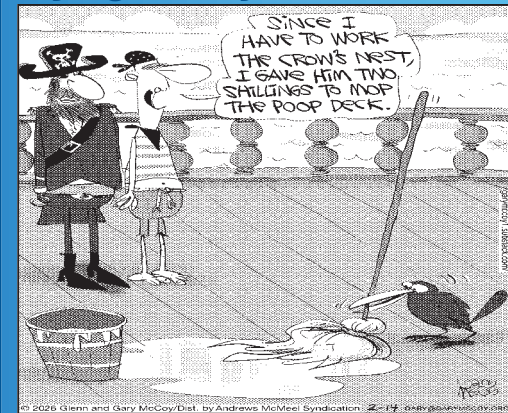
Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

B.C.

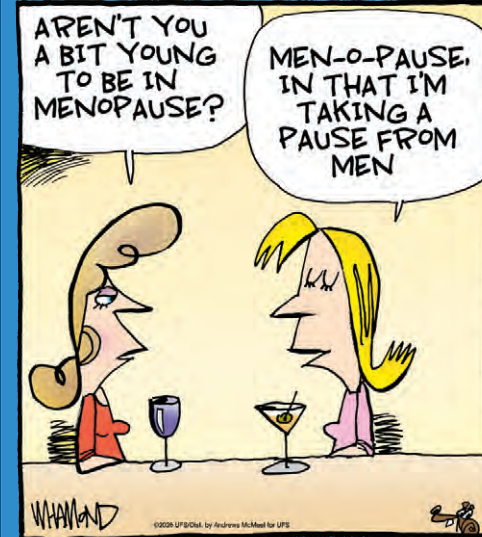
Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

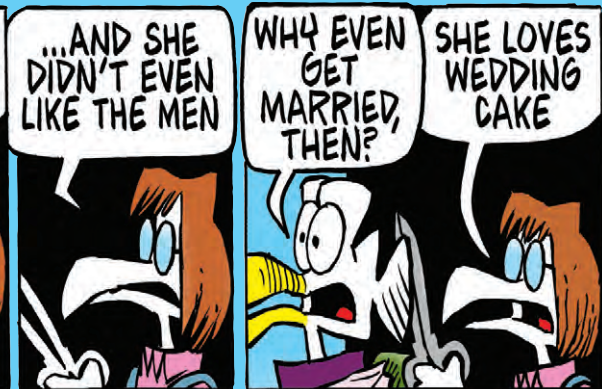
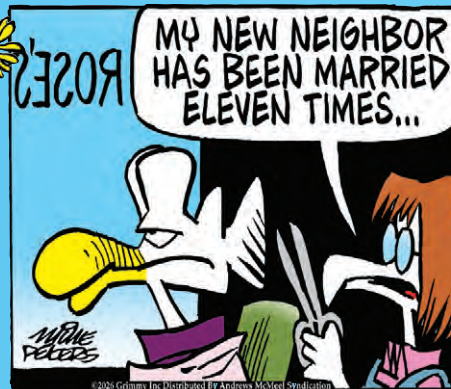
Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Mother Goose and Grim

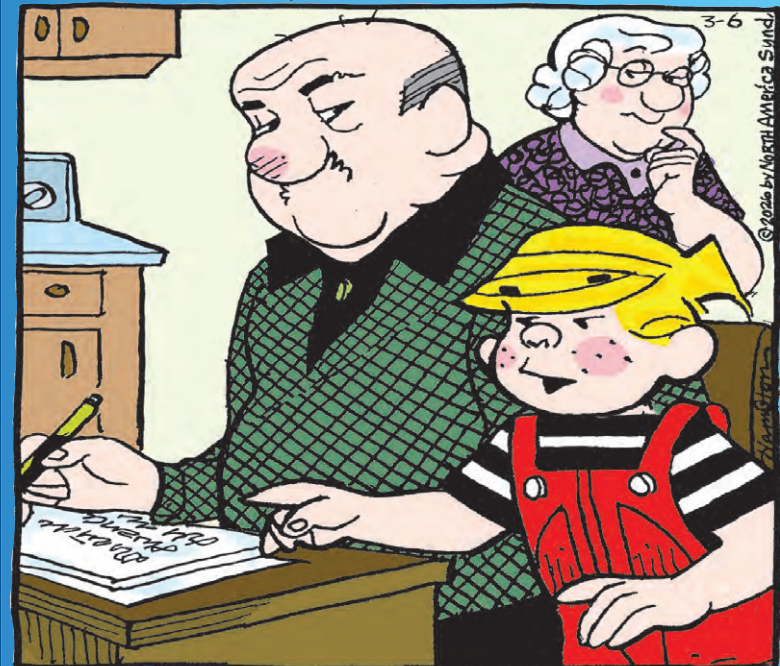
Mike Peters



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

Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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2/26 Solution

Pointe Word Search

Find the words on the left in the puzzle below.

BEES
BUZZ
CONE
HONEY
MINER
NECTAR
NESTS
RESIN
STINGER
TREES
VALLEY



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

Contract Bridge

REDUCING THE RISK FACTOR

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q 7
♥ Q 6 4
♦ Q 8 5
♣ A 10 7 3

WEST

♠ J 10 9 4
♥ J
♦ J 10 7 6 3
♣ Q 8 5

EAST

♠ 6 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 2
♦ 2
♣ K 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ K 8
♥ A K 7 5 3
♦ A K 9 4
♣ J 9

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
6 ♥			

Opening lead — jack of spades.

Most mistakes made by declarer are due more to carelessness than lack of skill. As a case in point, consider today's deal where South got to six hearts and West led a spade.

Declarer won the jack with the king, cashed the ace of trump, then led a low trump to the queen. When West showed out, South realized that the slam was in jeopardy. Although he could get rid of his club loser on one of

dummy's spades, he might still lose a diamond trick as well as a trump trick.

South therefore decided to leave a trump in dummy as he tested the diamonds. At trick four, he led a diamond to the ace and another to dummy's queen, but East ruffed and returned a trump, and South had to go down one.

Had declarer given a bit more thought to the matter after the hearts failed to break, he would have made the contract. Instead of leading a low diamond to the ace at trick four, he should have cashed dummy's queen of diamonds first before leading another diamond from dummy at trick five. This would have left East with no recourse.

If he ruffed, declarer would follow low and later draw East's last trump to wrap up the contract. And if East did not ruff, South would win the diamond with the king, cash the A-Q of spades, discarding a club, and then lead dummy's last diamond.

Again, East would find himself between the proverbial rock and a hard place. If he ruffed, it would be all over; if he did not ruff, declarer would win with the ace and ruff the nine of diamonds in dummy. Whatever East did, South's only loser would be a trump trick.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by Taylor Johnson March 5, 2026

ACROSS

- 1 Wally ____ ("Famous" cookie maker)
5 In a bit
9 Thrift store caveat
13 Cheerful tune
14 Place for a clip-on mic
16 Pop-up shop worker, maybe
17 *2013 Wimbledon men's singles champion (In this answer, note the first letter and the last 4 letters)
19 ____ check (reading of the room's mood)
20 Pink, purple and blue symbol of pride, informally
21 Molecule part
23 Tic-toe connector
24 More fit for the task
25 *Connection spot for a landline (... the first letter and the last 3 letters)
27 (I'm a goat!)
28 Barnyard mama
30 Sleeveless tops, informally
31 They're exposed by sleeveless tops
33 Minecraft resource
35 Room that might have a TV
36 Establish personal limits ... or a hint to this puzzle's theme
41 Snitch
42 Cartoon "devil," for short
43 Blinds part
45 Map collection
48 Rx item
50 Cyclops feature
51 *Maturing (... the first 3 letters and the last 2 letters)
55 Variety show
57 ____-al-Fitr
58 Biceps exercise
59 Renter
60 Infatuated
62 *Get through a whole season in one sitting, say (... the first letter and the last 4 letters)
64 Yemeni port
65 Rocks, in slang
66 Nat King ____
67 (Hey!)
68 Future J.D.'s exam
69 Uno + dos

DOWN

- 1 Selma's state
2 Small hotel refrigerators
3 Former lover
4 Panache
5 Slimy crawler
6 Rowing blade
7 Billionaire Winfrey
8 "Nifty!"
9 Off-roader: Abbr.
10 Vegan meat substitute
11 "It's me again!"
12 Little bits
15 French silk city
18 Barnyard female
22 Poetic rhythm
25 Machu Picchu's country
26 Rock legend
29 Gamer's "Heck yeah!"
32 Paper ____ (eco-friendly drink insert)
34 Sinus doc
35 Stun
37 No-frills

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

2/26 Solution

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www.upuzzles.com

3/5

Collection Connection by Brian Callahan

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14				15		16		
17				18						19			
20						21			22		23		
24					25						26		
27				28	29					30			
31			32		33		34		35				
	36				37			38			39	40	
				41				42			43		44
45	46	47						48		49		50	
51					52	53	54			55	56		
57					58					59			
60				61		62			63				
64						65							
67						68					69		

SPORTS



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ULS boys hockey wins regional title, returns to Division 3 final four

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

For the first time since winning the Division 3 state title in 2012, the University Liggett School

varsity boys hockey team is making its return to championship weekend. The Knights earned two major playoff victories last week, winning the regional championship

game and the state quarterfinal to advance to the Division 3 final four. “It’s a special feeling, especially because I’ve been coaching some of these kids since they

started Mite hockey,” Liggett boys hockey head coach Colin Smith said. “...Every time we faced some adversity, they faced it head-on and have come out on top.”

The week started for Liggett with a matchup against Cranbrook-Kingswood in the Division 3 regional championship game Wednesday, Feb. 25. A

regional title was something that had eluded the Knights in recent years, but the team was able to make it over that hurdle with a 2-0 win against the Cranes.

Liggett and Cranbrook played almost as evenly matched a game as possible. Both sides had their chances throughout the game, but the Knights ended up being able to capitalize.

The first two periods of last Wednesday’s matchup went by without either team breaking through. It was not until there were just under eight minutes left in regulation that Liggett’s Johnny Secco was able to break the stalemate. Griffin Marchal helped seal the win for the Knights by scoring with just under two minutes to go in the final period to make it a two-goal lead with too little time for Cranbrook to come back.

“It’s about the belief in themselves and their teammates,” Smith said about the Knights being able to capture the regional title. “They’re a group who, when they’re determined, they don’t stop until they get it.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

The University Liggett School varsity boys hockey team celebrates with the regional championship trophy after defeating Cranbrook-Kingswood 2-0 last Wednesday, Feb. 25. The Knights went on to defeat Divine Child in the Division 3 state quarterfinal Saturday, Feb. 28, earning a trip to the state semifinal.

See HOCKEY, page 4D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Family is everything in Nguyen’s gymnastics journey

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe North junior Anna Nguyen possesses the type of drive and self-determination that makes an athlete truly great. Nguyen did not grow up competing in club gymnastics from an early age. She developed a love for the sport by watching her older sisters throughout their gymnastics careers until Nguyen reached high school, when she used everything she had learned to join the Grosse Pointe United gymnastics team, which she now captains.

Nguyen burst onto the scene by earning a trip to the state finals her freshman year. She has only gotten better since, working her way up to a team leader as a junior. By her side the whole way has been her older sister,

Grosse Pointe News



Anna Nguyen
School: Grosse Pointe North
Sport: Gymnastics
Sponsored by Fairway Packing Co.

Isabelle Nguyen, head coach of the Grosse Pointe United gymnastics team.

“We’re able to separate the two from being at home and being at practice,” Nguyen said about

being coached by her sister. “At home, I see her as my sister and at practice, I see her as my coach. I don’t really let the two combine. ... With her pushing me to strive to be my best and being comfortable around her, I feel like I’ve progressed so much more than I would have without her by my side.”

Her sister’s coaching has helped Nguyen achieve quite a lot in her relatively short time in

competitive gymnastics. She has achieved career high scores of 9.0 on beam, 9.175 on floor routine and 32.025 all-around, with beam and floor being the two areas where she has most often helped her team to victory.

“Freshman year, I made states for beam, which was a shock, but I guess it’s my strongest,” Nguyen said. “Floor is the most fun because I can get out there and set myself free basically. I can live in a world that is make-believe, but I have the most fun with it.”

Nguyen finished first in both beam and floor at the Great Lakes League Meet Feb. 11. That helped her finish in sixth place overall in all-around and deliver Grosse Pointe a first-place team finish. Last Saturday, Feb. 28, Nguyen finished second in floor and seventh in vault at the regional championship meet, qualifying for the state finals in both events.

The key to her increased success this year, in Nguyen’s eyes, is her consistency. She put



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe United gymnastics captain Anna Nguyen qualified for the 2026 MHSAA state finals in floor and vault.

in tireless effort last season and leading up to this year to have consistent improvement in her abilities, especially in her floor routine, even help-

ing her overcome injury to keep reaching her full potential.

“Last year, I started

See ATHLETE, page 2D



SCORE BIG WITH EVERY BITE.



2D | SPORTS

Blue Devils hold off North in district opener

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

People often say it is hard to beat a team three times in one year. It becomes even harder when that team is your crosstown rival and the third matchup comes during the playoffs, but that is what the Grosse Pointe South varsity girls basketball team had to face Monday, March 2, hosting Grosse Pointe North in the opening round of the

Division 1 district playoffs. Earning a third victory this season over the Norsemen was no easy task for South, but the Blue Devils were able to fend off a late surge by North to come away with a 48-40 win. The Blue Devils led for much of the way in Monday’s win. However, North was never too far behind, at least when it mattered most. South built up its lead

into double digits, going ahead by 14 at halftime with the score 29-15. The Norsemen came out energized in the second half, looking to make the game tighter, and were able to cut the deficit down to single digits by trailing 38-30 going into the fourth quarter. North’s fight to get back in the game continued throughout the final quarter. The Norsemen were able to bring things to within five points as the game

got down to the final minutes, but South did just enough to stay in front and come out with the win. “Coach Bennett’s teams don’t quit,” South girls basketball head coach Kevin Richards said. “... They made a run in the second half and made it interesting to say the least. I give North credit for being down and coming back and competing like they did.” North senior Eva

Borowski helped lead the late surge, finishing the night with 17 points. South had three players finish in double digits. Clara Bachert had 13 points, Morgan Duff finished with 11 and Alex Lupo tallied 10 points. “With any of our starters, they’re capable of scoring in double figures,” Richards said about the variety of scoring that contributed to the win. “Alex Lupo played really composed and finished well

around the basket. ... Morgan Duff’s been a key all season for us. When she plays well, we’re at our best.” The loss ended North’s season with a final record of 12-11. For South, the team moved on to face Detroit Cass Tech in the district semifinal round after press time Wednesday, March 4. The district championship game is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, March 6, at Grosse Pointe South.



Above left, North’s Emma Barr attempts to block a shot by South’s Daphne Spies. Above right, Clara Bachert (No. 4) tries to steal the ball from North senior Eva Borowski.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

doing more advanced tumbling and twisting, but it was never consistent,” she said. “This year, I injured my ankle at the beginning of the season. ... Getting back into it was a little tough, but I feel like I’ve come back a bit stronger and my tumbling has become more consistent on floor.” While achieving great scores on her own has helped boost her profile as a gymnast, Nguyen’s main goal is to remain focused on the team. Grosse Pointe United gymnastics is made up of athletes from both North and Grosse Pointe South, along with the addition of athletes from Fraser High School beginning this season. Her teammates may come from different

schools and backgrounds, but Nguyen sees them all as family, always focused on helping each other succeed to put the team on top. “The girls are like my second family,” Nguyen said. “It doesn’t matter what school we come from. ... They’ve been the sweetest people and we know them so well. We’ve all hung out together outside of the sport and we’ve become such a tight family.” Whether it is her family of teammates or her actual family coaching her, gymnastics has always been about family for Nguyen. They have helped her through becoming one of the best gymnasts the Pointes have to offer and a true student-athlete, managing gymnastics with school, National Honor Society and more. What makes Nguyen’s

journey special is the fact her family has been right beside her the whole time. The journey is not over yet, with some of the biggest meets of her junior season coming up and her senior year ahead, but those closest to Nguyen know she is capable of even more success. “Anna has been an amazing gymnast and an addition to the gymnastics team,” Isabelle Nguyen said. “She’s the only sister who didn’t get the chance to do club gymnastics like her other sisters and me, but you’d never know it — gymnastics is clearly in her genes. She’s improved so much since her freshman year and I’m so proud of her as both her coach and her sister. I can’t wait to see what she brings to the team her senior year. I know it’ll be amazing.”



COURTESY PHOTO

North junior gymnast Anna Nguyen soars above the beam.

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

South boys swim keeps streak alive with 28th MAC Red title

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Being successful in something 28 times in a row is a testament to consistency and tradition. The tradition of success when it comes to league championships continued for the Grosse Pointe South varsity boys swim and dive team Saturday, Feb. 28, when the Blue Devils captured the MAC Red Division title for an unprecedented 28th consecutive season.

“It’s a lot about the swimming community around it and helps build it up,” South boys swim and dive coach John Fodell said about the program’s streak of league titles, which began when he was a freshman swimmer at South. “It starts all the way from the Lakefront League and goes all the way through everything and the work that gets put in. ... The boys wanted it pretty badly. When they knew there was a shot they might lose, they stepped up and wanted to keep it going.”

The Blue Devils won the meet with 459 points, more than 60 points ahead of second-place Eisenhower. Grosse Pointe North finished fourth with 314 points.

South sophomore Brady Bond helped deliver some of the best performances of the day for the Blue Devils. He finished first in the 50-yard freestyle with a



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

Grosse Pointe South varsity boys swim and dive holds the MAC Red championship trophy after winning the league title for a 28th consecutive season Saturday, Feb. 28.

time of 21.55 and was second in the 100 freestyle.

“I think Brady made a huge step forward at the MAC (championship),” Fodell said. “... He should be able to be All-State in both the 50 and 100 freestyle, which will be a big step for him.”

Bond, along with Joseph Fodell, Everett Wood and Nadeem

Haurani, took second place in the 200 medley relay. Haurani, Fodell, Bond and Lucas Curtis also made up the 400 freestyle relay team that finished third.

Another big finish for South came in one-meter diving, where Myles Meldrum took the top spot. North’s Eli Kociba finished sixth in the diving standings.

It also was a strong day in the pool for another Brady — North’s Brady Winbigler. The junior finished second in the 500 freestyle and third in the 200 IM.

Winbigler, Thomas Kezhaya, James Gusmano and Tyler Collins formed North’s second-place 200 free-

style relay team.

Gusmano finished second in the 100 breaststroke and third in the 50 freestyle for the Norsemen. Collins took second place in the 100 fly and fourth in the 100 backstroke, just behind teammate James Jewell in third place.

The season now comes down to the state

finals, where certain swimmers will represent South and North. The Blue Devils will compete in the Division 2 finals at Eastern Michigan University, while the Norsemen will head to the Holland Aquatic Center for the Division 3 finals. Both events begin Friday, March 13.



FOLLOW

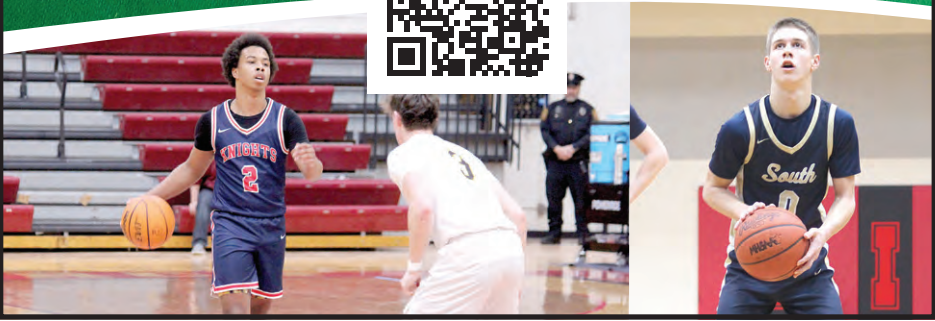
GROSSE POINTE NEWS

SPORTS

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

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

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



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Paul Stephens, Tyler Collins, Alejandro Delgado, James Gusmano, James Jewell, Brady Winbigler and Thomas Kezhaya will represent North at the Division 3 boys swim and dive state finals beginning March 13.



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ULS boys hoops dominates on way to first district title since 2021

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

This winter has been a season of firsts for the University Liggett School varsity boys basketball team. The Knights won the Catholic League Intersectional 1 Division regular season championship for the first time this season,

then claimed their first Division 3 district title since 2021 last week with a 61-49 win over Detroit Universal Academy Friday, Feb. 27. “It felt good, especially for those guys, the juniors and seniors, because they finally won something they can always remember,”

Liggett boys basketball head coach Jaylen Rutherford said. “... Having some hardware is very cool.” The Knights earned the right to play in the district championship with a dominant 66-28 win against Detroit Northwestern in the district semifinal Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Liggett’s win over the Eagles in the district championship was a game that was never really in doubt for the Knights. The team led 17-11 after the first quarter and built the lead to double digits, going into the halftime break ahead 31-18. Liggett consistently remained ahead by double digits in the second half. The lead sat at 15 by the end of the third quarter, with the Knights in front 44-29, and Liggett’s advantage neared 20 points at times.

The Knights finished things off in the fourth quarter. Some late shots made by the Eagles in the final minutes made the scoreboard appear a bit closer than the game really was, but Liggett still had a comfortable win by 12 points. Javion Gray and Nathan Sliwinski led the Knights with 14 points each to help secure the district title. Devon Abbott scored 13 while also bringing down six rebounds. Winning a district championship felt like the culmination of a culture change for Liggett in Rutherford’s first year as head coach. The team



Liggett junior Sean Harris drives toward the basket in Friday’s district championship game.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

University Liggett varsity boys basketball wins its first district championship since 2021 after defeating Detroit Universal Academy Friday, Feb. 27.

had some close wins in the regular season, which helped secure it the top spot in its Catholic League division. The type of grit and teamwork the Knights showed throughout the season translated into the playoffs and could be the key to going beyond just a district title. “They find a way to get it done,” Rutherford said. “These kids are the best at adjusting to situations and what’s going on. They pick each other up. When someone’s down, they pick each other up and hold everyone accountable. ... They never give up.” Liggett faced Center Line Prep Academy in the Division 3 regional semifinal after press time Tuesday, March 3. The regional championship game is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, at Clawson High School, with tip off at 7 p.m.

HOCKEY:

Continued from page 1D

They hold themselves and each other accountable, and I think that’s been a big difference this year.”

The Knights moved on to face Divine Child in the Division 3 state quarterfinal Saturday, Feb. 28, where they secured their spot in the final four by beating the Falcons 3-2.

Landen Maltby put the Knights in front first, but Divine Child’s Cullen McGowan tied the game before the end of the first period. The only goal of the second period came from Liggett’s Ryan Cordaro, putting the Knights ahead 2-1 going into the final frame.

Brody McNamara for the Falcons tied the game at two early in the third period. Liggett’s leading scorer then came through with perhaps his biggest goal of the season when the Knights needed it most. Nick Gould found the back of the net on the power play in the third period to put Liggett in front once again, this time for good, as the Knights held off the

Falcons for about 10 minutes until the final buzzer sounded.

The victory last Saturday ended a 14-year championship weekend drought for the Knights. Liggett last appeared in the final four in 2012, when the team defeated Houghton to win the Division 3 state championship.

Liggett will face Orchard Lake St. Mary’s in the state semifinal. The Eagles are the defending Division 3 state champions and finished the regular season with a 21-4 record.

“Our forecheck has to continue doing what it’s been doing,” Smith said. “(St. Mary’s) likes to get north with the puck right away. We have to take away that first pass and not let them get north. They’re a fast team... When they get north, that’s when they’re dangerous.”

Puck drop between Liggett and St. Mary’s is set for 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 6, at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth. The Division 3 state championship game will be played at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 7, also at USA Hockey Arena.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett senior Landen Maltby lines up for a faceoff across from Cranbrook’s Patrick Neton in the regional championship game Feb. 25.

**CITY OF HARPER WOODS
PLANNING COMMISSION
19617 HARPER
HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN 48225
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Harper Woods Planning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining public input and comment on a request from Kirk Lytwyn, property owner of Essence Provisioning Center at 19616 Kelly Road, to re-zone Parcel #42 001 06 0074 000, from MU-2 Mixed Use District to a C-R, Regional Commercial District to allow for a drive-through operation.

The public hearing will be held in the Municipal Building, 19617 Harper, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225.

The lot requested to be re-zoned is located at 19616 Kelly Road south of Woodcrest Street. An area map and legal description of the proposed parcel to be re-zoned are available for public inspection in the City Clerk’s Office, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Interested parties who are unable to attend this hearing may submit their comments in writing to the City Clerk’s Office before 5:00 p.m. on March 25, 2026.

POSTED: March 2, 2026
PUBLISHED: March 5, 2026

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

**CITY OF HARPER WOODS
2026 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW DATES**

The City of Harper Woods 2026 Board of Review will conduct hearings on the following dates for appeals from citizens, regarding the 2026 assessment, at City Hall, 19617 Harper Ave. All appeals are by appointment, in-person or submitted in writing. Letters of appeal must be received by March 23, 2026 by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted. Please call (313) 343-2527 to schedule an appointment.

Appointment Dates for Hearing:

Monday	March 9, 2026	1:00 pm Organizational Meeting Hearings 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Monday	March 23, 2026	Hearings 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

All persons protesting their assessment must complete a petition (form 618) L-4035) which can be obtained at City Hall or at the time of appointment or on the City website: www.harperwoodscity.org under the Assessing Department; Board of Review Information.

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, Feb. 19, & Mar. 5 2026

Knights announce new football coach

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Change is coming to Cook Road as a new face will be on the sidelines this fall for the University Liggett School football varsity football team.

The school announced Monday, March 2, that Vincent Phillips Jr. has been hired as the new head coach for Liggett football.

“We are thrilled to welcome Coach Phillips to the ULS community,” University Liggett Athletic Director Brian Anderson said in a press release. “He has had a lot of success for a long time. His players always perform well not only because of the expertise he provides them with, but how he goes about molding them as young men.”

Phillips most recently served as the head coach at L’Anse Creuse High School. He led the Lancers for three seasons, beginning in 2023, and made one playoff appearance. Before his time at L’Anse Creuse, Phillips spent three years on the sideline in St. Clair Shores as the head coach of South Lake High School.

Phillips was a quarterback at Detroit Finney High School and played Division II college football at Tiffin University in Ohio. Getting into coaching was an easy choice for Phillips, who wanted to preach the same messages his mentors taught him to the next generation of athletes.

“I want to be able to see kids overcome some adversity and have fun playing the game of football,” Phillips said. “Brotherhood is huge. I preach that and we practice that way and talk that way. ... I want to be able to create the brotherhood and for them to have memories that last. I want to make sure that these kids have the best

high school experience playing for me.”

His background at the quarterback position could help Phillips give the Knights a new identity on the offensive side of the ball. Phillips has experience as an offensive coordinator at schools such as Detroit Renaissance, Eastpointe and Hamtramck.

Several of the quarterbacks Phillips has coached have gone on to play at the collegiate level. It is the position from which he demands the most because of his playing background, but Phillips knows how important a strong coach and quarterback relationship is to building a foundation for success.

“It takes a unique skill-set,” he said. “You have to have a feel for the game and take note of the game. I think I do a really good job of developing the quarterback from the ground up. The biggest thing about

coaching is meeting kids where they are at and then building from there. ... I do a good job of meeting guys where they are and building from there. I demand certain things from them at that position and I’m tougher on that position than any other position because I know it and I played it.”

There is still a long off-season ahead before Phillips takes the sideline for the first time with the Knights. However, the work already has begun with getting to know the team and letting his new players know his expectations.

“Expect to win,” Phillips said. “... I just wanted them to know that we’re here for you and that we’re going to teach you the game from the ground up. I’m all about building relationships. I’ve been in the school doing one-on-one meetings with the guys. ... We’re starting from scratch and getting to

know them from scratch. come ready to work I tell them every day to hard.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Former L’Anse Creuse and South Lake coach Vincent Phillips Jr. was recently announced as the new head football coach at University Liggett.

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:



GROSSE POINTE UNITED GYMNASTICS

The Grosse Pointe United Gymnastics team placed third overall at regionals last Saturday, Feb. 28, qualifying for the 2026 state finals. The state finals begin Friday, March 6, at Milford High School.



GIRLS HOCKEY

Grosse Pointe North girls varsity hockey advanced to the state semifinals in Division 2 of the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League (MGHSHL) playoffs. The Norsemen defeated Regina 2-1 last Saturday, Feb. 28, in the opening round, with Ava Villani and Twila Shappy-Behn scoring the goals for North. The team faced Cranbrook-Kingswood in the semifinal after press time Wednesday, Mar. 4.

BOYS BBALL

Grosse Pointe South varsity boys basketball lost its Division 1 district semifinal playoff game last Wednesday, Feb. 25, falling 49-30 to Detroit Martin Luther King Jr. The Blue Devils’ season ended with a final record of 12-12.



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

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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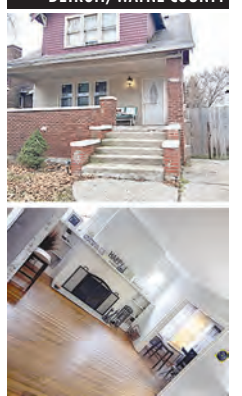
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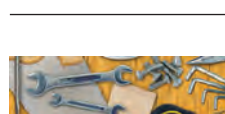
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