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APRIL 2, 2026
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Park marina frustration boils

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Urging a status report on plans to repair and renovate the municipal marina, a councilman convened a meeting of the Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Commission Marina Subcommittee last week following the subcommittee chairman being singled out for nonperformance.

“I reached out to ask when our next meeting was and never heard anything,” said Councilman Tom Caulfield, a subcommittee member. “I was curious about what was going on with the outer seawall. The boating season opens in a month and a half.”

Repairs to the seawall at the entrance to Windmill

Pointe Park marina, from plugging holes to shoring up, were forecast for completion well in advance of the five-pier, 270-slip facility’s opening for the boating season April 15.

Tension eased last weekend when, after a series of soft and unspecified deadlines to begin the work came and went without action, a contractor’s mini-tugboat and construction barge tied up.

“The barge is here,” said Tom Fraser, harbormaster, a few minutes past noon Saturday, March 28. “The marina will be done by April 15.”

The barge was loaded with I-beams and slabs of sheet metal to close gaps in the current breakwall that let waves and freighter wakes roll into

See MARINA, page 8A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Hoppy Easter!

Grosse Pointe Farms hosted its annual Easter egg hunt March 27, at Pier Park. Approximately 130 kids between ages 3 and 12 snatched as many colorful eggs off the lawn as they could, then visited the Easter Bunny and received a chocolate bunny to take home. The event began when a fire truck sounded its horn, welcoming kids and parents to grab the candy-filled eggs — and golden eggs, which were swapped for stuffed animals. Find more egg hunt photos on page 3A.

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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Get in on the conversation.

Section A

Woods drug kiosk recognized

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The city has received recognition from the Rotary Action Group for Addiction Prevention for removing more than 500 pounds of pharmaceuticals through its drug disposal kiosk last year.

The city was the first in Michigan to receive the state-of-the-art drug disposal kiosk through a partnership with Rotary International. The secure, see-through box is located in the lobby of the public safety department, which is open 24 hours a day.

“It’s definitely doing its job,” Public Safety Director John Kosanke said. “We don’t want these drugs getting into the wrong hands.”

The city received the kiosk in January 2024 and ended that year removing 297 pounds. The total in 2025 was 512 pounds.

Inside the kiosk is a container that uses activated charcoal to neu-



FILE PHOTO

This drug-disposal kiosk was the first of its kind in the state when it premiered in Grosse Pointe Woods in 2024.

tralize any pills or liquid medications and poured down a funnel illegal drugs as dangerous, including prescrip-

See KIOSK, page 3A

City course-corrects on pump station regulations

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The city is moving at lightning speed to correct a regulatory oversight at its Neff Road pump station, which, at worst, could be fatal.

Though the National Fire Protection Association requires an arc flash study at least every five years, City Manager Joe Valentine reported he’s not sure the city has ever conducted one.

At the very least, one has never been documented.

“This is a regulatory requirement, so how we got this far and it never happened, I don’t know,” Valentine said, adding required warning labels also are not present on the electrical panels.

The pump station panels in question relay the 4,800 volts of electricity that come into the station to power it. As such, they carry the risk of an arc flash — a violent release

of electrical energy into the air, which can reach up to 35,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

“The implications of having an arc flash are pretty serious and could be deadly,” Valentine said. “The panel where this is held is within the pump station in a back room behind a couple of doors. So it’s relatively secluded, but if anybody had to go back there, this opportunity exists.”

Though expenditures greater than \$5,000 require council approval, the city manager authorized an \$18,000 emergency expenditure for the first phase of remediation — which was approved retroactively by city council last week.

The expense enabled Rotor Electric to coordinate with DTE Energy to fully disconnect and clean the two 4,800-volt lines, as well as conduct a detailed inspection and torque verification — ensuring electrical con-

See PUMP, page 2A

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Ed Benz

Home: City of Grosse Pointe
Exercise, socializing are key to longevity



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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Attorney General Dana Nessel spoke about the No Kings protest being a strong testimony to the enduring power of the First Amendment and the importance of responsible demonstrations. Nessel encouraged people to stand together for what they believe and make their voices heard through peaceful action.



Rick Steves, a travel writer and author of several guidebooks, spoke at the No Kings event and advocated maintaining a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Grosse Pointe No Kings event draws 1,800

More than 1,800 people gathered at the Detroit-Grosse Pointe border as part of the nationwide No Kings day of action, demonstrating widespread public commitment to democratic accountability and the rule of law. The Grosse Pointe event, hosted by Eastside Indivisible Alliance and the Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Democracy Coalition, featured a rally with PBS Travel show host Rick Steves, voter registration by the League of Women Voters, music, signs and community spirit. More than 3,300 No Kings events took place throughout the United States, drawing more than 8 million participants nationwide.

This is the second No Kings rally organized by Eastside Indivisible Alliance and the Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Democracy Coalition. The last rally, in October 2025, hosted approximately 1,000 participants. For more information, visit eiagrossepointe.org/



A portion of the crowd gathered along Mack and St. Clair in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Several hundred people showed up Saturday, March 28, to attend the No Kings event along Mack in Grosse Pointe and Detroit. Several speakers, with permission, spoke in front of the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety building.



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By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The city is looking at a few hundred thousand dollars in necessary updates and repairs to the Neff Park pool and bathhouse equipment in the next several years, following the completion of a comprehensive aquatic facility analysis by Baruzzini Aquatics. “It’s rather significant and I think it shouldn’t

really come as a surprise,” City Manager Joe Valentine said of the monetary value associated with the repair scope. “I think the age of the pool is an indicator that we’re at the end-of-life cycle for this equipment and we need to start planning for the future now, so we can hopefully preventably replace this equipment, as opposed to having something happen where we have to shut down for a season.”

The pool was constructed in 1945, and renovated in both 1979 and 2001. Current conversations are framed around extending the life of the pool rather than total replacement, as is happening in the Farms and Shores. “Based on our initial assessments, the structure of the pool is sound,” Valentine reported. “The

liner of the pool is going to need some work. The equipment that filters the pool (also) is getting old and that is something we’re going to need to look at in the next few years.”

- Baruzzini built out four options to address the pool’s filtration needs:
- ◆ replace the existing paddock vacuum sand filter with an aqua revival regenerative filter system, providing significantly improved filtration, for \$650,000 to \$700,000;
 - ◆ replace the existing filter with a high-rate pressure sand filtration system for \$600,000 to \$650,000;
 - ◆ rebuild the existing filter and additionally convert the system to enable manual operation for \$175,000 to \$200,000;
 - ◆ or rebuild the existing filter, as is, for \$100,000 to \$125,000.

also is proposed to be stripped to its shell and fully resurfaced at a cost of \$200,000 to \$250,000; in addition to the complete removal and replacement of the concrete pool deck for \$350,000 to \$400,000. Staff at a later date will consider the state of the wade pool, which cannot be fully assessed until pressure tests are completed once the weather permits. However, there are known broken supply lines, which is what initially spurred the city to seek a full analysis of the Neff Park pool complex. Outside the scope of the pools, the analysis noted high priority on a new 400-gallon bathhouse water heater — which was made in 2004 and already is two years past its expected service life — that will cost an

See POOL, page 3A



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PUMP:
Continued from page 1A

nections have not become loose or corroded — of all station electrical components. This work is considered a necessary prerequisite to conducting an accurate arc flash study. For completion of the actual study, council further approved an additional \$28,900 contract with the same company. The noncompliance issue was discovered by Double Hall Solutions, a firm that was brought on earlier this year to help with the transition when the city’s longtime public works director retired. “Now that we know about it, it definitely will be one of the planned maintenance items for the station,” Valentine assured council.

War Memorial leans into living museum concept

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — With the receipt of several grants to fund the effort, The War Memorial is working toward further embodying the concept of a permanent living museum — something leadership said the institution has been all along, just without the proper foundation.

“A museum is to preserve, study, display objects and interpret them, whether tangible or intangible, for public education and enjoyment,”

Fundraising and Development Director Meredith Hanoian said. “That’s what we already do. We are a museum. We’re (now) just trying to lay the proper groundwork so we can continue to do the things we’re doing and be worthy of that title.”

Settling into its skin as a museum became the natural progression following significant and ongoing historical preservation and restoration of portions of The Alger House.

Staff know the significance and stories behind rooms such as the library

and dining room, where substantial amounts of fundraising has been reinvested the last couple years, but how much does the average community member know? And do they even know where the historic rooms are located within The War Memorial’s campus?

As the organization leans into the label of a living museum, the overarching purpose is to eliminate such questions in the future.

Changes visible to the public eye largely will be limited to tasteful way-finding signage through-

out the campus, plaques to label artifacts and the history of spaces within The

team has hired a collections manager for the mammoth task of sorting

‘We are a museum. We’re just trying to lay the proper groundwork so we can continue to do the things we’re doing and be worthy of that title.’

MEREDITH HANOIAN

Fundraising and Development Director, The War Memorial

Alger House and perhaps a pamphlet to serve as a self-guided tour of sorts — overall, a more curated experience.

Behind the scenes, the

through the institution’s attic, which has long served as storage and never been properly organized or cataloged.

“Our attic has been just crammed with things that haven’t been thoughtfully cared for,” President and CEO Maria Miller noted.

“Some of the photos and things are just kind of shoved off somewhere. So we’ve taken a tremendous amount of time getting up there, clearing things, creating a more temperature-controlled room, getting some locks on it, so not everybody can access it.”

With the work already underway, the institution still is finding its footing and vision for how it will describe itself within the concept of a museum.

Miller emphasized The War Memorial has no intention to ever become the type of museum where certain rooms are roped off, or to begin charging an entry fee.

See MUSEUM, page 4A



Bunny business

Olaira Birk didn’t want to sit too close, but was happy to high five the Easter Bunny during the annual egg hunt in Grosse Pointe Farms.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Left, Stefane Jones and her husband, Matt, gather around their daughter, Etta, to see what surprises were hidden in the eggs she found. Right, Cooper Tawile and his brother, Cattle, share a hug while visiting the Easter Bunny.

KIOSK:

Continued from page 1A

ous as opioids and fentanyl. The container had to be changed nine times last year.

“This partnership is very important because the opioid epidemic is not going away any time soon,” Kosanke said while introducing the kiosk. “The charcoal breaks down what’s dumped in there and renders it inert.”

Kosanke was invited to a meeting of the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club in 2023 after three people — including two sisters — died of drug overdoses the same night at two houses just blocks apart.

Once the container inside is full, the city sends it to a facility in Arkansas to be incinerated. The manufacturer then sends the city a new container.

“I’ve had people tell me they’ve used it and they are grateful,” Kosanke added. “Its use comes and goes. Sometimes I’ll walk by and it will be empty, then a few days later it’ll be three-quarters full.”

Kosanke said he sees a lot of people using it to dispose of a deceased parent’s or relative’s medication.

“I try to remind people you don’t need to put things like expired supplements or vitamins in it,” he said. “We’re really aiming at narcotics and prescriptions.”

Rotary’s goal is to put a kiosk in every city nationwide where there is a chapter, although the one in the Woods is not limited to just residents. Cost for the kiosk is \$1,295, while the inner container is \$495. Kosanke said the city is responsible for the shipping charges and cost of replacement containers.

Larry Kenemore, who heads Rotary’s Action Group for Addiction Prevention, traveled from Oklahoma for the 2024 unveiling.

“This is a boots-on-the-ground kind of thing just like what Rotary did to make polio a thing of the past,” he said. “We spent three years going through a 17-volume playbook to see what worked and what didn’t work to eradicate polio.”

Kenemore added that not only do the kiosks

keep medication out of the hands of curious children, it also prevents tainting drinking water that comes from people flushing pills down the toilet.

Kosanke added the new kiosk also is safer

for his officers compared to the old drop-off box that had an opening similar to a mailbox.

“People were pouring liquid and tossing needles in there,” he said. “The guys almost got stuck a few times.”

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Exercise, social time keep nonagenarian active, going strong

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

There’s not much that will keep Ed Benz down. As he nears his 93rd birthday, he continues to prove that age is just a number.

By his side through it all — family, careers, traveling the world, giving of their time and talents — is his wife of 64 years, Fran.

“We were crew members on the SS South American, which cruised the Great Lakes for 54 years,” he said. “I was a busboy and a bellhop to support myself through college. I served in the Army from 1956-58 and then, the year I finished college, I was a bartender on the ship.”

As bartender, Benz was the only non-officer to share mealtime with the ship’s officers. Among them was Mary Fran Weber, RN.

“There were 300 passengers and 150 crew, but only the bartender sat with the ship’s officers,” he said. “She sat right across from me. ... Our first date was aboard a sailboat. I barely knew how to sail. We barely got back to the ship on time.”

He proposed to her atop Mt. Royal in Canada.

“I married a ship’s officer, so there’s no question I married up,” he said.

Benz taught at De La Salle Collegiate High School, then subbed in Detroit Public Schools classrooms before earning

a master’s degree and landing a job at Cass Technical High School, where he spent 22 years teaching English.

“I was there through the Vietnam War, when students would get out and protest in the streets, and the (Detroit riot) rebellion, which happened two years after I got there,” he recalled. “It was turbulent times in the schools, but it was a great job.”

Benz retired early, but took on substitute teaching assignments in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. He also began visiting the Wayne County Jail, which led to a job teaching inmates to prepare for their GEDs. He continues to meet with former students, whose friendships he values.

The couple had four children; they lost their youngest to pancreatic cancer.

“Two live across the country — in Portland, Ore., and Idaho — and one lives across the street,” Benz said.

The couple also fostered four children, each one for more than a year.

“I believe our best achievement is our family,” Benz said. “And the fact we’re still a working couple. We try to be good listeners. We like what Dick Van Dyke said: ‘Just keep moving.’”

Moving is a part of the Benzes’ motto: “The point is to stave off forgetfulness by staying active,” he said.

The couple spent a

year in Rowena, Texas, as newlyweds with the Extension Lay Volunteers, during which time Benz drove a school bus, coached basketball and taught speech, and his wife served as the school nurse.

They spent a month as missionaries in Kenya, where he taught English and she offered nursing at a school for 950 orphan students. They spent another month cruising the Bahamas in their trimaran. They also “walked the Camino,” 125 miles from León, Spain, to Santiago de Compostela in Portugal.

“That was one of the highlights of my life,” Fran Benz said.

Their ventures don’t just involve travel. They’re regulars at Grosse Pointe Theatre productions, as well as Stratford Festival, and for the last decade, Benz has served as special events director with the Men’s Club of Grosse Pointe.

“We do five special events a year, on top of meeting twice a month, and they all need to be promoted,” he said, noting his wife designs the fliers. “And we do special events in the neighborhood.”

The City residents started the Chili and Cheer block party 47 years ago and it’s still going strong.

“We started it when we had four teenagers,” Fran Benz said. “It’s wonderful when you have teenagers to get to know your



COURTESY PHOTO

Ed and Fran Benz

neighbors.”

Faith plays an important role in their lives as well. Though no longer active at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, the couple regularly attend chapel services at the former Bon Secours Hospital, where Fran Benz worked for 21 years. They also regularly attend a spirituality group for married couples.

Staying active has never been an issue for the couple. Skiing and sailing are loves they’ve shared throughout their marriage.

“We both had a love of skiing before we met,” Benz said. “We spent our honeymoon at Mt. Tremblant in Canada and went there for our 50th anniversary. We both have a love of sailing, too. We’ve had boats pretty much all our lives until 10 years ago.”

The Benzes and their trimaran sailed in three Mackinac races. Benz also taught adult Learn to

Sail classes at Crescent Sail Yacht Club. Though his sailing days are over, he picked up rowing and continues to take classes at The Neighborhood Club.

“I’ve been doing that the last 30 years,” he said. “It’s all about staying active in your golden years.”

Quick with a story, Benz easily entertains with tales of his sailing days — like when he was blown off his sailboat and stayed afloat by trapping air inside his pants, using them as a buoy. Then there’s his stint with the Army: He was trained in heavy weapons — mortars and machine guns — and thought he’d be shipped to Korea, but instead ended up serving with the Honor Guard Unit in Arlington, Va., where he performed guard duty and met Queen Elizabeth on her first trip to the States.

A large part of Benz’s social life these days hap-

pens with a group that gathers most mornings at Starbucks in The Village.

“It has been dubbed ‘the table of knowledge,’ for we solve world problems,” he said. “We also talk about car design, travel and then perhaps catch up on restaurants and some personal events in each other’s lives. About 9:30, I will challenge the folks with three Trivial Pursuit cards.

“A couple of times a year we gather at our house for drinks, snacks and a longer get-together,” he added. “On a day-to-day basis, this has turned out to be a pretty large part of my social life.”

Learning still is a priority for the retired teacher, too. He recently decided to learn how to read music and play the recorder. His ninth-grade neighbor is instructing him.

“He’s a great teacher,” Benz said, “but he’s a little stern with me.”

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MUSEUM:

Continued from page 3A

“Museum is the best term for what we’re hoping to do,” Hanoian said. “And that’s really to continue all of the beautiful programs we’ve had before with lectures, author visits, historical exhibitions, bringing people in and educating them, but in a more strategic sense.

“We actually will establish our collection and inventory. We’ll take care

of the items. We might acquire new things that tell our story. And so just trying to figure out what stories we have to tell here and give a voice to our campus and the people who’ve lived here, the people who visit, so when guests come, they can walk through and understand who we are and learn something.”

The process, which is in its infancy, is being funded through a series of grants: \$204,000 through the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic

Opportunity, around \$50,000 through America250 Michigan and \$20,000 through the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

“(The grants are to) lay the groundwork,” Hanoian said, “get the part-time collections manager; get the interpretive consultant in to help us give a voice to the pieces and the objects we have; establish an actual storage space for our inventory; get the cataloging software; begin some programming and exhibit

planning; and maybe revamp some of the spaces so they can be multi-purpose, multifunctional as needed.

“But also to be more intentional, methodical with our vision of what we’re doing and how it coincides with different epic moments of our history.”

A community survey regarding these ongoing efforts can be taken on The War Memorial’s website at tinyurl.com/38a254tm.

The team also plans to hold a community input session at a date to be determined in late April.



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FRIDAY, APRIL 3 — GOOD FRIDAY

Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion and Death - 1:30 p.m.

Lenten Dinner in The ARK at St. Ambrose - 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 5 — EASTER SUNDAY

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Easter Mass - 11:15 a.m.

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City of Grosse Pointe

Credit fraud

Four charges totaling \$427 fraudulently were made to a Grosse Pointer’s Chase Bank credit card Monday, March 23.

An investigation is ongoing.

Suspended

A 30-year-old Detroit man was cited for driving with a suspended license at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, after being pulled over at Mack and Washington for driving without a license plate displayed.

Infotainment theft continues

The infotainment system was stolen from a 2020 Dodge Ram parked in the 17000 block of St. Paul at 1:40 a.m. Wednesday, March 25, after the perpetrator forced entry into the vehicle.

Straight to jail

A 68-year-old Detroit man was arrested as he fled after stealing multiple items from a store in The Village at 9 a.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Thursday, March 26.

As he already had amassed two retail fraud warrants out of the City, Judge David Draper sent him to the Wayne County Jail for 45 days.

Ran red

After running a red light on Mack at 8:45 p.m. Sunday, March 29, a 34-year-old Detroit man was pulled over and cited for driving with a suspended license.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Car B&Es

Two larcenies from autos occurred last week in a residential neighborhood above Kercheval.

In the first, reportedly occurring between 10:40 and 11 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, in the 1400 block of Balfour, some-

one broke the rear window of a locked Dodge Ram parked in a driveway, entered the vehicle and stole an infotainment center valued at \$1,000.

Four days later and eight blocks away at 9 a.m. Sunday, March 29, in the 1300 block of Kensington, police responded to a report of a Chevy Equinox and Yukon rummaged through while parked in a driveway.

One of the Equinox’s lug nuts was found in the roadway.

Suspended

A pair of motorists were arrested on Mack in separate incidents the evening of Tuesday, March 24, for violating suspended operator licenses.

Both were being investigated for driving vehicles with faulty rear lights or brake lights.

Arrested were two females, ages 25 and 43, of Detroit.

— *Brad Lindberg*
Report information

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Status quo

A 38-year-old Mio man was arrested at 10:26 a.m. Monday, March 23, on a warrant for failing to appear in court on a possession of narcotics paraphernalia charge.

During the arrest he told officers, “I have some on me today too.”

Stolen rental

A local rental car agency last week reported stolen a black 2026 Chrysler Pacifica. It was scheduled to be returned in late February.

Delivery

After delivering pizza to a residence on Lakeshore, a 30-year-old Harrison Township man passed out behind

the wheel in the driveway for two hours before he was noticed and reported at 11:01 p.m. Saturday, March 28.

Though the man told officers he was tired and just taking a break, he ultimately was arrested for operating under the influence of drugs.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Three strikes

A 36-year-old Detroit man was ticketed for driving with a suspended license, no insurance and an expired vehicle registration after being pulled over around 8 p.m. Saturday, March 28, on Lakeshore near Vernier for the expired plate.

— *Ted O’Neil*
Report information about this and other crimes to Grosse Pointe

Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Identity theft

A resident in the 21600 block of Brys reported around 6 p.m. Saturday, March 28, that she believes she is the victim of identity theft.

She received a 1099-K form in a stack of mail the new owners of her previous house delivered to her. The form was for more than \$67,000, although she did not claim the money or file the form.

She contacted the business on the form and was told the payments were via CashApp. She told officers she believes the suspect is accepting money in her name and using the app to avoid paying taxes.

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

Residents report initial relief from sewage odor

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — In response to neighboring residents sounding the alarm on egregious odors emanating from the Southeast Macomb Sanitary District pump station at Chalfonte and Kerby, the sewage authority in February removed and replaced 40,000 pounds of carbon filter pellets at the location at a cost of \$104,000.

The filters last were changed approximately seven years ago.

“They did the change from about a month ago and I haven’t smelled anything since,” said David Pitts, who lives across from the pump station and previously said he stopped inviting family over because the smell was so offensive.

The same expression of relief has been echoed by others in the neighborhood, including Councilwoman Sierra

Donaven.

“I probably walk past there three or four days a week with my dog and I no longer smell strong nor ongoing sewage odor,” she said. “... I am also very pleased with how the city handled the matter and investigated it.”

Residents approached city administrators and council toward the end of last year raising quality-of-life concerns and citing the inability to spend time in their yards.

Though the city was limited by the fact it does not own the pump station, administrators worked closely with the pumping authority to reach an acceptable resolution for odor mitigation.

“I’m really impressed, I have to say, by the city manager,” said Lisa Brownlee, who lives kitty-corner to the pump station. “He came out and he really stuck to his word.”

Brownlee, a mother of

special needs children, went so far as to say she feels like a proper part of the community now that she can spend time outside.

“God has truly blessed me to be here and when I needed the help done, he was there and he showed his hand,” she added.

“I’m so happy for my family. Hopefully we’ll get the quality of life back and be able to use our yard and become a functioning member of Grosse Pointe Farms.”

The true test of whether the odor mitigation efforts have been as successful as they seem will be when the weather warms up in spring and summer.

“Over the last few months, during the cold weather where you have less molecular activity, there was a significant decrease in odor even prior to changing out the carbon,” City Manager Shane Reeside acknowledged. “Hopefully the (new filters) will address

the issue. I anticipate that it will be vastly improved this summer and we’ll continue to monitor.”

Kip Walby, director of operations for the Southeast Macomb Sanitary District, said the organization’s invest-

ment should relieve a large portion of the odor issue that comes with the dry, warm weather.

“The organization and the board here want to be good neighbors,” he added. “We understand we’re in a neighborhood

— and we have to be because it’s the system that’s running there — but we want to be a good neighbor. So the board is always conscious about that and trying to do the right thing and do the best we can.”

Common Knee Injuries

By Michael Fry, M.D.



The knee is a complex joint with many components, making it vulnerable to both arthritis and a variety of injuries. The main structures of the knee are:

- **Bones:** the femur (thigh bone), tibia (shin bone), and patella (knee cap).
- **Articular Cartilage:** a slippery substance covering the ends of bones, which helps them glide smoothly with knee motion.

- **Meniscus:** two C-shaped pieces of fibrocartilage act as “shock absorbers” between your femur and tibia.
- **Ligaments:** connect bones to other bones. These act like strong ropes to keep your knee stable.
- **Tendons:** connect muscles to bones.

Common injuries include tears of soft tissues (e.g., ligaments, meniscus), fractures, and dislocations. Injuries can occur from things like falling, a direct blow, twisting, running, jumping, or even from normal wear and tear with aging.

Pain and swelling are the most common signs of knee injury. The knee may also catch or lock, or may even feel unstable when you walk.

When you are injured, the RICE protocol can help speed recovery.

Rest: avoid putting weight on the injured leg. **Ice:** use cold packs for 20 minutes at a time, several times a day. **Compress:** lightly wrap the knee in a soft bandage or ACE wrap. **Elevate:** to reduce swelling, elevate the injury above your heart.

Seek treatment as soon as possible, especially if you:

- Hear a popping noise or feel your knee give out
- Develop severe pain or swelling
- Cannot move the knee
- Begin limping

Many injuries can be treated with simple measures, such as bracing, physical therapy, and anti-inflammatory medications. Other injuries may require surgery to fully restore function. The type of treatment will depend on several factors, such as the severity of the injury, age, general health, and activity level. Some injuries can increase your risk of developing arthritis, so it is important to see a doctor if your symptoms do not go away on their own and affect how your knee feels or functions.

Dr. Michael Fry is an orthopaedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine. He operates at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, and his clinic is located at 25631 Little Mack Avenue, Suite 102, in St. Clair Shores. He is currently accepting new patients, and appointments may be scheduled by calling (586) 443-2317.



DDA extension sent to council

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Parents interrogating their teenagers about bringing home the family car two hours past curfew are familiar with the tactic of obfuscation.

It’s a skill that can develop careers, especially in the legal field.

A lack of clarity and a touch of legerdemain are features in an outline of the city’s Downtown Development Authority’s forthcoming 30-year plan.

Authors, including the DDA’s attorney, drafted the plan’s list of 50 prospective projects within authority boundaries to be intentionally vague.

Examples of the to-do list are updated goals to “enhance the walkability of the DDA ... and pedes-

trian safety” or “provide an environment of buildings and active and passive spaces for public use.”

Such generalities are more adaptable than specifying, hypothetically, “fix the sidewalk

beside city hall” or “build a 100-square-foot patio with two benches and a four-gallon birdbath at the corner of Jefferson and Maryland.”

Generalities force

See DDA, page 9A

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POINTES OF VIEW

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

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OUR VIEW

Playing politics

Petty. Vindictive. Retaliatory. Call it what you want, but those terms perfectly explain the actions taken by the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education — or at least the “board majority” — to put restrictions in place regarding gifts to the district.

As detailed on page 10A, the board voted 4-2 at its meeting last Monday to change the policy regarding gifts with a closing line that now reads, “The board will not accept any gift, bequests or donations from any political influence organization or entity.”

President Clint Derringer, Vice President Colleen Worden, Treasurer Tim Klepp and Trustee Laura Hull voted for the change. Trustees Sean Cotton and Ginny Jeup voted against, with Secretary Valarie St. John absent. The change came at the recommendation of the board’s Policy Committee, which Ms. St. John chairs, so it would be a safe bet to think she would have voted in favor as well.

As Ms. Jeup correctly noted, this action was aimed at one group and one group only.

That would be Pointers for Academic Excellence, an organization started by Mr. Cotton, who also owns the Grosse Pointe News, shortly after he was elected to the board in 2022, although he is not involved in the day-to-day activities of the group.

PfAE, registered as a Political Action Committee, supported a slate of candidates that opposed Mr. Derringer, Ms. Worden, Mr. Klepp and Ms. Hull in the 2024 election.

Imagine this scenario. Ms. Jeup and Mr. Cotton were not supported by the Grosse Pointe Education Association in the 2022 election — unlike the former board members mentioned above who did get the union’s backing two years ago.

Did the latter hold that against the GPEA when it came time for contract negotiations? No. They fully supported a very generous two-year offer that included a 2 percent pay raise and step increases that were effectively another 4 percent wage hike made possible by a budget surplus.

The contract also got rid of the widely despised “formula” that, although it had not been activated in some time, could have reduced teacher pay if the district’s fund balance fell below a certain level. The GPEA had long advocated for elimination of the formula and a contract longer than one year.

This is what adults do. When the election is over and the winners are seated, they put partisan politics behind them and get to work on what is best for their constituents, in this case the students and taxpayers of GPPSS.

Unfortunately, the current board majority basically decided to take their ball and go home.

And what, exactly, did PfAE do that was so egregious? Well, aside from choosing to exercise its rights to support certain candidates rather than “the anointed.”

It had the audacity to offer to fund a grant proposal written by a teacher — an idea the district initially supported — to pay for transportation and pool time to provide swimming lessons to Grosse Pointe students living in the Harper Woods portion of the district. The reason being the pool at Parcels Middle School is closed and the Harper Woods students do not have access to a municipal pool the way Parcels students living in Grosse Pointe Woods or Grosse Pointe Shores do.

Suddenly, however, Ms. Worden, board president in 2025, claimed there were “all kinds of questions” about the idea and the matter was referred to the Policy Committee.

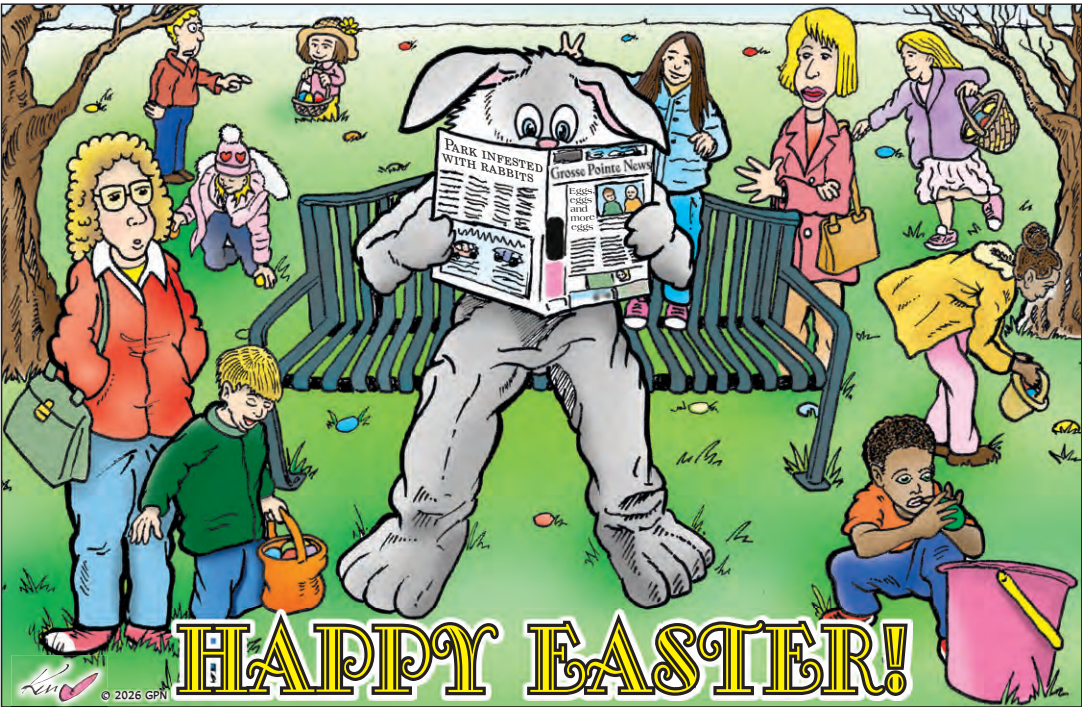


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

During committee meetings in January and again in March, attorney Jeremy Motz of the Clark-Hill law firm explained there was nothing in state or federal law that would prohibit the district from accepting money from a political entity, so long as certain conditions were met.

Such conditions would include that the money not be used for the personal benefit of anyone or for lobbying. Neither would apply to money paying to teach kids how to swim.

Mr. Derringer, however, said although it would be legal, he did not think it would be ethical.

It is interesting such concerns did not come up earlier.

Such as when PfAE was able to reach out to students through the district so they could nominate impactful teachers for a Luminary Award the group sponsored. Or when high school seniors were able to apply through their respective counseling offices for PfAE’s Compass Scholarship, which gave \$5,000 to one male and one female graduating student-athlete at each high school. Or when PfAE paid to host NCAA champion and Olympian Gretchen Walsh at Grosse Pointe South High School for a coaching session with top local junior swimmers.

Then we were reminded of that word: influence.

Perhaps some people in the corner of the board majority suddenly became concerned that PfAE was getting a good reputation. Could not have that, could we!

There already was the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Safety, which Mr. Cotton is involved with, donating money to the district to improve safety at the two high schools. And the GP Foundation for STEAAM Support, which includes members of Mr. Cotton’s family, handing out grants teachers apply for, doing work to complement that of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education.

All that goodwill and charity was just too much for some to take. The Svengalis had to act fast.

Case in point, an email was shared with the Grosse Pointe News that was sent to the school board regarding the new policy, directing them on exactly how to structure the administrative guidelines for it. Literally with step-by-step bullet points.

The kicker? The author at one point says the quiet part out loud (to borrow a phrase used here recently), writing, “I remain focused on what comes next.” We guess it is fitting that board meetings are generally held on the stage at Brownell Middle School. One can almost see the proverbial puppet strings being pulled.

But the saddest thing about all this? Ms. Worden saying at last week’s meeting that

to be politically neutral, the board must “make decisions based on what is best for students.”

The proposed grant for swimming lessons for GPPSS students living in Harper Woods would have served several black students. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, black children between the ages of 5 and 9 are 2.6 times more likely to drown than their white counterparts, while those ages 10 to 14 are 3.6 times more likely.

This is not just playing politics, this is playing politics with children’s lives.

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.

Sad but not surprised

To the Editor:

I was saddened, but not surprised, to see the recent gifts and grants policies passed by the Grosse Pointe Board of Education. These policies, developed by Valarie St. John through the policy committee she chairs, were sponsored by Colleen Worden and Laura Hull and approved by Clint Derringer and Tim Klepp. The result is that Pointers for Academic Excellence can no longer support students in simple and meaningful ways that directly benefit kids.

That includes buying musical instruments for students and helping fund swim lessons for children who live in Harper Woods. These are basic contributions that expand opportunity and access. They are not political. They are exactly the kind of support strong school communities should welcome. It is also disappointing that PfAE canceled its teacher appreciation awards because of the ongoing criticism. Even past efforts, like the \$50,000 PfAE provided for district branding, would now be prohibited under these rules.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that these policies were driven less by principle and more by vindictiveness. When board members are called out for breaking procedure, such as the sudden appointment of Dr. Roy Bishop as superintendent, the response appears to be to restrict the group raising those concerns rather than address the concerns themselves. That approach does not serve students.

At the same time, we are told that a sitting state Sen. Kevin Hertel speaking to students is acceptable because reading a book is considered content neutral. That reasoning falls apart when compared to what the board has just banned. If reading to students is neutral, then so are musical instruments and swim lessons. The only real difference is who is involved.

Sen. Hertel is a Democrat and Clint Derringer and Colleen Worden were both endorsed by the Democratic Party.

That is why many in the community see this as hypocrisy, plain and simple.

CHARISSA CUETER
Grosse Pointe Woods

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST						
April 2 – 8						
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68° 58°	70° 50°	69° 43°	53° 32°	52° 34°	52° 40°	59° 32°
Rain & T-Storms	Chance of Rain	Rain	Chance of Rain	Partly Cloudy	Chance Rain/Snow	Chance of Rain
70% 7-12 am	40% 7-11 am	60% 7-09 am	50% 7-07 am	0% 7-06 am	20% 7-04 am	10% 7-02 am
SUNRISE 7:12 am	SUNRISE 7:11 am	SUNRISE 7:09 am	SUNRISE 7:07 am	SUNRISE 7:06 am	SUNRISE 7:04 am	SUNRISE 7:02 am
SUNSET 7:59 pm	SUNSET 8:00 pm	SUNSET 8:01 pm	SUNSET 8:02 pm	SUNSET 8:03 pm	SUNSET 8:04 pm	SUNSET 8:05 pm

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

I SAY By Brad Lindberg



Perfectly bad photo

I remember attending an awards banquet at which my editor and I were seated at a table shared with employees of one of the dailies. They didn't like it. One of them sneered my way, "Are you from Grosse Pointe?" It was as though the prospect disqualified my inclusion with the cool kids. My parents raised me not to embarrass myself swatting squirrels, that the most effective way to frustrate stupidity is with a smile. So I answered all chirpy and upbeat, "I was born there. Where do you live?" He mentioned an apartment or condominium on Jefferson in Detroit. "Well, you're halfway

to Grosse Pointe," I said in a tone of encouragement. He didn't talk to me the rest of the night. Mission accomplished. News people are like everyone if you understand their essential core of skepticism. Their least palatable quality is demanding perfection of others while having none of it themselves. By this I include holding sources to initial responses to questions, even off-the-cuff comments. I let people think before they answer, let them ruminate a little, gather their thoughts and give the best answer they can under the circumstances. I don't care what people say. All I want is for them to be credible sources of accurate information. That's not always

the case, admittedly. Reporters that demand immediate perfection of others ought to release to the public the first drafts of their stories. Submitted as part of this column is the equivalent of a botched first draft. It's a photo I snapped last November during a Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting. Office holders were being sworn in. The photo is not only lousy, it is perfectly so. I submitted it and the accompanying cutline for publication in the Nov. 10 edition as both an accurate chronicling of events and as a tale against myself, an admission that I, as well as people I interview, often don't produce the first draft they wanted. It didn't make it into print at the time.



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

In a photo so bad it would have a hard time getting a participation award, Councilman Max Wiener — that man way in back — shakes hands with City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler, eyes closed, from whom he received the oath of office for a second consecutive, four-year term on the Grosse Pointe Park City Council. Also taking oaths during the Nov. 10 council meeting, the first since the Nov. 4 election, were, not facing the camera but applauding from behind the nameplate of Councilman Tim Kolar, were first-term office-holder Councilman Patrick Gleason and, out of focus at right, Councilman Tom Caulfield, top vote-getter in the council contest. Sworn in for a third, two-year term was Mayor Michele Hodges, not shown.

Pair of outings benefit The Helm

The community is invited to enjoy a day or two outdoors in support of The Helm at two upcoming fundraisers. First up is the third annual Sporting Clays Classic, which takes place 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14, at The Huntsman Hunt Club in Dryden. Participants should arrive at the club between 11 and 11:45 a.m. to prepare for the 11:45 a.m. competition. Teams of four will compete to see who hits the most clay pigeons. While the winning team earns bragging rights and a nominal prize, the event simply is a day of sporting fun in support of The Helm. The two-hour competition is followed by a strolling lunch and beverages. A presenting sponsorship is available for \$10,000, which includes a four-person team. Other competitive sponsorships for four-person teams are \$4,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000. Sponsorships include ammunition, snacks and lunch, cocktails, beer, wine and soft drinks. Non-competition sponsorships also are available, as is a lunch/beverage-only option. The second event is the eighth annual Fore The Helm Golf Outing, set for Monday, June 22, at Lochmoor Club in Grosse

Pointe Woods. Henry Ford Health is the lead sponsor of this event. Event registration begins at noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. for this four-person scramble-style event. All golfers receive a boxed lunch, use of a cart for two, entry into contests, heavy hors d'oeuvres following the event and four drink tickets to use throughout the afternoon-long event. Prizes will be awarded for low score for men's, women's and mixed teams, as well as men's and women's closest to the pin. A separate putting contest is available as well. Cost per golfer is \$300 or \$1,200 per foursome. Sponsorships still are available. In addition to

signage recognition, sponsorships include entry for a four-person team. Not a golfer? Purchase a \$60 ticket to the afterglow for hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and mingling. "Anyone of any age is welcome to participate in these events in support of our senior population," The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall said. "It's a great way to enjoy some fresh air, camaraderie and fun competition." Participation is limited, so participants are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. For more information about sponsorships and to register for either event, contact Sara Roberts at sroberts@helmlife.org or (313) 649-2100.

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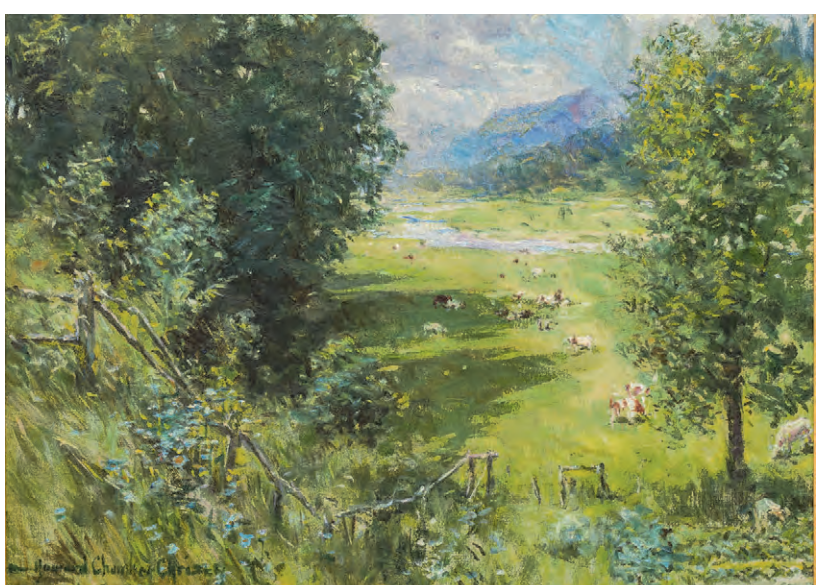


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COURTESY PHOTO

Native Grosse Pointers J.T. Harding, left, and Peter Zinn collaborated on “Music City,” which is back by popular demand for another off-Broadway run in New York.

DDA:

Continued from page 5A

interpretation and, thereby, allow latitude and flexibility. All are qualities that facilitate the DDA’s foundational document having the broadest applicability and enduring relevance during the next three decades.

“The project list is very general,” said Kevin Kilby, the DDA’s attorney, during its meeting March 25. “We don’t try to nail down specific areas.”

DDA board members this month approved the scope of proposed projects and 30-year renewal. They also forwarded it to city council, which has the final say, for consideration and a public hearing.

“Council will schedule a public hearing with (public) notices not less than 20 days before the hearing,” Kilby said. “We have to send letters to all property owners in the district and to taxing jurisdictions by certified mail.”

Notices also must be posted in 20 locations throughout the district. Locations can include public spaces, businesses, even bus stops.

DDA boundaries are along both sides of Jefferson from the Detroit border to Somerset, including the municipal campus. Funding for the authority comes from capturing district property taxes that must be spent within the same area.

“Our goal is to improve livability and vibrancy,” board member and Mayor Michele Hodges said.

If no renewal is made by the end of June, the DDA, which was founded in 1986, and extended the first time in 2012, will expire and be gone forever.

“The state doesn’t allow DDAs anymore,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said. “(We’re) grandfathered in. If we let this lapse, we’d never have it back.”

Sizeland said the DDA captured \$145,452 this year.

He and Kilby drafted the extension and list of 50 projects.

“We received comments from several board members that were incorporated into the plan,” Kilby said.

“It looks like you got everything in there we talked about and more,” said Sharron Corbin, a board member since 2019.

DDA Chairman Benjamin Wixson sought clarification on a proposed project to “provide for safety ... in the DDA by providing police protection, fire protection, apparatus, cameras, drones, license plate readers and other technology.”

“That seems like a function of public safety,” Wixson said.

Kilby explained, “If (DDA officials) suddenly determine they have a problem with crime, you can take care of that. If we wanted to hire an officer from the city for a festival or whatever to be present and deter crime, this section is in there. Again, if it’s not in the plan, we can’t spend tax increment financing revenue on it.”

“We would partner with public safety?” Wixson asked.

“Yes,” Kilby said.

DDA funds can only be spent on projects contained in or implied by the projects list.

“Keeping (the list of projects) very general allows us to at least refer to a project,” Kilby said.

If, for instance, the plan specified repaving the Jefferson sidewalk only, there could be no DDA funds spent on

repaving on a sidewalk elsewhere.

“We couldn’t do it because the plan specified Jefferson,” Kilby said. “So, just ‘sidewalk’ is determined by the board.”

Hodges said “pedestrian upgrades” could encompass improving Jefferson crosswalks for youngsters attending Defer Elementary — due to the closure of Trombly Elementary — and Pierce Middle schools.

Another goal with built-in latitude is to “work either individually or jointly with other governmental units to develop and construct streetscape beautification programs.”

“That’s where we could partner with Jefferson East (Inc.) on streetscape projects,” said Sizeland, referring to a nonprofit organization in Detroit that promotes housing development and strong neighborhoods.

He added, “When we were developing these (projects), the broader the better. That gives us the flexibility to do what we would like. Sometimes you can get too specific. Once you do that, that limits your abilities.”

According to the renewal document, the DDA plan should be a long-range guide for:

- ◆ “Evaluating proposals for physical changes and scheduling improvements in the downtown district,”

- ◆ “Making recommendations and establishing properties in the development area,”

- ◆ “A foundation for conducting more specific and detailed studies for the general development district” and

- ◆ “A source of information and a statement of policy which is useful to citizens and business owners in making private investment decisions.”

Pointers’ production gaining traction in NYC

The critically acclaimed production of “Music City” has gone back into rehearsal as it prepares for its return to its new venue in Midtown Manhattan.

The show features original and existing songs by multi-platinum songwriter J.T. Harding, including “Smile,” “Sangria” and “Somewhere In My Car,” written for artists such as Darius Rucker, Keith Urban, Blake Shelton, Uncle Kracker, Dierks Bentley and Florida Georgia Line, as well as an original book by playwright Peter Zinn.

Harding and Zinn both grew up in Grosse Pointe. “Music City,” which

opened to rave reviews last year and was extended three times by popular demand, will reopen at 512 W. 42nd, just west of Times Square, in a new venue that is being refashioned into a fully functioning Nashville bar, expressly for the production.

The show follows two young singer-songwriters into The Wicked Tickle, an East Nashville bar, where regulars pursue love and music in the face of addiction, poverty and haunting pasts.

The production was nominated for two 2025 Drama Desk Awards,

including Outstanding Musical and Outstanding Scenic Design of a Musical, as well as a 2025 Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Musical.

Directed by Eric Tucker, “Music City” opens Wednesday, April 8. Tickets are available at musiccitythemusical.com.

DDA goals

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Within a document being drafted to renew the Downtown Development Authority for 30 years is a list of 50 proposed projects within the organization’s purview.

Projects were proposed as means to fulfill the DDA’s mission of economic development within its boundaries along lower Jefferson, including the municipal headquarters and public safety complex.

DDA funds projects through tax increment financing.

According to the renewal document, “Tax increment financing ... (dedicates) a portion of the increase in the tax base resulting from the economic growth and development to ... improvements within a development area thereby facilitating economic growth and development.”

Further, “It is intended that the plan becomes the basis for all future development (and) redevelopment projects in the downtown district.”

As such, the plan proposes 50 overall improvements to the district, including but not limited to:

- ◆ “The DDA will work with owners of property within the district to identify potential for further development or redevelopment.”

- ◆ “Install, maintain and replace light-

ing.”

- ◆ “Promote commerce.”
- ◆ “Attract more events and visitors.”
- ◆ “Work in conjunction with another organization to assist small business organizations.”

- ◆ “Acquire dilapidated structures and either rehabilitate or demolish them.”

- ◆ “Erect facilities deemed necessary to encourage economic development or attract individuals to the district.”

- ◆ “Assist property owners in business identification through a sign or wayfinding program.”

- ◆ “Beautify areas of the DDA.”
- ◆ “Install irrigation systems.”

- ◆ “Improve the district by eradication of blight and unsightly conditions.”

- ◆ “Upgrade (and) install water lines and related appurtenances, sanitary sewer lines, public service facilities, roads, storm sewers, planning documents (including) zoning ordinances, vegetation including hedges and trees, bus shelters, parking meters, electronic vehicle parking stations.”

- ◆ “Partner with businesses to create a public parking program to assist with alleviating parking congestion.”

- ◆ “Provide for or work with another organization to provide transportation services to and from the DDA district.”

The DDA was established in 1986 and updated in 2012.

— Brad Lindberg

City hall patio retained

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The only specific objective in the otherwise broadly worded Downtown Development Authority’s 30-year to-do list commits to transforming the front lawn of city hall into a landscaped patio and gathering space.

Members of the authority board commissioned the plan during spring 2023, to Jima Studio, a design firm.

Of Jima’s two proposed

concepts, the one earning board favor replaced the front lawn of city hall with a pedestrian plaza accented with shade trees.

Greenspace was preserved between the library plaza and a proposed 34-space parking lot to be built in front of the Grosse Pointe Public Library Park branch. The lot is unlikely to be constructed because it turned out the DDA doesn’t own the land for which it was proposed.

The existing city hall parking lot, however, was redesigned with a landscaped traffic island between the library, city hall and attached public safety complex.

Designers preserved but reconfigured U.S. Postal Service and municipal drop-off mailboxes while reconfiguring an existing rear parking lot into two separate lots with a single, combined access to and from Maryland Road.

— Brad Lindberg

COSTS:

Continued from page 8A

that document from a funding source to see how much needs to flow through the marina enterprise fund and how much through the city (property taxes)."

Allocating utility and personnel costs are part of the assignment. Also to be factored is the

marina calendar. It operates from April 15 to Nov. 15. No boats are allowed in the marina the rest of the year. The park is open year-round.

"The marina uses its share of electricity, but transformers in the park also power the concession stand, tennis courts, swimming pool pumps and a lot of things," Caulfield said.

Fraser pointed out that

boaters use Pier 1, which doubles as a breakwall, only during the boating season.

"The rest of the year, it's used by all residents," he said. "Every day during winter there are people down there walking the dock because they have direct access to the lake and the view is gorgeous. So, is Pier 1 50 percent marina? I don't think so."

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Magic in the air for GPT’s ‘Matilda the Musical’

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Magic, heart and humor take center stage as Grosse Pointe Theatre presents Roald Dahl’s “Matilda the Musical,” from April 10 to 26, at Parcels Middle School.

Directed by Olyvia O’Donnell, the production double-casted nine roles due to the amount of talent seen during auditions.

“We had over 150 people audition for this — mostly kids,” O’Donnell said. “That’s a good problem to have; there are a lot of really talented people. We double-casted the main nine — our little kids. What I love most is that they really push each other. There’s also no rivalry. They call each other their twins. It’s been a pleasure to see them grow together.”

“Matilda” tells the story of a 5-year-old girl who doesn’t quite fit with her family. Her parents are cruel and always trying to cheat the system, O’Donnell said, and all her brother wants to do is watch television. The girl, however, loves to read and exercise her imagination.

“She goes to school at Crunchem Hall and has a headmistress named Agatha Trunchbull, who is mean and cruel,” O’Donnell said. “(Actress) Betsy Steinert King is such a sweetheart in real life, but she really captures Trunchbull’s mean spirit. She butts heads with Matilda’s teacher, Miss Honey.”

When Trunchbull bullies the students, Matilda uses her intelligence, courage and a touch of magic to stand up for what’s right, she added.

“The thing that drew me most to ‘Matilda’ is that it’s a really magical story about an extraordinary girl with a remarkable mind and unbreakable spirit who stands up for everyone and stands up for herself,” O’Donnell said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GPT

Jillian Evennou, as Miss Honey, stands with students of Crunchem Hall for Grosse Pointe Theatre’s production of “Matilda the Musical.”

“It’s a powerful reminder that even someone young can have an unbreakable spirit.

“She’s written as a 5-year-old in the musical, but traditionally on Broadway, it’s played by an 11-year-old,” she added. “Our two Matildas are 10 and 11.”

Both actresses in the title role — Grace Lane, 10, of Bloomfield Hills, and Olive Nouhan, 11, of Grosse Pointe — are doing a beautiful job of leading the production, O’Donnell said.

“This is an especially impressive achievement, as Matilda carries more lines, songs and choreography than any other character in the show,” O’Donnell said. “Both Olive and Grace have risen to the challenge with remarkable dedication, talent and professionalism.”

Lane, she said, consistently asks thoughtful questions in rehearsal and “approaches her work with such sweetness and genuine excitement, you would never



Hannah Roth as Mrs. Wormwood and Kyle O’Donnell as Mr. Wormwood. Pictured in the background are Olive Nouhan as Matilda and Mack Kohler as Michael Wormwood.

guess how young she is,” O’Donnell said. “Olive always arrives ready to work and has even skipped important dance classes to be at rehearsal, showing an extraordinary level of commitment and dedication to the production.

“They are not only delivering strong performances, but also setting wonderful examples for the other young cast members,” she added. “Their focus, kindness and ability to collaborate

with both their peers and adult cast have made them true leaders throughout the rehearsal process. Audiences can look forward to two truly standout performances from these exceptionally talented young ladies.”

O’Donnell also credited adult cast members for their strong work in the production.

“Among the other standout performances is Jillian Evennou as the gentle Miss Honey and Betsy Steinert King as

the cruel headmistress, Agatha Trunchbull,” she said. “It is Jillian’s breakout role with GPT. She really brings Miss Honey’s nervousness and timidity, but also her strength by standing up for Matilda. And the kids just absolutely love her. Betsy, on the other hand, has such a large stage presence and her voice is so phenomenal. She really is terrifying.”

With nine double-casted roles, rehearsals have proven challenging. Leaning into the language used by Agatha Trunchbull, the “revolting cast” and the “naughty cast” have rehearsed both together and separately during the process.

“Both casts were together at the beginning,” O’Donnell said, noting each cast ran through each scene. “It was helpful for the adults to have that repetition. Both casts are so different, it was nice for the adults to learn to play off both of them.”

Dance and music les-

The details

What: Grosse Pointe Theatre presents Roald Dahl’s “Matilda the Musical”

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

When:

- ♦ 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11
- ♦ 2 p.m. Sunday, April 12
- ♦ 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, April 16 to 18
- ♦ 2 p.m. Sunday, April 19
- ♦ 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, April 23 to 25
- ♦ 2 p.m. Sunday, April 26

Tickets: Visit gpt.org/matilda

sons and scene blocking were tackled together, before splitting the casts into separate rehearsals.

“During tech week, we’ll all be together, in case I have notes for one cast the other one needs to hear,” O’Donnell said. “They’re all so great, very talented and supportive of each other.”

Juggling two casts is a challenge worth the rewards, O’Donnell said, noting that seeing the production come to fruition has been gratifying.

“Our ‘big kids’ — the adult ensemble — they’re all adults playing little kids,” she said. “They boost all the dances, boost all the singing. And seeing the little kids — I can’t believe how talented they are, especially the Matildas, who carry the show. ... That’s after being in school five days a week and then coming to rehearsals. It’s rewarding seeing how much they’ve grown through the process.”

This marks the first musical O’Donnell has directed, though she’s no novice behind the scenes. She studied directing in college and directed a 10-minute play for GPT’s Take Ten: Ten-Minute Play Festival.

She also served as apprentice director on GPT’s “Little Shop of Horrors” and “The Sound

See MATILDA, page 6B



Two casts will be featured in Matilda because of the talent displayed during auditions.

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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.

Cameron Elisabeth Marchetti

Cameron Elisabeth Marchetti, 22, of Grosse Pointe Park, passed away Wednesday, March 18, 2026, as a result of a tragic drowning while vacationing in Manatí, Puerto Rico, alongside her loving girlfriend, Paige Frizza.

Born March 31, 2003, Cameron was a bright and compassionate young woman whose life was marked by curiosity, dedication and a deep love for the natural world. She completed her early education through the Grosse Pointe Public School System and graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2021.

Cameron attended Wayne State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 2026, from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She majored in environmental science with a minor in biology, reflecting her lifelong passion for animals, nature and environmental stewardship. A strong and committed student, Cameron earned induction into the Honors Student Association and was an active member of the Green Warriors Sustainability Club.

She was eagerly anticipating beginning graduate studies at Wayne State University, where she planned to further her research in ecological data collection, geographic information systems and sustainability, with a growing interest in environmental public policy. Cameron also was a collaborative researcher; her work recently was published in a noted scientific journal.

Outside of her academic pursuits, Cameron found joy in hiking, playing the piano, photography and her hometown Detroit Lions. She will be remembered by all who knew her for her gentle spirit, intellectual curiosity and unwavering love for the environment and those around her.

Cameron is survived by her adoring mother, Rebecca (nee Dallaire) Marchetti; beloved sister, Brooklynn Marchetti; adoptive father, Charles Marchetti; biological father, Tim Addy; and half-brother, Timothy Addy III. She also leaves

behind her devoted grandparents, Anne and Bob Dallaire, whom she affectionally called Mamie and Papa; uncles, Rob Dallaire (Laci Gruner) and Michael Dallaire (Olivia Stander); and cherished cousins, Harper, Emmerson, Hazel, Vivienne and Michael Dallaire Jr., all of whom adored her deeply.

Cameron’s many pets, especially her cat, Bean, also remain as part of her lasting memory.

A memorial gathering will be held 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Lochmoor Club, 1018 Sunningdale, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Her family extends their heartfelt gratitude to all who have offered support, prayers and generous contributions, as well as the many expressions of sympathy during this profoundly difficult time. They also thank A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods, who facilitated arrangements in Puerto Rico.

Fikry F. Ibrahim, M.D., FACP

Fikry F. Ibrahim, M.D., FACP, 82, of Grosse Pointe Shores, passed away peacefully Sunday, March 22, 2026, joining his beloved son, Tarik.

Following the loss of their son in 2016, Fikry and his wife, Mona, shared a deeply personal wish that their own final services be considered complete alongside Tarik’s. Respecting this request for privacy and simplicity, the family held a private service, honoring Fikry’s sentiment that his formal farewell was fulfilled Aug. 6, 2016, alongside Dr. Tarik F. Ibrahim. The family also will honor these wishes for Dr. Mona Ibrahim when the time comes.

Dr. Ibrahim was a retired oncologist who dedicated more than 50 years to his private practice in hematology and oncology, serving the Grosse Pointe and Detroit metropolitan areas. He held the distinguished role of chief of internal medicine at the former Saratoga Community Hospital in Detroit and contributed significantly to medical education as a teacher at St. John Hospital (now Henry Ford St. John Hospital) and as

a clinical instructor at Wayne State University. Throughout his career, he was affiliated with Henry Ford St. John Hospital and Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, as well the former Bon Secours Hospital (now Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital).

He earned his Doctor of Medicine degree with distinctions from Cairo University (Kasr El Aini) and completed advanced training in internal medicine and specialized a fellowship in hematology and oncology at Wayne State University. Dr. Ibrahim also was honored as a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Widely recognized for his compassionate approach, Dr. Ibrahim was deeply revered by his patients for his dedicated care and exceptional bedside manner. He will be remembered by many as a devoted clinician and mentor.

Outside of his practice, Fikry’s life was defined by a rich tapestry of passions. While he loved and played tennis regularly, his deep-seated passion was music, a lifelong love that made him a fixture at both the Detroit Opera House and Orchestra Hall. To Fikry, music was a necessity; he embraced everything from the grand scale of opera to the soul of Motown. An avid Detroit sports fan, world traveler and skilled skier, he also was a member of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, where he found great joy in sailing. Above all, Fikry loved sharing a fine meal, almost always followed by his favorite desserts.

Dr. Ibrahim is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Dr. Mona Ibrahim; brother-in-law, Dr. Onsi Rizk (Yvonne); sister-in-law, Eva Habib (Bahi); nephews, Youssef Rizk (Sophia) and Ben Rizk (Jennifer); and nieces, Mona Haurani (Chady) and Mina Zhuk (Dmitri). He was a loving great-uncle to Mira, Nadeem and Malek Haurani, Eva and Amalie Zhuk and Nathan, Jacob, James and Elias Rizk. He was predeceased by his beloved son, Dr. Tarik Ibrahim; parents, Farag Ibrahim and Alice Andraos; brother, Dr. Sabry Ibrahim; and parents-in-law, Dr. Anis Rizk and Marie Bector.



Cameron E. Marchetti

The following families in Egypt also are mourning Fikry: the Farag Ibrahim family, the Andraos Pasha family, the Rizk Hanna family and the Bector family.

Arrangements entrusted to A.J. Desmond and Sons Funeral Directors.

Clark Stevens

Clark Stevens, 92, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026.

Clark was born Nov. 28, 1933, in Detroit, to Valentine and Florence (nee Potrykus) Salatka, the last of their three children.

Clark grew up on the east side of Detroit near Gratiot and Harper and attended Patronage of St. Joseph Catholic School. He graduated from De La Salle Collegiate High School in 1951, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Detroit. He later earned a Juris Doctorate degree from Wayne State University. He met Kathleen Tubacki at a dance during his time at the University of Detroit; the two were married Sept. 1, 1956.

Clark thought he would become an engineer, but practicality — or perhaps lack of manual skills — steered him toward a career in public accounting. Clark’s career in accounting took him from the city of Detroit to the IRS and finally to Ernst and Ernst (now Ernst and Young). While working at the firm, he decided to attend law school at night. He then practiced tax and corporate law for more than 40 years, first with the firm of Regan and Stevens and later on his own. He was renowned for his financial acumen. He advised many organizations and sat on the boards of several local and international companies.

Aside from his career advising duties, he volunteered his time to civic and community organizations. He helped form financial committees in the 1970s at two places that were dear to him, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores and the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, both of which he served for decades.

Clark and his wife, Kathleen, celebrated 69 years of marriage in September 2025. Together, they shared a love of travel, most notably to Islamorada in the Florida Keys and Montana to visit their son, Mark, and daughter-in-law, Margee. Clark and Kathleen made countless trips up north, as well as to Arizona and Europe.

Clark loved his local sports teams and shared that passion with his sons. He was known for his quick wit, endless one-liners and genuine sense of humor. He often was the life of the party.

As a longtime member of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, it was easy to find Clark there year-round, but especially in the summer. He usually was kicking back with his copy of



Dr. Fikry F. Ibrahim

The Wall Street Journal or he and Kathleen were entertaining friends on his appropriately named boat, Clark’s Bar.

Clark is survived by his beloved wife of 69 years, Kathleen; and loving sons, Glenn Stevens and Mark Stevens (Margaret). He also is survived by many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his loving sisters, Leona Kulaszewski (Edward) and Delores Connell (Jack).

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. He will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. Friday, April 10, until a 10 a.m. memorial Mass at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207, solanus casey.org; or the American Lung Association, lung.org/mi.

Arrangements entrusted to A.H. Peters Funeral Home.

Charles Stilwell Tompkins III

Charles “Butch” Stilwell Tompkins, 79, passed away peacefully Sunday, March 22, 2026, at home in Naples, Fla.

Butch was born Sept. 8, 1946, in Detroit, the second of five children to Charles and Jean (nee Bourg) Tompkins. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Brooke (nee McQueen) Tompkins; three children, Tracy Skupien (David), Katherine McSkimming (Scott) and Charles Tompkins IV (Kathryn); nine beloved grandchildren, Kathryn, Henry, Margaret, Andrew, Thomas, Donald, Hadley, Emily and Victoria; and siblings, Margo Sutton (Bill), Joseph Tompkins (Susan) and James Tompkins (Amanda). He was predeceased by his parents; and brother, John Tompkins (Colleen).

A lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe, Charles graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1964, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1968. After graduating, he went to work for his father, taking over the small products division of Tompkins Printing Equipment Co. A man of letters by education, he became a man of numbers as a self-taught engineer and machinist. Charles and his brother, Joe, built Tompkins Products into what it is today — a world-class, Tier 1 automotive supplier with more than 200 employees. For 62 years and right up until his last months, Charles tirelessly devoted himself to the success of his company, building multiple facilities within the city of Detroit and employing thousands of people from the surrounding communities.

Charles spent his childhood at the Detroit Yacht Club, taking advantage of his proximity to water and



Clark Stevens



Charles S. Tompkins III

love of competition to become a formidable swimmer and sailboat racer. Since starting in the mid-1960s, he raced in more than 50 Bayview Mackinac races from Port Huron and Chicago. He joined Bayview Yacht Club as a young man in the early 1970s and owned or co-owned three consecutive racing sailboats: first Boomerang, then Eclipse and, finally on his own, Bandit. He won the Bayview Mackinac Race eight times on those boats and finished second overall in the 1982 race. For 10 years, he campaigned his Farr 40 Bandit around the country against the best in the world, in Chicago during the Farr 40 Great Lakes Series, South Florida during Key West Race Week and the Miami Southern Ocean Racing Conference and in San Francisco during the Farr 40 World Championship and NOOD (now the Helly Hansen Sailing World Regatta Series).

Charles also was an avid golfer. He discovered this passion in midlife and joined the Detroit Golf Club in 1988. In doing so, he created a family of golfers, first with his wife and children and then with his grandchildren, who all play golf to this day. He later joined the Country Club of Detroit in Grosse Pointe Farms, Birchwood Farms Golf and Country Club in Harbor Springs and Bay Colony Golf Club in Naples, Fla. He was a men’s league partner with his son, Charlie, for almost 20 years. They also were tournament partners and travel companions who visited Scotland twice to play golf.

In his free time, Charles allowed his adventurous spirit and love of family to take him all over the world. He and Brooke spent many days of their lives exploring together and traveling to beautiful destinations on five different continents. They often did this in the company of close friends, their children and even their grandchildren, generously inviting those closest to them to share these adventures.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends, family and colleagues, who admired him for his loyal spirit and loving heart. His tough-on-the-outside, tender-on-the-inside approach proved to be an effective way to build a truly rich and rewarding life.

A Service of the Resurrection will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, April 24, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Salvation Army, bit.ly/3O5BH7L.

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It pays to take good care of the health you’ve got

By Grosse Pointe News Staff

Everyone wants to live the happiest and healthiest life possible. Yet taking the steps to protect good health is one part of adulthood that many choose to avoid. A few simple screenings can go a long way toward contributing to better health and longevity — not to mention peace of mind.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that fewer than half of Americans 65 and older are up to date on health screenings and treatments. Guidelines have changed, so it’s good to be current on the latest recommendations by medical experts.

Dr. Saima A. Khan, M.D., MPH, of Family Practice Care, advises seniors to get an annual physical with their primary care physician to discuss the health screenings they need.

“Don’t wait until you are not feeling well,” Dr. Khan said. “Many chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure don’t have any symptoms in the early stages, but catching and treating them early can mean fewer medications, avoiding organ damage and improving quality of life as well as longevity.”

To help you stay on track, we’ve looked into some of the top potential senior wellness issues to be aware of — and how often they should be checked to give yourself a cleaner bill of health. Here are some screening recommendations for people over 65, as suggested by GoodRx.

Every year:

Blood pressure

Check blood pressure and address any increase in numbers quickly. The American Heart Association says almost half of all adults have high blood pressure (hypertension). As we age, blood vessels can lose their elasticity, causing blood pressure to rise. Bringing blood pressure into a normal range through medication or diet has long-term benefits, putting less stress on the system. This can help prevent heart disease and stroke.

Cholesterol

It’s best to work with your family doctor or cardiologist to monitor serum cholesterol, but generally, seniors older than 65 should have their cholesterol levels checked annually. While some guidelines for low-risk individuals suggest every four to six years is sufficient, an increased risk for cardiovascular episodes associated with aging make a strong case for yearly testing — particularly with high-risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension or smoking.

Eyes

Vision should be examined every year or two, for eyesight/prescription changes, as well as for age-related eye disease such as macular degeneration, glaucoma and cataracts. Seeing flashing lights, halos and blind spots can signal an urgent need for testing. Diabetics especially need to monitor any vision changes, since vision can be impacted by this disease.

Lungs (for smokers)

Government agency U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) states that seniors who have smoked a pack a day long term (20 years or more) should be screened yearly for lung cancer, according to GoodRx.



Dr. Saima A. Khan, M.D., MPH, above, advises seniors looking to safeguard health in their golden years to maintain a proper schedule of health screenings.

Lung health issues such as emphysema, COPD and others can be exacerbated by smoking as well.

Every 2 years:

Osteoporosis

Bone fractures are painful and can sideline you from the things you enjoy most, so safeguarding bone health is smart, especially as we age. The USPSTF advises women age 65 and older to get a bone density scan at least once, with re-screenings recommended every two years moving forward if osteoporosis is suspected. Frequency of checkup scans should vary based on previous results and individual risk factors. Medicare typically covers bone density screenings every 24 months for women older than 65 and men older than 70.

Breast cancer

Women 55 and older with an average risk assessment should have regular mammograms every other year, according to The American Cancer Society. Those older than 74 should consult a physician familiar with their individual case and risk factors — including family history — to recommend a screening frequency tailored to their needs.

Every 3 years:

Diabetes

The necessity of blood sugar screenings for adults older than 65 is generally every one to three years. For those with higher risk factors like obesity or high blood pressure, testing should be done once or more per year. Medicare covers type 2 diabetes screening up to twice annually for high-risk individuals, with yearly blood checks recommended for those with either prediabetes or pre-existing risks. Know your risk factors and act accordingly.

Cervical cancer

This is an area where guidelines have recently changed. The current medical recommendations by the American Cancer Society are as follows:

- Women older than 65 who have had three consecutive negative Pap tests or two negative HPV tests within 10 years can generally stop cervical cancer screening.
- Those women with non-routine screening results should continue testing into their 70s — or until two to three normal consecutive test results are achieved.
- Women who have not had a test in the last 10 years, or ever, should continue to get screened.
- High-risk women with a history of high-grade precancerous lesions, HIV or a weakened immune system need to continue their screenings.
- If a hysterectomy was done for cancer or pre-cancer, screening must continue regularly.

Every 5-10 years:

Colorectal cancer

For average-risk individuals older than 65, a colonoscopy is generally recommended every 10 years until age 75. If any polyps were found during a previous exam, screenings should be more frequent, such as every three to seven years. As a rule, colorectal screening is typically discontinued after age 75 to 80, as potential risks may outweigh benefits.

Dr. Khan encourages seniors to work with their physicians on the best course of action for them.

“Colonoscopy is the best way, but it is not the only way to screen for colon cancer, so it is important to discuss all the options with your doctor,” she said.

“But most patients who get a colonoscopy are pleasantly surprised at how easy it is,” she added.

At least once:

Hearing

Hearing loss may be gradual, so you may not notice it all at once. If you detect any changes to your hearing — like difficulty picking up various tones, ringing in the ears or a difference in the sound level between ears — it’s best to get it checked promptly. A hearing exam is a simple in-office test. Catching any problems early can offer solutions — from ear cleaning to hearing aids to cochlear implants — preserving your quality of life for years to come.

Hepatitis C

Ask your doctor to include this test at least once during regular blood screenings. Per the CDC, Baby Boomers are five times more likely to have contracted this blood disease. There are often no symptoms, as hepatitis develops gradually. Treating it promptly can help protect you from future liver disease.

Aneurysm

Screening recommendations can vary, but generally are focused on men who smoke, since smoking significantly increases the risk of abdominal aortic aneurysm.

The Mayo Clinic offers that men ages 65 to 75 who have ever smoked cigarettes should have a one-time abdominal ultrasound screening. Elder women who have smoked should consult their physician about the need to screen.

For men and women ages 65 to 75 who have never smoked, the need for this test is based on risk factors like family history of aneurysm.

For an appointment with Dr. Khan, contact Family Practice Care at (586) 393-6500 or visit online at familypracticecarepllc.com.

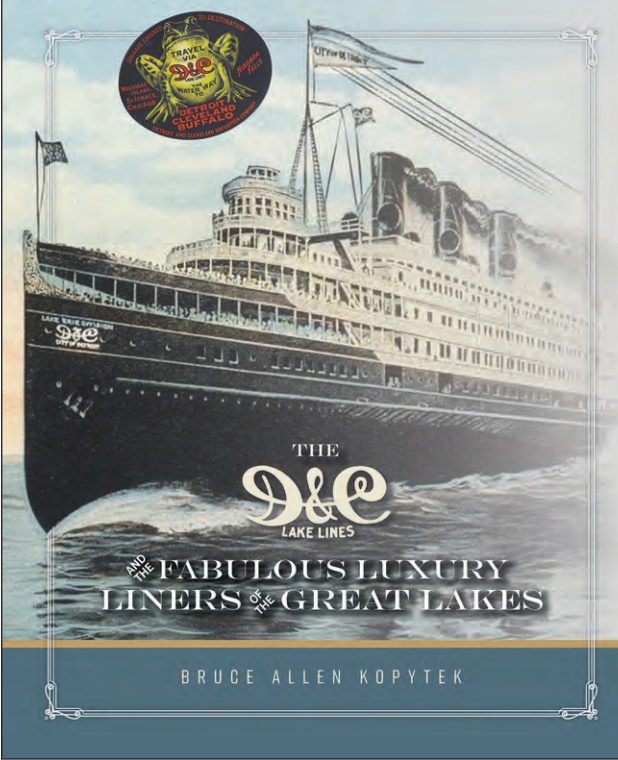
Bicknell lecture series continues April 15

The Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series, presented by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, continues with Bruce Allen Kopytek’s lecture, “The Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company,” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Grosse Pointe History Center, 375 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company was almost inseparable from the city of Detroit for almost a century. In 1877, Grosse Pointers James McMillan and John Newberry joined the ranks of the D&C ownership. The McMillan family, which included a number of Grosse Pointe residents, continued this ownership until 1948.

The company’s route map stretched from Buffalo to Chicago, with Detroit as its hub, its ships plying Lake St. Clair and passing the Grosse Pointes dozens of times each year until the 1960s, when cruising the Great Lakes in a passenger ship went out of style.

Through Kopytek’s PowerPoint presentation, attendees will take a look at the world of steamship travel in the first half of the 20th century, when majestic luxury liners were a regular sight on one of the world’s great waterways. This is a chance to look back at a glittering world of steam, speed and luxury that has all but disappeared from



Michigan’s lakes and rivers, as well as gain a greater understanding of these forgotten wonders of maritime heritage.

A licensed architect, Kopytek’s designs include various commercial and residential projects locally, nationally and abroad. He recently was responsible for the master plan of Northland City Center, a project that will preserve and enhance the remaining structures of the former 1954 shopping center built by The J. L. Hudson Co.

Kopytek has published four titles for The History Press, and in 2020 launched his own publishing venture, Editions BK LLC. He has been a GPHS Bicknell presenter

twice before: November 2012 for “Jacobson’s: I Miss It So!: The Story of a Michigan Fashion Institution” and November 2024 for “Hudson: Detroit’s World-Famous Department Store.”

The Bicknell lecture series concludes May 20, with “Corrado Parducci: Grosse Pointe’s own Architectural Sculptor,” at the Ford House Visitors Center, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

Admission to the lecture is free, but advanced registration is requested as seating is limited. Register online at gphistorical.org/bicknell-lecture.html. For more information, call (313) 884-7010.

Focus on healthy aging at The Helm

As people age, maintaining balance becomes increasingly important. A Matter of Balance is back at The Helm to help.

The evidence-based program is designed for adults age 60 and older and combines classroom study with exercises designed to reduce falls and the fear of falling, as well as increase activity levels. Increasing strength and balance, and understanding how falls happen and what can be done to control them, helps minimize and avoid them.

A Matter of Balance takes place 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, April 6 to 29, at The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The class is open to any Wayne County resident and is free of charge.

Maintaining healthy habits is another key to aging well. Join The Helm for a Lunch & Learn session about lifestyle factors with Dr. Pooja Gupta, a cardiologist and certified lifestyle medicine physician. She will discuss various lifestyle factors that impact how people age and how modifying existing behaviors or creating new behaviors can improve health.

Live Well with Dr. Gupta takes place noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 15. Cost is \$10 for members of The Helm.

Registration is required for both of these classes. Register at helmlife.org or call (313) 882-9600.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACKIE DALE

World Rotary Day

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Mark Heppner, back right, poses with club members wearing Grosse Pointe Run T-shirts to celebrate World Rotary Day, the 121st birthday of Rotary International.

Rotary International was founded Feb. 23, 1905, by Paul Harris, in Chicago. It began with a simple vision — professionals coming together to build friendships and serve the community. What started as a small gathering has grown into a global movement of more than 1.4 million members across more than 200 countries.

Locally, the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary’s primary fundraising event is the Grosse Pointe Run, a 5K/10K/walk event on Lakeshore, this year slated for Sept. 19. Last year, the club raised funds for local high school students’ college scholarships.

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary welcomes residents to join its Tuesday morning breakfast meetings. For more information, email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.

Garden Center hosts lecture

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center hosts its next program, “Entertaining in the Garden,” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Garden writer and lecturer Julia Hofley

will present. Admission is free for all Grosse Pointe Garden Center members, \$10 for nonmembers. Registration is required in advance at gpgardencenter.org.



Compassionate Memory Care

At Sunrise on Vernier and Sunrise of Grosse Pointe Woods, each day is thoughtfully designed for residents living with Alzheimer’s, dementia, and other forms of memory loss. Residents enjoy small-group activities, chef-crafted meals, and familiar moments that bring comfort and connection.

With compassionate caregivers and personalized memory care, our community supports meaningful engagement and thoughtful routines—so possibility can continue to rise each day.

Call **313-643-5845** to learn more.

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Sunrise on Vernier
SunriseVernier.com

Sunrise of Grosse Pointe Woods
SunriseGrossePointeWoods.com



Spring Fever

Covers from Grosse Pointe High’s literary journal, *Proem*, 1939 and 1942.

Delving into the Archives to see how students in the 1930s and 1940s welcomed the thaw. Whether it’s 1936 or 2026, the urge to put down the pen remains the same.

To learn more, scan the code or visit gphistorical.org!

Grosse Pointe Historical Society

The hub for history in the Grosse Pointes

375 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
(313) 884-7010
www.gphistorical.org
development@gphistorical.org

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has thousands of resources about the history of the Pointes and adjacent communities. Visit our web site to find out more.

Do you like history? Would you like to volunteer? Scan to learn more!



Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

The urge to delete

Every now and then I get the urge to get rid of stuff. Like most LOACAs (Ladies of a Certain Age) I know, I have way too much stuff. I'm not a hoarder, but neither am I a minimalist or an essentialist. Last week I decided to get rid of all the shoes I haven't worn in the last three and a half years — the number of years since I moved from my three-bedroom house to a two-bed, two-bath apartment in a senior community.

Out with the heels — even the small heels — and out went the sandals. Both: too scary for a LOACA who is afraid of falling. Still too many. I've decided to wear each remaining pair of shoes for one whole day — to give each One Last Chance. It's day four and haven't discarded any yet ... Last week I opened my safe deposit box for the first time in six or seven years. My bank notified me that it was discontinuing safe deposit boxes. Apparently, people these days store their impor-

tant documents somewhere else — in the cloud, maybe, or on their iPhones and iPads and iWhatever's, or in a cardboard box in the attic, or in an underground bunker or a lead-lined safe. I'm not sure. Anyway, I had to clean it out. I expected to find a few old silver dollars my grandmother gave me when I was a child, my permanent teacher's certificate (which turned out to be semi-permanent) and the birth certificates for my three daughters; maybe mine too. Wrong! The metal box

was packed to the brim with legal documents: paid-off mortgage deeds for the last three houses I've lived in, even one from my parents' house; birth certificates for two of my three daughters — so, where is the third one and where is mine? — weird, semi-important stuff like the bill for my engagement ring (purchased in 1964); my marriage license and divorce decree; and absolute proof for the Livonia Public School system that, in 1963, I was allowed to teach because I was not infected with tuberculosis. Next, I went to my pantry and perused every box, can and package, looking for

expiration dates. I don't cook anymore. Most of the canned goods were brought from my house when I moved and some of them had been in my former house pantry for quite some time. The expiration dates were puzzling, too. I tossed all the really, really old stuff "expiration: 4/23/18" and older. But what do I do with the "best-if-used-bys?" Is a can of chicken noodle soup still tasty and nutritious if it's eaten just a year or two past its "best by?" I have not opened a can of soup, chicken noodle or otherwise, for nearly four years. I recently counted my collection of purses. I have only carried three of them in the last three and a half years. But what if? What if I need a small cream-colored clutch next summer to match an outfit or what if I want a big cross-body satchel to tote my purchases home from a

Costco shopping expedition? And speaking of excess ... I noticed an outlandish potato chip excess at my local Kroger store. One complete aisle is devoted to chips of every ilk. Mostly potato. The variations included various-sized chips and wavy chips. They were available with regular salt, sea salt, less salt or no salt. Added flavor selections included cheddar cheese, spicy jalapeño, cool ranch or sour cream and onion. They were available baked, kettle cooked or original. Then, popcorn — already popped — in a multitude of flavored varieties. Then pita chips and their endless variations and so on. In addition to the entire chip aisle, the store also featured (trust me: I actually counted these) four free-standing rotating displays crammed with various kinds of potato chips. Way too much.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit grossepointelibrary.org.
◆ Poetry Jam and Mini Workshop, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 2, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
◆ D&D Kids Club, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 6, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 7, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, April 7, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 8, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
◆ Gettin' Crafty with Miss Mo, 4 to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
◆ Science Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
◆ Playtime Pop-Ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 9, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, April 9, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
◆ DigiLit Series, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe

Park.
◆ Orris and Timble Book Party, 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
◆ Our Diaries, Ourselves: Author Talk, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
◆ Silent Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
◆ Teddy Bear Clinic with MSU, 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 10, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe

Park.
◆ Library Bigs & Littles, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 11, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
◆ Reader Dog, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Saturday, April 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. For more information, call (313) 882-9600.

◆ A Matter of Balance,

1:15 to 3:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, April 6 to 29.
◆ The movie "Soul on Fire," is shown at noon Friday, April 10. Cost is \$4 and includes snacks.
◆ Out to Lunch Bunch, noon to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14. The gang is going to Waves in St. Clair Shores.
◆ Spanish for Beginners, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 14 to June 2. Cost is \$40 for the series.
◆ Continuing Spanish, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 14 to June 2. Cost is

See EVENTS, page 6B

Health for Her at The Helm explores sexuality, intimacy in aging

Sexuality and intimacy as a natural and meaningful part of aging will be the focus of the next Health for Her at The Helm program 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30. Physical and emotional intimacy remain important at every stage of life. According to the National Council on Aging, positive relationships offer measurable health benefits, including reduced stress, improved healing after surgery, healthier lifestyle behaviors and increased longevity. Research also suggests that sexual intimacy may help reduce depression, lower resting blood pressure and boost levels of oxytocin — a hormone associated with well-being and connection.

Despite these benefits, age-related emotional, cognitive and physical changes can present challenges. This program will provide a supportive environment to better understand those changes and explore ways to maintain meaningful connections. Featured speakers include:

◆ Dr. Suzanne Hall, M.D., an obstetrician-gynecologist based in Roseville with more than 30 years of experience and extensive expertise in gynecologic conditions.
◆ Dr. Miriam Engstrom, a licensed psychologist who specializes in a wide range of women's issues.

Together, they will discuss:
◆ life transitions that create opportunities to redefine sexuality and intimacy;
◆ the physiology of aging and its impact on sexual health; and
◆ expanding and redefining what intimacy can look like in later life.

A partnership between The Helm and The Family Center, The Health for Her at The Helm series is designed to provide women with trusted information,

expert guidance and a welcoming space to discuss important health topics. Previous presentations covered sleep, heart health, medicinal marijuana and bone health. Look for additional Health for Her at The Helm presentations throughout 2026.

This program is free and open to the community. Registration is required. Register at helmlife.org or by calling (313) 882-9600. Light snacks and beverages will be served.



Our personalized in-home care services support aging individuals who want to stay at home while preserving their independence and dignity. Our experienced and trained team offers assistance with:

- Personal care (showering, dressing, grooming)
- Companionship & social engagement
- Transportation to appointments or errands
- Mobility & transfer support
- Chronic condition & end-of-life care (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cancer, arthritis, etc.)
- Light housekeeping & nutritious meal prep



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6B | CHURCHES

GPUC presents
Beatles Night April 11

Beatles fans of any age are in for a treat as Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church hosts a live Beatles Night musical event at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 11.

The show will feature a live performance of the classic 1966 album, “Revolver,” and a second set of greatest hits drawn from the vast library of iconic Beatles songs. The entire set will be performed with close adherence to the original album recordings, with a 15-piece band/orchestra: five core band members plus 10-piece string and brass sections, as well as sitar and tabla players for the Eastern-influenced songs.

Hans Barbe, musical director at GPUC, has assembled a group of local musicians to perform together for this one-night event.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to bring this music to life for an evening at Grosse Pointe

Unitarian Church,” Barbe said. “The Beatles’ innovative music continues to stand the test of time with an intergenerational appeal. As a music teacher, I very often hear from students, as young as 8 to as old as 80, wanting to learn how to play their favorite Beatles song.”

“All the musicians involved in this ensemble are not only talented professionals, but are playing with a genuine love for this music.”

Tickets are \$30 per person in advance, \$35 at the door.

Non-alcoholic drinks and light refreshments will be available for sale. Attendees are welcome to bring their own alcoholic drinks to enjoy at the show.

It is an all ages show. For more information or to buy tickets, visit gpuuc.org or find the event on the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church Facebook page.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 5B

\$40 for the series.

◆ Lunch & Learn: Live Well with Dr. Gupta, noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 15. Cost is \$10.

◆ Spring Serenade, with the Detroit Opera, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 22. Cost is \$20.

◆ Canasta, noon to 4 p.m. Mondays.

◆ Wise Guys Conversation Group, 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays.

◆ Texas Hold ‘em Poker, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday.

◆ Knitting for Charity, 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays.

◆ Pinochle Club, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

◆ Crafting for Charity, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays.

◆ Mahjong Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays.

◆ Bingo and Treats, 10 to 11 a.m. Thursdays.

◆ Ping-Pong Group, 3 to 5 p.m. Fridays.

◆ New Games at The Helm, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 28300 Rockwood, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 12:45 to 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 12, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, The Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe.

Register at [\[blood.org\]\(http://blood.org\).](http://redcross</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Ford House

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

◆ Storytime: “If You Come to Earth,” 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 7.

◆ Community Appreciation Day, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 11.

◆ Lecture: Know Your Trees, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 16. Admission is \$12 for Friends, \$15 for the public.

◆ Science Saturdays: Map Quest, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 18, for ages 7 to 11. Cost is \$6 for Friend children, \$12 for Friend adults.

◆ Bird Walks, 8 a.m. Saturday, April 25. Cost is \$10 for Friends, \$12 for the public.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

The War Memorial

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

◆ Vet-to-Vet, 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 8.

◆ War Memorial History Tour, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 9.

◆ Silent Book Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 14.

◆ Liquor & Lore: A Celebration of Bourbon, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 17. Cost is \$83.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Rotarian Jeremy Tick speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

The Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War

Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org or RSVP to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

◆ Free Community Yoga, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays in April.

◆ Narcan Opioid Rescue Training, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at MDG Community Resource Center, 19934 Harper.

◆ Grief Support Group, noon to 1 p.m. April 14, at the Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper; and March 31 and April 28, at the Ewald Library, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Unlocking Potential: Empowering Young Men, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 15.

◆ It’s Not You: Identifying and Healing from Narcissistic People, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 29.

The Villagers

The Villagers will host a spring dinner dance Sunday, April 12, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. Music will be provided by the TNT Band. Cocktails begin at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and dancing from 7 to 10 p.m. Cost per couple is \$140 for members, \$165 for guests. For more information, visit thevillagersgp.com/next-dance/.

Live music

Singer/songwriter Jef Fisk will entertain at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at Antonio’s in the Park, 15117 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park. Tickets are \$25 and available at jef-fisk.com. Proceeds benefit Habitat For Humanity Detroit.

Garage Resale

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 21201 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores, hosts its Spring Garage Resale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 17, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Early-bird admission for \$1 is Friday from 8 to 9 a.m. Proceeds benefit the McWarm

Program and the church.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers a one-day painting workshop with Marcia Hales, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 17, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. To register, visit grossepointeartcenter.org.

HW Library

The Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper, Harper Woods, hosts its spring book sale 1 to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25. More than 5,000 books, hundreds of deleted books and old records will be available for the first time. Fill a Friends tote bag for \$5. For information, email Friends of the Harper Woods Library President Charlie Perry at spunky981@comcast.net.

Sunrise on Vernier

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

Adaptive yoga

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

Toastmasters

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF LILY FREY

Humble Design

Wednesday, March 11, the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe welcomed Chris Tull, executive director of Humble Design Detroit. Humble Design is a non-profit providing custom designing and full furnishing services to families transitioning out of homelessness. Its message is, “Togetherness to end homelessness.” Pictured from left are Rotarian Jessica Keyser, Tull and Jackie Dale, club president.

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www.christthekinggp.org

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

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

Solomon Spangler, Pastor
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Building Stronger Ones*

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Easter

AT CROSSPOINTE

GOOD FRIDAY
7:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY
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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

St. Matthew Catholic Church
Harper at Whittier
Holy Week Liturgies

Palm Sunday Masses,
Saturday, March 28, 4:30 pm and
Sunday, March 29, 10:00 am

Monday, March 30, 7:00 pm ~ Lenten Penance Service
Holy Thursday, April 2, 7:30 pm ~ Mass
9:00 to 10:30 pm ~ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Good Friday, April 3, noon ~ Stations of the Cross
1:30 pm ~ Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
Holy Saturday, April 4, 9:00 pm ~ Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday, April 5, 10:00 am
~ Mass of the Resurrection ~



PHOTO COURTESY OF GPT

Top row, from left, are Betsy Steinert King, William Sayar, Charlie Pesta, Jillian Evennou, Gavin Coon and Eleanor Steinert. Bottom row, from left, are Lillian Stine, Sawyer Baxt, Grace Lane, Victoria Panzenhagen and Theo Ryan.

MATILDA:

Continued from page 1B

of Music,” before directing “Clue.”

The production is suitable for all ages, though Trunchbull’s bullying may be scary for young

viewers, O’Donnell said.

“But it’s definitely a family-friendly show,” she added, “and there’s a happy ending.”

“I really hope when people come, they leave saying, ‘If this 5-year-old can stand up to bullies, I can stand up too.’”

LIFE & LEISURE

2C GP GABBY | 3C MOMBEAU’S TABLE | 4C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 6C - 7C COMICS

Anderson honored for lifetime achievement

The Great Lakes Floral Association recently honored Bruce Anderson, owner of Moehring Woods Flowers in Grosse Pointe Woods, with the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing more than five decades of leadership, service and unwavering dedication to the floral industry.

Anderson’s journey began September 1975, when he accepted a position as a delivery driver — an opportunity that sparked a career defined by passion, resilience and heart.

Though his first delivery ended with a shattered terrarium at a funeral home, he realized whenever he delivered flowers, people were smiling. He saw immediately the meaning and emotional impact of his work.

Anderson eventually became the manager of the shop while attending college in the evenings. In 1979, he purchased Moehring’s Flowers, originally founded in 1928. Four years later, he expanded his footprint by acquiring Woods Florist, established in 1948, eventually uniting both businesses.

Anderson’s commitment to professional excellence is matched by his service to the Great



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRUCE ANDERSON

Bruce Anderson, owner of Moehring Woods Flowers, recently was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Great Lakes Floral Association.

Lakes Floral Association. During more than four decades of involvement, he has served more than 10 years on the board of directors and held the role of president 1997-98. Anderson participated in Project Renew, helped develop the Certified Florist Program and was a member of its very first

As a designer, Anderson’s work has earned numerous awards, including recognition at the 1981 MFA Hyatt Convention, multiple Best of Show and first-place awards at the Cobo Hall Flower and Builder Show and other honors.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Anderson is widely respected for his generosity and belief in giving back. From donating flowers for community and church events to educating audiences through presentations such as “The Emotional Impact of Flowers,” his work consistently highlights the meaningful role flowers play in people’s lives.

“It was a tremendous honor to be recognized by my peers, industry friends and the floral community,” Anderson said. “I never imagined that taking a simple job as a driver would lead to such a lifelong, fulfilling career.”

Anderson has been married to his wife, Pamela, for 27 years and is the proud father of their son, Corey. He has received the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce’s Pointer of Distinction Award for Excellence in Business and his shop has been

recognized five times by the Woods Beautification Advisory Committee. He has served the community through its business association, fundraising events, scouting, Lions Club membership, church leadership and 20 years of participation in the Grosse Pointe Community Chorus.

His loyalty is equally reflected in his workplace, where even his first full-time employee remains part of his team today. He often says he

has been blessed by the support of friends, family and community and while the work has always been challenging, it has never truly felt like work.

“Bruce Anderson’s legacy is defined by compassion, excellence and an unwavering commitment to helping others,” said Rodney Crittenden, Great Lakes Floral Association CEO. “His influence will continue to inspire generations of florists to come.”



Anderson, with his wife, Pamela, and son, Corey.

Children’s Miracle Network awards \$1.3 million to Corewell Health Children’s

Children’s Miracle Network has awarded Corewell Health Children’s more than \$1.3 million in grants to support pediatric programs at Corewell Health locations for spring/summer 2026.

More than 50 pediatric programs of the eight southeast Michigan hospitals — Dearborn, Farmington Hills, Grosse Pointe, Royal Oak, Trenton, Taylor, Troy and Wayne — as well as the Corewell Health outpatient sites, will receive funding support.

“For almost 40 years, we have valued a strong partnership with the Children’s Miracle Network,” said Matthew Denenberg, M.D., chief of pediatrics for Corewell Health in Southeast Michigan. “CMN grants allow us to elevate our pediatric patient care by providing cutting-edge equipment, specialized training and healthy community programs. We are grateful for this relationship and for the generosity of those in our communities.”

Twice each year, Corewell Health pediatric nurses, physicians and clinical leaders request grant funding from Corewell Health Children’s/CMN to support new or existing pediatric initiatives.

In February, more than



COURTESY PHOTO

Max Majewski, 4, the 2026 Children’s Miracle Network Child Ambassador for Corewell Children’s, is one of the children supported by CMN-funded programs at Corewell Children’s.

\$1.3 million in grants was awarded to programs including funding for infant-specific equipment, community safety programs, special education for clinical staff and patient families, playroom supplies, patient family at-home support, physical therapy tools and much more.

Donations from the

community and corporate partners make the CMN grants possible.

Corewell Health Children’s is the only Children’s Miracle Network member hospital in southeast Michigan. All donations made locally, stay local and support more than 200,000 children annually.

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Gabby

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Try some ‘give and take’ this Mother’s Day

Dear Gabby: Every year my family insists on taking me out for Mother’s Day brunch. In theory this sounds lovely.

In reality it involves a crowded restaurant, a 45-minute wait despite the reservation, lukewarm eggs Benedict and my children staring at their phones or spilling drinks while my husband debates whether the “bottomless mimosa upgrade” is financially responsible. Meanwhile, my parents and in-laws hurl veiled insults at each other from across the table.

Is it terrible that what I actually want for Mother’s Day is to stay

home and not make a single decision for anyone? — Brunched out in the Shores

Dear Brunched Out: Mother’s Day brunch has become one of America’s most elaborate traditions. It’s maybe right up there with pumpkin patches and Easter egg hunts.

The idea is noble — celebrate moms. The execution can sometimes be disappointing.

In theory, Mother’s Day should not be about what everyone else thinks Mom wants. It should be about what Mom actually wants. However, it gets trickier when a mom’s mom wants that brunch. Only

one mom can get their way, right? Not exactly.

I think the best way to go here is to sacrifice for the mom who wants her brunch. Order the fancy pancakes and truly enjoy someone else serving you and doing the dishes.

If your dream day involves staying home, reading the paper, taking a long walk or anything else, then take the second half of the day for yourself with zero guilt. There’s no reason everyone can’t enjoy their day.

— Gabby

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



Good fences, better boundaries

DEAR ANNIE: I have a neighbor whom I used to enjoy very much. We would chat at the mailbox, exchange holiday cookies and occasionally sit on each other’s porch for a friendly visit. She was the kind of neighbor everyone hopes to have close by.

Lately, though, things have changed. She now drops by without calling, often at the worst possible times. More than once, I have opened the door in my exercise clothes, with dinner half-cooked and papers spread all over the kitchen table, only to find her smiling and ready to settle in for a long visit. If I say I am busy, she laughs it off and says, “Oh, I won’t stay long,” which somehow always turns into 45 minutes.

I do not want to hurt her feelings or create awkwardness next door, especially since we live so close and see each other often. But I am beginning

to feel as though my home is no longer fully my own. How do I kindly but firmly let a neighbor know that she cannot treat my house like a public waiting room? — Neighborly But Needing Space

DEAR NEEDING SPACE: Good fences may make good neighbors, but good boundaries make better ones. You do not need to be rude, only clear. The next time she appears, smile and say, “This isn’t a good time for a visit, but I hope you have a lovely day.”

If she lingers, do not invite her in. A closed door sends a message that a long explanation never will.

DEAR ANNIE: I’m constantly feeling exhausted and overwhelmed trying to balance work, family and personal life. Between long hours at the office, helping my kids with schoolwork, managing

household chores and trying to stay connected with friends, it feels like there’s never enough time for myself. Even when I try to take a break, I feel guilty for not doing “something productive.”

I know I’m not alone — so many people I talk to feel the same -- but I don’t know how to stop feeling stretched so thin. How can I manage my responsibilities without burning out or feeling guilty for taking time for myself? — Running on Empty

DEAR RUNNING ON EMPTY: You’re right that many people feel the same as you. Set clear boundaries, prioritize what truly matters, and schedule small breaks just for yourself without guilt. Remember, you can’t pour from an empty cup. Taking care of yourself helps you manage everything else better.

Give yourself credit for the important role you play in keeping your family

afloat and being there for your friends. You deserve to also have the time to take care of yourself.

DEAR ANNIE: Hopefully you can help me. I’ve read your column for years. My two kids are adults and have kids of their own, and they have always gotten along. However, last Thanksgiving, my son and his family decided not to stay when they found out my granddaughter was there.

My granddaughter is gay and was recently married last fall to her partner. My son isn’t religious at all, but he follows his wife’s lead, and she is very Catholic. Both of them think that if they spend time with gay people, it will somehow hurt their children. They don’t want to expose their kids to my granddaughter’s lifestyle.

I was crushed beyond belief, and my son and daughter have not spoken



Dear Annie
by Annie Lane

since. I don’t know how to handle family gatherings. Do I invite them both? One or the other? How do people handle this? — Troubled Mom

DEAR TROUBLED MOM: What happened at your table was painful — but clarifying.

Your granddaughter is not a “lifestyle.” She is your family. Her marriage deserves the same respect as anyone else’s at that table. If your son and his wife cannot offer that basic decency, then the problem is not where to seat them; it’s whether they should be there at all.

You don’t solve this by splitting the difference. You solve it by standing by what you believe.

Tell your son, without any anger, that all are welcome in your home -- but only if they can treat one another with kindness and respect.

It’s not about punishing him; it’s about protecting your granddaughter from being treated like she’s something less than welcome at her own family table.

DEAR ANNIE: My husband and I are invited to my co-worker’s daughter’s midweek black-tie wedding at 3 p.m. My husband and I would need to leave work early to attend, and I feel it’s a burden to both take time off work and purchase or rent black-tie attire for a warm weather event in the summer.

Is it acceptable to decline the invite and just send a nice gift? The couple getting married have been living together for a year, although I congratulate them for making vows to each other. I wish the couple was more understanding of the possible financial burden to their guests.

Your advice is much appreciated. Thank you. — Formally Frustrated

that suit their vision, and guests decide what suits their circumstances. No offense needs to be taken on either side.

If attending means leaving work early and investing in black-tie attire you’re unlikely to wear again, it’s perfectly acceptable to decline with a warm note and a gift. Wish them a beautiful day, send your congratulations and rest easy.

Good manners are always in season — even when black tie isn’t.

DEAR ANNIE: My coworker “Lila” and I started at our company the same month five years ago. We used to eat lunch together daily, but over the past year she’s become increasingly competitive. She withholds information on shared projects, “forgets” to copy me on emails and recently presented one of my ideas in a meeting without mentioning my name.

Last week, when our boss praised the project, Lila smiled and said, “It was a team effort,” but never acknowledged me directly. Outside of work, we still hang out like nothing’s changed.

I’m starting to feel taken advantage of, but the slights are subtle enough that I’m wondering if I’m imagining them. Do I confront her or just quietly distance myself — Colleague, Not Competitor

DEAR COLLEAGUE: Don’t stew and don’t retreat. Address it once, calmly and directly. Name the behavior that bothers you and don’t attack her character: “When my work isn’t credited, it puts me in a difficult position.”

Then, adjust. Copy your boss when appropriate and protect your contributions.

You don’t need to make an enemy. Just stop being an easy target.

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DEAR FORMALLY FRUSTRATED: An invitation is just that; it’s an offer, not a summons. Couples plan weddings

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

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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer

I never understood the point of a Roku. Like, what exactly is the point? I had an a-ha moment last week, as my husband and I had to simplify the TV experience for an older

relative. She had a perfectly good TV in her home, but no cable set up and a broken remote. Essentially the TV was worthless — or so I thought. After ordering a \$29 Roku Stick upon my husband's suggestion, it arrived the same day and we got to work. Essentially the “work” is to plug it into the back of your TV (just make sure your TV has a HDMI port). The remote even comes with batteries in it and you simply turn on the TV with the Roku remote

and connect to your WiFi. This is my kind of tech problem solving; literally a caveman could do it. Once you are connected to WiFi, you can sign into any streaming services you already pay for (like Amazon or Netflix). And, incredibly, you also can access hundreds of live TV channels for FREE. Yes, actually free. One of the best parts of it, in my opinion, is the fact the Roku remote turns on your TV, can control the volume and do all the channel changing. I think everyone can relate to the annoyance of needing more than one remote to turn a TV on, change the channels or change the

input. The Roku remote is all you will need. I also give an A+ to the simplicity of the Roku home screen — and I think it's better than the Amazon Fire Stick. The apps are all listed in a grid. You also can use voice commands via the remote control. Another plus is that there are not very many ads, unlike other systems like Amazon. Another A+ is the price. As stated above, the live channels are absolutely free and, in general, there is no subscription fee other than the streaming subscriptions you choose (if any). An added bonus is that you can also stream music, which is always a

nice-to-have option. Ultimately, I see zero downside to the Roku. I am even going to get a spare Roku and bring it with me when we travel. It's just easier than trying to log in to random TVs. Another hot tip is that if you ever use LiveBarn or other sites/apps to watch your kids playing their sports games, having a Roku makes it much easier if you are in a hotel room. Only the newer TVs can cast or screen mirror your phone, so the Roku makes it possible if the TV isn't compatible. This may not make sense for everyone, but it's an added perk. I'm giving Roku 5 alligators. There is no downside

in my opinion. Get a Roku and make your life easier today! It's available for \$29.99 for a regular HD streaming stick; 4K or ultra Roku run more and are higher quality (though in my opinion HD works great). You can get one here on Amazon: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/f290ecb138.html> 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.



Olive oil and lemon cake

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Easter dessert, in my opinion, should always involve lemons. They're the perfect, fresh, bright ending to an otherwise heavy Sunday meal. This olive oil cake, made with almond flour and lemons, feels rooted in tradition. Olive oil cake dates back hundreds of years to the Mediterranean, where olives, lemons and almonds grew together in abundance. It's absolutely to die for and I'm completely in love. This recipe is a true labor of love to get right. My first attempt was an utter fail; it sank completely in the middle. I blame the fact I let my 10-year-old help me. But the flavors were so good and simple I had to try again. I found another recipe, combined the two and this version came out beautifully. I use almond flour not because I'm gluten-free,

but because I love the nutty flavor and slightly dense texture it gives the cake. Even so, the crumb is soft and delicate. The fruity olive oil makes it rich, but not nearly as heavy as butter. Lots of lemon zest and lemon juice are added, but you could swap for oranges. Originally I wanted to use rosemary with the lemons, but my son told me I was trying too hard. I stand firmly that rosemary would be a great addition in the future. A sweet lemon glaze is poured over the top when the cake is still warm, adding extra moisture and a citrus punch. Make this cake if not for Easter dessert but with tea and coffee for brunch. It really is a simple showstopper. Cheers, Mombeau

- Olive Oil Lemon Cake**
- 2 ¼ cups almond flour
 - ½ tsp salt
 - 1 ½ tsp baking powder
 - 3 large eggs
 - ¾ cup white granulated sugar
 - ¾ cup extra virgin olive oil
 - Zest of one lemon
 - ¼ cup lemon juice
 - 1 tsp vanilla
 - Cooking spray
 - Lemon slices for garnish
- Glaze:**
- 2-3 tbsp lemon juice
 - ½ cup powdered sugar
 - ½ tsp vanilla extract

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Start by adding the almond flour, salt and baking powder to a bowl. Whisk to combine and remove any lumps, then set aside. In the bowl of a standing mixer or large bowl, add in the eggs. Mix until the eggs are slightly frothy and then add the sugar. Beat together until the eggs and sugar turn pale yellow and ribbon-like. Next, add in the lemon zest and juice, olive oil and vanilla extract. Thoroughly mix together. Pour the batter evenly into a parchment paper-lined cake pan or spring-form pan. Give the pan a couple taps on the counter to bring any air bubbles to the surface. Bake the cake for 35 to 40 minutes. Try not to peek to prevent the cake from falling. A knife should come out clean and the middle should have risen. Remove it from the oven and let it cool for 10 minutes. Carefully run a knife along the edges of the pan to release the cake, then flip it onto a plate. Remove the parchment paper, then flip it again onto a serving plate. The cake is delicate and very moist, so go slowly. To make the glaze, whisk together the powdered sugar, lemon juice and vanilla extract in a small bowl. Drizzle the glaze over the top of the warm cake. Serve at room temperature.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

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Grosse Pointe News

Wine column points versus style

Incorrect assertions from some ill-informed Prohibitionists may be partly responsible for why wine sales in this country have taken a nosedive in the last two years. As sales have declined, dozens of wineries have gone out of business, wine retailers are cutting back on what they offer and consumers are seeking lower-alcohol or zero-alcohol products because they think they will live longer. However, the leading cause of death in this country is heart disease, which scientific papers show that moderate consumption of wine with food reduces the risk of. This was proven yet again within the last week. Another scientific study indicates that moderate wine consumption may actually be good for most people, according to a study coordinated by Dr. Zhangling Chen, M.D., Ph.D., a professor at the Second Xiangya Hospital at China's Central South University. Chen was the lead researcher in an alcohol consumption study of 341,000 British adults, the

UK Biobank study, between 2006 and 2022. Researchers looked at deaths from cardiovascular disease. They found that regular moderate wine drinkers had a 21 percent lower risk of dying from cardiovascular disease than did alcohol abstainers or occasional drinkers. Very few U.S. newspapers carried this story. One reason is that newspapers typically don't cover such news. One thing that has negatively affected wine sales has been an almost complete collapse of wine education in the United States, including the loss of newspaper and magazine wine columnists. Unlike several nations in Europe (Portugal, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Austria) where wine is a daily beverage, wine in the United States is often an afterthought. Among the recent losses attributed to declining sales are weekly wine columns. I was first syndicated in 1979. At the time, I was among 20 or more people who wrote columns on wine for major daily newspapers. I recently realized that almost all of those wine

writers are now either retired or no longer with us. And not one was replaced. What we were left with is what I consider a faulty substitute: scores on wine that purport to discuss quality. Obviously, those who support numerical rankings on wine will say that the product they rated at 100 points is of quality. But does a number like 91 tell you anything about the product except one person's possibly incorrect opinion? That's the problem — no number can explain a wine's style. No score can mean anything without a verbal description from the score-giver. But without wine education to guide us, are experts' descriptions even meaningful? Recently, an accomplished British wine expert said this about a particular French wine: “The Corton-Charlemagne (district) now has three provenances, Languettes, Haut Mourottes, Le Corton. The nose (of this wine) is rather backward, though there is concentration. Very powerful at the back, shows a touch of oak, not yet in harmony,

but the building blocks are all in place.” I hope this helps people who are interested in buying it because the reviewer gave it a point score between 93 and 95 — a good score. I saw this wine listed in a splashy Internet wine sale from a fine wine emporium. It was offered at a price lower than suggested retail — \$900 per bottle. The per-bottle discounted price is only \$795. As fine wine sales recover, it may be appropriate to resurrect more wine columns.



Wine of the Week: 2024 Bonny Doon Picpoul, Central Coast (\$17) — Dozens of white wine grapes are grown in France's Rhone Valley. Most are used in blended whites that have become popular here. For decades, this small Santa Cruz Mountains producer has made quality white wines from one of the Rhone's best. Picpoul has a delicate

floral, tropical aroma, traces of green apple, and a delicate succulence. Bottle Barn in Santa Rosa, Calif., offers it for \$11.99. To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2025 CREATORS.COM.

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TIME LOOP DOUBLE HEADER

When the off-beat movie “Groundhog Day” was released back in 1993, it became an instant classic. Bill Murray’s zany performance was truly one for the ages. Since then, there have been numerous films centered around the same theme — a character who keeps living the same day, over and over. Like they say, “often imitated, never surpassed.” However, I recently saw a couple more recent movies that I thought were fresh takes on the theme. One is a family movie and the other is strictly for adults; both are worth watching.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIMELIGHT, SUN ENTERTAINMENT CULTURE AND THE LONELY ISLAND.
Left, Andy Samberg as Nyles and Cristin Milioti as Sarah in the 2020 movie “Palm Springs,” written by Andy Siara and Max Barbakow and Directed by Max Barbakow.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Palm Springs”
2020 - Rated R
1 hr 30 min
★★★★☆

I’ve been a huge fan of Andy Samberg since seeing him in the TV show “Brooklyn 99.” I must say, he’s nothing short of brilliant in everything he’s done. And over the years, he sure has been busy, chalking up over a hundred projects for tv and film. Add this unique film to his list of winners! “Palm Springs” begins at a wedding reception. A very tipsy maid-of-honor Sarah (Cristin Milioti), the sister of the bride, is told she’s on deck to make a toast. Out of nowhere Nyles (Samberg), comes to the



Nyles and Sarah having a poolside chat.

rescue and gives a heart-warming speech. He’s clad in a Hawaiian shirt and a swim suit — which is totally out of place among the other guests in their formal wear. Who is this guy? Intrigued by Nyles, she follows him as he wanders out into the desert. There she discovers

he’s being pursued by Roy (J.K. Simmons), who’s firing a volley of arrows at Nyles. When he enters a mysterious glowing cave, she’s warned to stay away. Unfortunately she doesn’t listen and it’s here where all is revealed. Nyles is caught in a time loop and wakes up in the same day every morning.



Nyles and Sarah head into the desert.



Movie poster for “Palm Springs.”



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”





Nyles (Samberg) gives Roy (J.K. Simmons) a hug.

Now Sarah is cursed with the same fate. What ensues is a comical take on the “Groundhog Day” theme.

The couple makes the best of it and have great fun doing outrageous things, knowing that everything will be erased overnight. Samberg and Milioti play off each other well and it’s such a joy to see them together. And it won’t come as a surprise when they eventually fall for each other. As I mentioned in my intro, the theme has been imitated numerous times. But this one stands apart from most of the others. Very well done.

Note to parents: The film is rated “R” due to several sex scenes and foul language.

Currently streaming on Hulu.

MOVIE REVIEW
“The Map of Tiny Perfect Things”
2021 - Rated PG-13
1 hr 38 min
★★★★☆

This one grabbed my attention, mainly because of the unusual title. I finally got around to watching it and I was pleasantly surprised. The film is directed by Ian Samuels who did the off-beat teen romance “Sierra Burgess is a Loser.” I thought this one was a little different with the teen romance element added to it.

Meet Mark (Kyle Allen), your average teenager growing up in middle-class suburbia. We first see him joining his family at breakfast, getting ready to start the day. He goes through the motions of anticipating everything his various family members will do, a split second before they do it. You wonder, what the heck is going on here? Then you find out he’s in a time loop where, no matter what he does, the day will repeat itself at midnight and he starts the same routine over and over again.

Then one day he spots a cute girl Margaret (Kathryn Newton), who he suspects may be facing the same, weird pre-

dicament. Sure enough, she’s caught in the same time loop! So the two of them start having fun with their situation, doing crazier things with each passing day. Needless to say, they strike up a romance. They then devote their time trying to figure out a way to break out of the time loop.

I thought the film was a slightly different take on “Groundhog Day,” and they even reference the classic film in this movie. The two leads had definite chemistry together and everyone seemed to have fun filming it. If you’re up for an intelligent, teen rom-com, check this one out. It’s one the whole family will enjoy.

Currently streaming on Prime Video.



A tender moment by the pool.



Movie poster for “The Map of Tiny Perfect Things.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FILMATION ENTERTAINMENT, WEED ROAD PICTURES AND WISHMORE.
Left, Kyle Allen as Mark and Kathryn Newton as Margaret at the diner in the 2021 movie “The Map of Tiny Perfect Things,” written by Lev Grossman and directed by Ian Samuels.

Winners and Runners Up Of The Grosse Pointe News Coloring Contest



Winner 1
Madison Fontaine



Winner 2
Alex Bayster



Winner 3
Charlotte Moore



Winner 4
Jack Jones

Runners Up



Marnie Schaden



Charlotte Clor



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THURSDAY

COMICS

Charles M. Schulz

Peanuts

Dear Contributor,



4/1

We think your new story is magnificent.



We want to print it in our next issue, and will pay you One Thousand dollars.



P.S. April Fool !



SCHULZ

Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

You've got some nerve calling me an "empty shell."



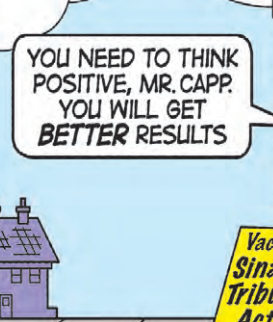
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Piraro 2
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Andy Capp

YOU NEED TO THINK POSITIVE, MR. CAPP. YOU WILL GET BETTER RESULTS



JOB CENTRE

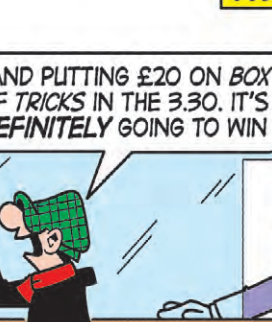
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I LIKE THAT, LAD, I'M TAKING YOUR ADVICE RIGHT AWAY...



JOB CENTRE

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JOB CENTRE

GOLDSMITH & GARNETT

Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

TAS YORKIPOO UP THE STREET IS CHIPPED, BUT, THEN, HIS OWNER ISN'T A TIGHTNAD.



Property of Mike L.

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B.C.

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BEST CADDIE EVER...



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Reality Check Dave Whamond

TATTOO REMOVAL



WHAMOND

©2026 Dave Whamond for Andrews McMeel for GFB

DEEP INSIDE HE'S A LITTLE CHICKEN



Beetle Bailey

MY FOOT IS FALLING ASLEEP



3/24

GIVE IT A SHAKE



NAH, I'M HOPING IT MIGHT SPREAD TO THE REST OF MY BODY



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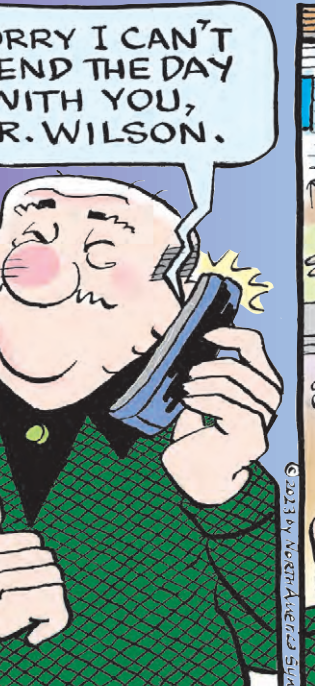


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"AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHALLENGE ME TO A DANCE?"

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

SORRY I CAN'T SPEND THE DAY WITH YOU, MR. WILSON.



©2026 NORTH AMERICA SYND

"APRIL FOOL!"



Mother Goose and Grim

FUNNY THING, I WAS ACTUALLY THE RUNT OF THE LITTER



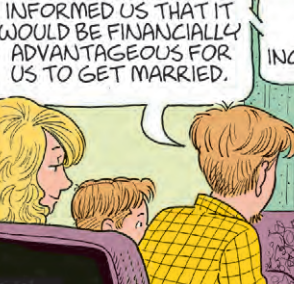
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MIKE PETERS

Mike Peters

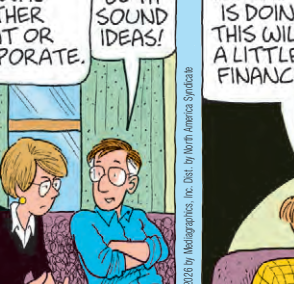
Crankshaft

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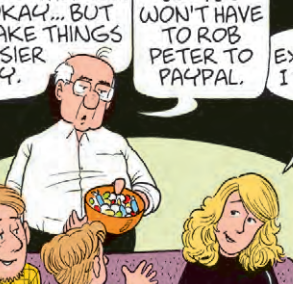


3-6

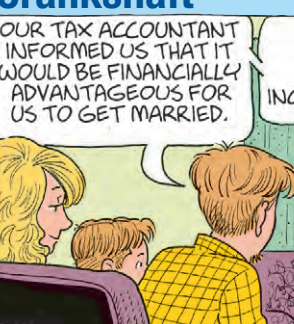
IT WAS EITHER THAT OR INCORPORATE.



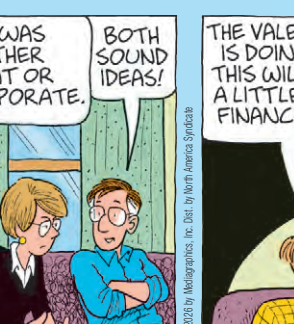
BOTH SOUND IDEAS!



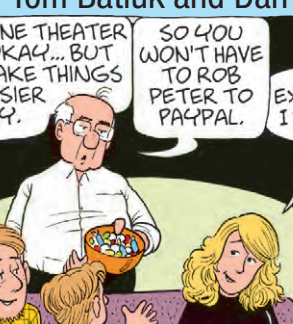
THE VALENTINE THEATER IS DOING OKAY... BUT THIS WILL MAKE THINGS A LITTLE EASIER FINANCIALLY.



SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO ROB PETER TO PAY PAUL.



EXACTLY, I THINK...



Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

Carpe Diem

THERE ARE TWO MAIN THEORIES ABOUT OUR ORIGINS. EITHER WE EVOLVED OR WE WERE PULLED OUT OF A HAT.



©2026 NIKLAS ERIKSSON/ILLUSTRATED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.

ALT 2.



3/31

Niklas Eriksson

Niklas Eriksson

Wumo

Your kid's dream job is "Alcoholic Single Mom With Botox and No Filter"?



Uh, we might be watching a little too much reality TV at home ...



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Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

Grosse
Pointe
News

Garfield

THURSDAY COMICS

Jim Davis



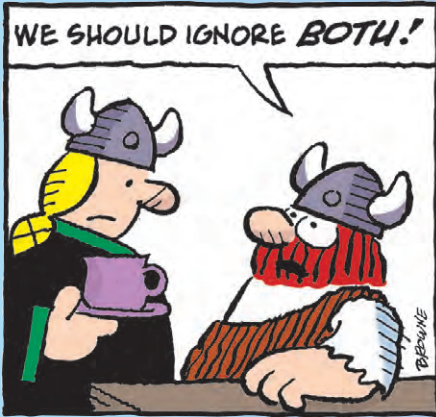
Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators)

Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren

Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

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

Dan sports his new remote vest.



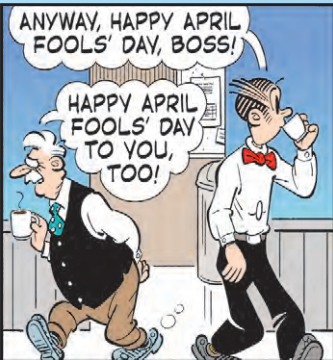
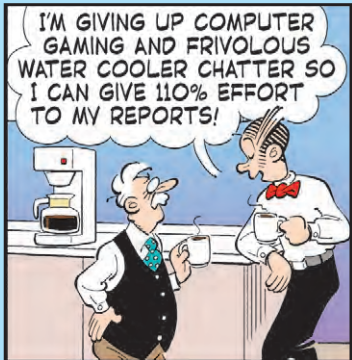
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



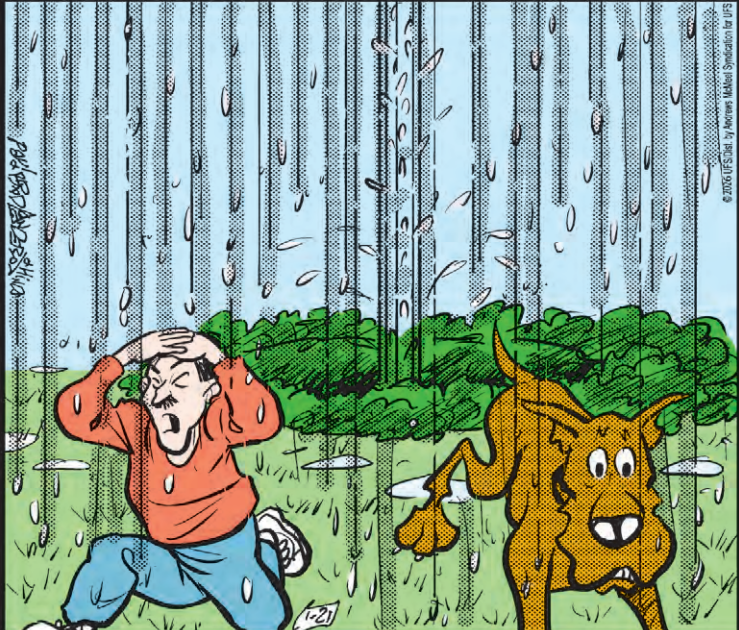
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker

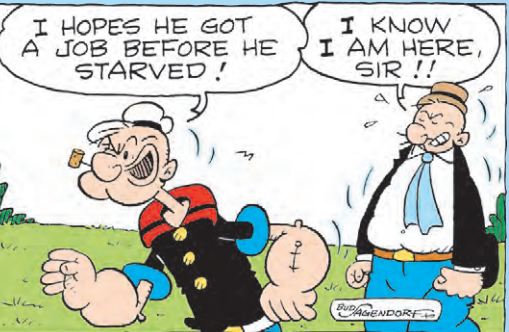
Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



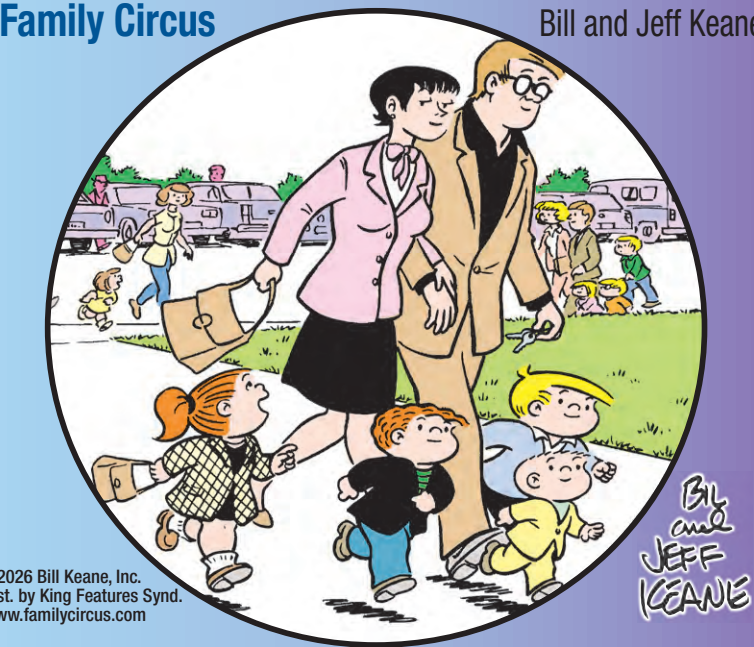
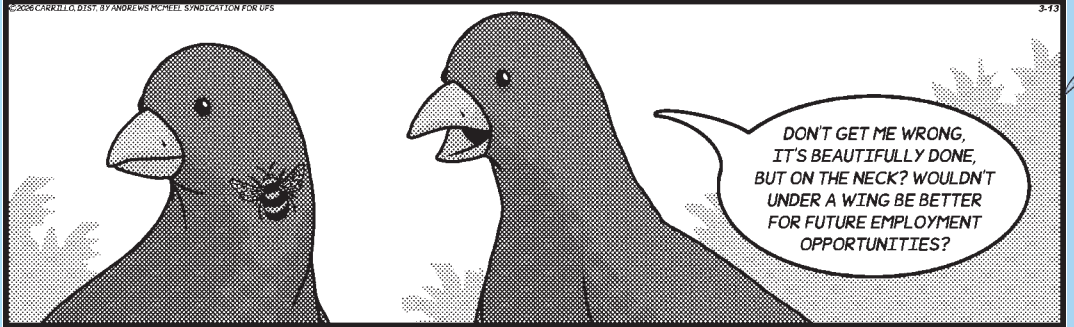
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrillo



Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL
Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

4/2

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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3/26 Solution

Pointe Word Search

Find the words on the left in the puzzle below and spell out the hidden sentence with the unused letters.

ANDY
BLONDIE
DAGWOOD
DENNIS
GARFIELD
HAGAR
MARMADUKE
ODIE
POPEYE
SNOOPY
ZIGGY

LOVEYPOONS
THDEIDNOLB
EGLKYRNOSD
SEEUPEOAE
INIDTEPNNO
EWFASWNOEW
EKRMLIYFPG
UNARSEIDOA
HAGARNYCOD
MICMSYGGIZ

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

26

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

26

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

If possible, you'll prefer to retire by yourself to your own private place today. Take time to relax. You also might have a chance to observe how much your habits and past conditioning control your days. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

26

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22)

26

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22)

Today you have a strong urge to speak to someone. Your challenge, of course, is to find someone who will take a moment to genuinely listen to you. You will find someone, maybe even a stranger. Tonight: An earnest conversation.

26

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

26

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today it's easy to identify with what you own, which is why you might be reluctant to lend something to someone. You might have to defend yourself about something that is really not that important. Tonight: Take care of your possessions.

26

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

26

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today the Moon is in your sign, which makes you more emotional than usual. However, it will slightly increase your good luck over all the other signs, which is good news for you. Things will go your way. Tonight: You're strong.

26

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

26

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Solitude and the enjoyment of your own privacy will give you pleasure today. You need to take a moment to catch your breath. Take this day to refuel and regenerate so that you are replenished. Tonight: Solitude.

26

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20)

26

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20)

Today your emotional experiences are more intense than usual, especially in your encounters with others. You also might feel possessive about property, which is why you'll be happy to be among familiar things. Tonight: Check your finances.

26

BORN TODAY

Actor Pedro Pascal (1975), singer-songwriter, musician Emmylou Harris (1947), actor Christopher Meloni (1961).

26

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

26

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This is an excellent day to take a moment to talk to a friend or perhaps a member of a group and share your hopes and dreams with someone. Feedback from someone else about what you want could help you solidify future goals. Tonight: Friendships.

26

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

26

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You're high-viz today, which means people notice you more than usual. In fact, today some people will know personal details about your private life. It's important that you know this in case you have to do some damage control. Tonight: Be modest.

26

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

26

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today you want a bit of adventure! You need some stimulation. Therefore, do what you can to break free from your usual routine. Travel or explore your own city. Go someplace different. Meet new people. Tonight: Explore!

Contract Bridge

A VERY UNUSUAL PLAY

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 9
♥ K 3
♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ A J 9 7 4

WEST

♠ K 3
♥ Q 10 8 5
♦ K Q J 9 6
♣ Q 2

EAST

♠ 6
♥ A 9 7 2
♦ 7 4 3
♣ K 10 8 6 3

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 8 7 5 4 2
♥ J 6 4
♦ A
♣ 5

The bidding:
South West North East
4♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Let's say you're in four spades and West leads the king of diamonds, taken by you with the ace. There are many lines of play to choose from, and your job is to find the one that offers the best chance for the contract. You could, for example, lead a club to the ace and try a spade finesse. If East had the king, you'd have 10 solid tricks, while even if the finesse lost, you'd still make the contract if West started with the ace of hearts. Alternatively, you could lead a heart to the king at trick two and still have several chances to succeed even if the king lost to the ace. While it's true that either of these approaches would make you a strong favorite to get home safely, both contain an element of risk. In the actual deal, both lines of play would fail (assuming best defense), and you would go down one. However, there is a line of play that's certain to succeed against any distribution, so naturally it should be preferred. The correct approach is to lead a club to the ace at trick two and a low heart from dummy at trick three! This unusual play is sure to produce at least 10 tricks. If East follows low, you play the jack and cannot be stopped from either ruffing a heart in dummy or averting a trump loser. If East happens to have the queen and plays it, your jack later becomes a trick, and the most you can lose is a trump and two hearts. It is surely uncommon to handle the combination of K-x in dummy opposite J-x-x in your hand by initially leading low toward the jack, but this in itself is not a good reason for failing to make the proper play.

©2026 King Features Syndicate Inc.

by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by Taylor Johnson April 2, 2026

ACROSS

1 Shot in the dark

5 Indianapolis footballer

9 Airbnb alternative

12 "I'm ready to hear some gossip!"

15 Slimy stuff

16 Entertainment setup that typically includes surround sound

17 With 33-Down, decline to participate

18 Biceps's limb

19 "___ on Down the Road" ("The Wiz" song)

20 Reusable shopping bag

22 Distraction at home?

27 Celebrity chef Garten

28 Korean BBQ side often made with vegetables or seafood

29 Sleep disorder

32 Make a meal

34 Tear

35 "After that ..."

36 Grayish-brown hue

37 Yellowfin, for one

38 SXSW's state

39 Painting and printmaking

40 Shabby

41 Trainees

44 ___ choy

45 Some alumni gatherings

51 Scary Spice

52 Laundry batch

53 One of the Stooges

54 App maker

55 Not entirely settled

59 Last number in a New Year's Eve countdown

60 Point guard for the Golden State Valkyries

61 ___ pal

62 Female sheep

63 Out of battery

DOWN

1 Fungus's reproductive cell

2 "The Fairly OddParents" character

3 Part of IPA

4 Short order at a diner?

5 Stop

6 Brand of colorful, frozen treats

7 Director Ang

8 Kilt pattern

9 "Time for me to split!"

10 "Keep your eyes covered!"

11 "Psych!"

12 Onetime Iranian ruler

13 Greek letter that often represents an angle

14 Make warmer

21 Non-Rx

23 Well, in Spanish

24 Gasteyer of "Mean Girls"

25 Make an apple pie, e.g.

26 Get even with?

29 Web site?

30 Extraordinary happenings

31 Truly impressive

32 Pic snapped from the driver's seat, perhaps

33 See 17-Across

36 Zesty flavor

37 Figure in Maori mythology

40 ___ we now our gay apparel (words on a holiday sweater)

42 Letter-shaped extension

43 Scold

44 "Elf" elf

46 Plant supports

47 ___ Grey tea

48 Nebraska's largest city

49 "I hear you"

50 Witnessed

54 Scooby-Doo or Astro

56 Furry foot

57 Finish

58 Abbr. in ancient dates

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

3/26 Solution

© 2026 by Andrews McMeel Universal
www.upuzzles.com

4/2

Spring 2026 Themeless Week, Puzzle 4 by Amie Walker and Darby Ratliff

		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			

SPORTS



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with Confidence
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SINE & MONAGHAN
REALTORS

2D-6D SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS | 4D-5D CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Archery rising star hits bullseye at national competition

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It was only a few years ago when Oliver McGeehin decided on archery as an interesting new activity to try. Fast forward to 2026, when the 17-year-old Grosse

Pointe resident was able to bring home first place in the Young Adult Male Olympic Recurve competition at the 2026 S3DA Eastern Indoor National Championships, a target he had been shooting for since last year.

“I went to the same tournament last year and placed second, which was a surprise because I didn’t expect to place at all,” McGeehin said. “After that, I knew that I had a chance at winning. With this specific tournament, you’re allowed to do it up to the age of 18, so this was my last year. ... I had been gunning for first place since last year. I went into it knowing that I had a shot at winning and that being my goal deep down.”

McGeehin trains out of both the Michigan State University Demmer Center and the Troy-based Rising Phoenix Archery. He made the trip to the Eastern Nationals in Owensboro, Ky., in early March to earn the biggest victory of his young career.

Over two days, McGeehin shot well and worked his way through the competition to be crowned champion in his group. He did it all after coming off of what he believed to be a dis-



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe resident Oliver McGeehin, center, stands atop the podium after finishing first in the Young Adult Male Olympic Recurve competition at the 2026 S3DA Archery Eastern Indoor National Championships in March.

appointing performance in another competition just a week before, which had him rushing to get back into top form.

“The week before, I had gone to another national tournament for USA Archery and my performance was subpar,” McGeehin said. “I had some form issues

that all of a sudden popped up. The week before this tournament that I really cared about, I had to completely change my form. I went to multiple coaching sessions to fix it, so I go into this tournament with a form that’s almost entirely different from what I’m used to. Then at the tournament, I got

sick and was shooting with a cold.”

McGeehin’s immune system and his new form prevailed to give him the win. It is a landmark win for him as he prepares to move from competing in more junior events to taking part in under-21 competitions, which also

See ARCHERY, page 6D



PHOTO BY TODD SMITH

McGeehin prepares to shoot at the 2026 S3DA Eastern National Championships in Owensboro, Ky.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Hampton strives for greatness in final season with South girls lax

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

As her senior season begins, Lyla Hampton’s legacy as one of the best players in program history for Grosse Pointe South varsity girls lacrosse already is pretty secure. She has been a cornerstone of the Blue Devils’ lineup the past few seasons and has grown each year as a leader both on and off the field.

Hampton knows her leadership is going to be looked at even more this spring since she is a senior. Being a leader is something she enjoys, but Hampton also has a somewhat bittersweet feeling beginning her final season as a Blue Devil, knowing it is her last chance to lead the

Grosse Pointe News



Lyla Hampton
School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Lacrosse
Sponsored by Fairway Packing Co.

team with which she has grown close.

“It’s a little sad being a senior and knowing that I’m going to be leaving some of the

people that I’ve been playing with throughout high school,” she said. “... I kind of just try to make sure that everyone’s spirits are up. Everyone on the team is very skilled, so I think that trusting them that they know how to play well is good and I just make sure they don’t get down on themselves or any-

thing.”

As a captain, Hampton has as much trust in her teammates as they have in her. She is one of seven seniors on the roster, a tight-knit group who all know how to motivate each other and work together on the field.

“I love the team and playing together,” Hampton said. “... It’s a really fun space to be in. I think that this team brings everyone closer together. When we lose a game or when we’re winning, we’re always bringing each other’s spirits up.”

The chemistry between Hampton and her teammates has helped her tally 11 assists through five games already this season. She also is one of the primary drivers of South’s attack once again, with 27 goals already this season to help South jump out to a 4-1 start.

It will take a lot for Hampton to surpass her



COURTESY PHOTO

Lyla Hampton battles her way through a pair of defenders in a game against Troy.

level of production from last season, but she seems to be well on her

way. Hampton tallied See ATHLETE, page 2D

Hampton’s Highlights

- 27 goals in 5 games for South girls lax this season
- 2025 Division 1 Second Team All-State selection
- Signed to play college lacrosse at Eastern Michigan



The Steak Shop

Score a home run this season.

2026 Spring Sports Previews▶▶

ULS girls tennis lineup returns ready to go above and beyond in 2026

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Having the type of consistency in a lineup that the University Liggett School varsity girls tennis squad has this spring is not something that comes around often for high school teams. The Knights have their entire starting lineup from last season returning to the courts this spring, paired with some new faces that should add to the team's depth and strength.

"We have everybody back," Liggett girls tennis coach Jeff Collins said. "Our whole starting

singles lineup from last year is all back. Plus, we have some solid new freshmen, so we're going to have a lot more depth this year. I'm expecting a really good season and we're excited."

The unchanged singles lineup from last year includes Sonya Jayakar at the No. 1 singles spot. She enters her sophomore season looking to build on a strong freshman campaign in 2025 that saw her earn Division 4 All-State honors.

With a sophomore at No. 1 singles, three senior captains round out the singles lineup to

bring veteran leadership. Audrey DiDio will be at No. 2 singles. Nina Shanidze comes in at the No. 3 singles spot, with Annabelle Klaasen at No. 4 singles.

That lineup helped the Knights reach the Division 4 state finals last year and place second at the regional finals. The goal is to make it back again, but this time with a better shot at winning it all.

"We're really trying to peak at regionals and go back to states," Collins said. "That's what our goal is. Not only to get back there, but to do well there and place



COURTESY PHOTO

Liggett coach Jeff Collins, left, with Sonya Jayakar, the team's No. 1 singles player who returns to the lineup this spring after earning All-State recognition in 2025 as a freshman.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

No. 2 singles player Audrey DiDio will serve as one of Liggett's senior captains this season.

there. I believe we have the team to do it."

The Knights also have some experienced doubles players coming back, including Lillian Haladjian, Amelia Unkel and Caty Juip. Olivia Boggs, Samantha Laethem, Malena Moisiedes and Isla McCort make up some of the incoming freshmen the Knights believe could have an impact right away as well.

With an already cohesive team coming into the season, the Knights are confident they can hit the ground running and be ready to compete in their first matches.

Good chemistry is a major factor for every team, even in a sport like tennis, where athletes are competing in individual matches. With so many returning players who already know the team's culture and expectations, the Knights believe their success could lie in everyone knowing it is still a team game, no matter what.

"The joy of playing high school tennis on a team is what is really impressive," Collins said. "They support each other. When some of your top players are the most unselfish players

and look at this as a team and not an individual sport, it makes my job as a coach so much easier. Everyone is singing from the same sheet of music in terms of supporting each other and working hard each day in practice. ... Everything has to be earned on the court and these kids are prepared to put in the work, but have fun as well."

Liggett will be tested right away, opening the season Wednesday, April 8, at home hosting four-time defending Division 4 state champions Ann Arbor Greenhills.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

103 goals and 26 assists in 2025, on her way to earning Division 1 Second Team All-State honors. All of that came before an injury in the final game of the season. It set Hampton back in her offseason routine, but she knows she already has come back feeling stronger.

"I've been working a lot on my stamina and my speed has been my main priority," Hampton said. "I broke

my ankle in the last game of last year. I couldn't play all summer, so I felt really out of it for a few months. I was just trying to focus on my health for the most part. ... My main priority is just staying healthy and trying to get my stamina and my speed up."

Speed and stamina are going to be key for Hampton as she prepares to compete at the next level. When her senior year at South ends, Hampton will join the Division I women's lacrosse team at Eastern

Michigan University.

Hampton knows the college game will be different from what she has experienced in high school, but she is ready for the challenge. Helping prepare her for that challenge every step of the way has been her dad, Shaun Hampton, who has been her coach in both girls lacrosse and golf at South.

Being the coach's kid is not always easy. It can cause tension on or off the field. However, as she gets ready to play her final games with her dad on the sidelines, Hampton would not trade the experience and the moments she has been able to share with her teammates and her dad for the world.

"You kind of have to separate coach from father," Hampton said. "Sometimes I have to remember that he's my coach and not my dad and what he's saying is from a coach's standpoint. He's really knowledgeable and knows what he's talking about and I love that he's so involved. I could never wish for someone more involved in my life. He does everything for the team and is so supportive and wants us to do the best we can, so it's amazing having him there to support all of us."

Having her dad's support as a parent and a coach has helped motivate Hampton to become the great player she is. As she gets ready to take the next step in



COURTESY PHOTO

Hampton led South with 103 goals last season on her way to earning Second Team All-State honors.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Do you know an outstanding high school athlete?

Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put them in the running for Athlete of the Year.

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, scan the QR code or visit our website.

grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
PLANNING COMMISSION
19617 HARPER
HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN 48225

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Harper Woods will be holding a Public Hearing on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining public input and comment on the Creation of a Special Assessment District to Defray the Costs to Continue the Maintenance and Operation of Police and Fire Protection for the City of Harper Woods.

1. The estimate of the costs and expenses of the police and fire motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and police and fire protection to be defrayed by an annual levy on the lands and premises within the special assessment district. The estimate of costs and expenses is estimated to be in excess of \$6,000,000.

2. The creation of a special assessment district consisting of all of the lands and premises within the municipal boundaries of the City of Harper Woods.

Residents who are unable to attend this hearing may submit their written comments regarding this matter to the City Clerk's office prior to the hearing date.

POSTED: March 23, 2026
PUBLISHED: April 5, 2026

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

her career, her dad won't stop cheering her on, knowing she has set herself up for success.

"To see her check off the first box of her goals, which was to get an opportunity to play at the next level, the amount of work that she's put in that nobody else sees is amazing," Shaun Hampton said. "She's put in the work and earned it. ... I couldn't be prouder of the work she's put in and the young lady that she's become. From a player, a teammate and a leader on the team to an overall human being, she's turned out to be a pretty good one."

2026 Spring Sports Previews▶▶

South girls tennis enters 2026 with sights set on future development

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Calling any season in high school sports a “rebuilding” year might be a stretch, but Grosse Pointe South varsity girls tennis is looking at 2026 mostly as a year of development. The Blue Devils have some veteran leadership in key spots, but come into the season with a lineup mainly built around youth.

“We’re just trying to get experience for the future,” South girls tennis head coach Mark Sobieralski said. “We’ve got a lot of kids coming up for the future and we’re going to be right back where Grosse Pointe South used to be in a couple of years.”

Most of the team’s youth this spring is cen-

tered around singles play. Senior captain Kaitlyn Strong takes over the No. 1 singles spot, as defending Division 2 No. 1 singles state champion Dalina Kokoshi will not be with the team this season. The remaining singles spots are occupied by freshmen. Twin sisters McKella and McKenzie Florence will be in the No. 2 and No. 3 singles, respectively, with Lilian Novack at No. 4 singles.

South’s other senior captains, Grace Vollmer and Andia Nazarko, will make up one of the top doubles pairings. Juniors Charlotte Kowal and Aubrey Lindow will be another top doubles pair for South.

Even with plenty of younger players, the goals for South always remain the same. The

Blue Devils want to defend their regional title and make it back to the Division 2 state finals. South is still confident it has the talent to do that, but hopes consistent improvement throughout the season can bring success this year and beyond.

“They can all hit the shots, but as far as being strategic and placing shots and finding your opponent’s weaknesses, I want them hitting balls with a purpose,” Sobieralski said. “We have to teach them how to formulate points. That’s the big thing and it’s fun and exciting.”

South’s season begins Saturday, April 11, in a quad match against Dexter, Battle Creek Lakeview and North Farmington hosted by Dexter.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

Senior Kaitlyn Strong, right, with coach Mark Sobieralski after Strong finished as the state runner-up in Division 2 No. 3 singles last season. Strong will take over the No. 1 singles spot on South’s team in 2026.

Depth, leadership at forefront for South boys track and field

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys track and field team is growing in numbers as the 2026 season begins. That means even more depth for a team that feels like it has strengths in every aspect of the game — and that strength comes from everyone, from the seniors all the way down to the freshmen.

“We don’t have a heavy senior class, but we have key seniors who are going to be big contributors,” South boys track and field coach Mark Sonnenberg said. “We have a very well-balanced team. If anything, we have a lot of new freshmen who could have an impact right away, especially in distance.”

One of those freshmen is Oscar Resnick, who impressed coaches with his strong first season of

cross-country in the fall. Helping lead Resnick and the rest of the rising stars on the team will be a strong group of veterans who could be some of the biggest contributors for South all season.

Senior Tristan Winger will be the Blue Devils’ top athlete for hurdles and a contributor to the 4x400 and 4x200 relays. Fellow senior Zach Wilson and his brother, junior Ethan Wilson, will be two of South’s top sprinters. Lualhati Verzosa enters his senior season as a leader in distance races and senior Liam O’Donoghue will look for a big season in pole vault.

South believes it has the leadership and depth at every spot to be successful. From distance to sprint races to field events — especially throwing events — the Blue Devils feel like they are set up for success.

“I think that we’re a very well-rounded team with few weaknesses,” Sonnenberg said. “We have every event covered. I think our throwers are particularly strong. Joey Agnone will be a top regional scorer in both shot put and discus and we go pretty deep in the throwing department.”

While the athleticism and talent South believes it has are a plus, the biggest advantage the Blue Devils might have is leadership. The coaching staff can see the team captains taking their examples to heart and spreading it to the rest of the team, setting a standard and expectations for the season to come.

“I have seven coaches that help me out and are so good in what they do in each of their events that they specialize in,” Sonnenberg said. “That trickles down to all of

the captains that we have. ... Because of that, it helps because it goes from a great coaching staff to great leadership on the team. They’re

just solid guys and it’s such a cohesive unit.”

South began the season Thursday, March 26, with a dominant 111-26 victory in a dual meet

against Warren Mott. The Blue Devils return from spring break for another meet Tuesday, April 7, hosting Eisenhower.

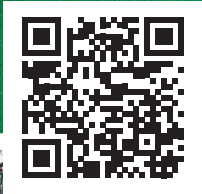


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The Parcels Middle School 8th grade boys basketball team finished the 2026 season undefeated and as league champions, closing out the season with victories over crosstown rivals Pierce and Brownell. This year's team included: Michael Trupiano, Drew Bruvens, Noah Bazzi, Kamar Laster-Walker, Kalib Mathews, Ben Spence, Dylan Dell'Eva, Nick Thompson, Michael Polk, Martez Seales, Tyson Champine, Easton Evans and Trenton Thompson with coaches Dave Charvat and Bob Zaranek.



COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

NORTH V. SOUTH BOYS LACROSSE

Grosse Pointe South varsity boys lacrosse hosted Grosse Pointe North last Tuesday, March 24, in an early-season matchup of crosstown rivals. The Blue Devils were victorious 16-3, with three goals by Jack Smith and two goals each by Eugene Agnone, Bennett Walsh, Cole Lupo and Chris Bejin helping lead the way.

South returns to action Thursday, April 9, going on the road to face Tecumseh. The Norsemen take the field again Tuesday, April 7, hosting Port Huron at 7 p.m.

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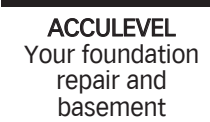
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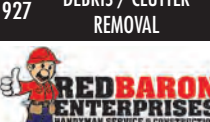
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2026 Spring Sports Previews▶▶

South boys golf confident in young core



COURTESY PHOTO

Sophomore Marty Wayman will tee it up for South this spring as part of the Blue Devils’ core of returning golfers.

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys golf team comes into the new season believing in the talent and consistency of its roster. Without many seniors on this year’s team, the Blue Devils know the golfers they have now will be with the program another year or two beyond 2026, making this spring the perfect starting point for a run at some hardware.

“The roster we have now, we’re going to have for the next two years,” South boys golf head coach Bobby Mitchell said. “We have one senior, but the talent really lies in our junior and sophomore classes.”

South is looking to build off of a solid 2025, where the team finished second at the regional

championships and 14th at the Division 1 state finals. Many of the golfers who helped South with strong performances last spring are back as well.

Juniors Charlie Thomas and Ben Bieri will be on the links again for South after both achieved top-three finishes at regionals last year. Thomas also finished second on the individual leaderboard at last year’s MAC Red Championships. Sophomore Marty Wayman also will tee up again for the Blue Devils as another key piece of the team’s young core.

They and the rest of the Blue Devils will have their work cut out for them in a series of challenging matches and tournaments this spring. One of the highlights this season is South’s own McIntyre Invitational at Country Club of Detroit on April

27, named in honor of former Blue Devil coach and recent Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Hall of Fame inductee Rob McIntyre.

As the Blue Devils go through their tests in the MAC Red Division and various tournaments over the course of the season, the goal is simple: learn to play the best golf possible when it matters the most.

“Our primary focus is to be better prepared if we have the opportunity to reach the state tournament,” Mitchell said. “Last year, we did a great job achieving that and this year we want to do that again and place at a much higher level.”

South begins the season by making a road trip to Springfield, Ohio, to compete in the Southern Swing Invitational Friday, April 10.

New leadership brings winning mentality to North girls track

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North varsity girls track and field team is entering the 2026 season with a renewed spirit. The Norsemen are under new leadership this spring, with head coach Joe Crachiola taking over the program with hopes of guiding some of North’s best athletes to success.

North saw an influx of more than a dozen freshmen joining the program this spring. That youth joined with some of the team’s experienced senior leaders could form a strong, cohesive group for North as they strive for the Division 2 state finals.

The veterans on this year’s squad for North include senior captain and distance runner Avery Boutell, fellow senior captain Liliana Ivanaj and senior captain hurdler Quinn Notebaert. Senior discus and shot put thrower Nia Ruiz

also will serve as a captain, while junior Kayli Johnson is expected to be one of North’s top sprinters.

That group will try to help lead the Norsemen to success in the MAC White Division this spring. The team also hopes to have plenty of success in invitationals and at large meets like the Wayne County Championships. Having those kinds of competitions on the schedule is what Crachiola believes will have North’s athletes ready to perform in the biggest moments.

“I put a big emphasis on invitationals,” Crachiola said. “There’s more competition, so we’re going to have the kids fresh for those meets. Last year, the team took third at the Wayne County Championships, so the goal is to improve on that and have a great showing at regionals. That’s kind of where we’re setting the kids up to peak

at.”

North’s new coach wants his team to be building toward success for the biggest competitions as the spring goes on. It may be a long road to get there at times, but the program at North is establishing a new culture of belief for the season ahead.

“Trust the process,” Crachiola said. “Getting the kids to believe that the coaches have a plan in mind for the season and, as long as they trust the process and try their hardest every day, they will be at their best at the end of the season and hit their goals. The other thing is being comfortable with being uncomfortable. We’re pushing them to break through barriers and try new things and learn that they have abilities in more than what they’ve done in the past.”

North begins the season Tuesday, April 7, in a road meet against Stevenson.

North girls tennis returns feeling stronger in 2026

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With more than a dozen players returning from a team that qualified for the Division 2 state finals last year, the Grosse Pointe North girls varsity tennis team is confident in the talent it has entering the 2026 season. Almost all of the impact players the Norsemen had last year return to the court this spring with a year of improvement under their belts, forming an already cohesive unit that is hungry for more success.

“The familiarity with each other really helps the team,” North girls tennis coach John VanAlst said. “During the offseason, there were tremendous improvements made by everyone. ... It’s encouraging to see how the team got a lot better.”

The entire singles group for the Norsemen from last season returns

for another campaign this spring, including 2025 Division 2 All-State player Laila Aslam, returning in the No. 1 singles position. Fellow junior and captain Aakansha Nagori will be the team’s No. 2 singles player. Senior Daniela Pietrowsky fills the No. 3 singles spot, with junior Emma Dombrowski at No. 4 singles.

There still are some questions to be answered for North in the doubles lineup before the season gets underway. However, the Norsemen believe that could be a testament to the depth the team has, with so many players capable of filling in big spots.

The Norsemen will again be tested in the MAC Red Division, which includes cross-town rival Grosse Pointe South, and some challenging non-league matches like one against University Liggett School April 9.

Depth in the doubles positions and talent in the front of the singles spots is what North could rely on as a strength throughout the spring. Nothing is stopping anyone on the team from setting high expectations for themselves and the squad as a whole.

“I know our singles players have their eyes set on some individual regional titles,” VanAlst said. “... I have the confidence that each one of them has the ability to do it. I believe they can and I hope they believe in themselves enough to do it too. ... Our depth is very strong. ... It’s going to be interesting to see how the lineup shakes out, but I’m hoping that we can come through at regionals and make it through to another appearance at the state finals.”

North starts the season on the road with a match against St. Clair Wednesday, April 8.

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the purpose of considering a Special Land Use at 21043 Mack Avenue (Parcel ID: 40-003-06-0095-000). The subject site is zoned C, Commercial Business District where fast food and carry out restaurants (Dunkin’ Donuts, with a Baskin Robbins) are a Special Land Use. No drive-thru is permitted, dining is take-out or within the restaurant.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Special Land Use, with conditions, to the City Council. The corresponding site plan will also be reviewed by City Council at this time.

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

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

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 4/2/26



PHOTO BY TODD SMITH

McGeehin, a native of Grosse Pointe, trains with both the Michigan State University Demmer Center in East Lansing and Rising Phoenix Archery in Troy.

ARCHERY:

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means a move up to shooting from 60 meters to 70 (Olympic distance).

McGeehin’s focus also shifts to outdoor competition as the weather gets warmer. His victory at the Eastern Nationals could help propel him into success in the next stages of his archery journey, while giving him the chance to compete against the best.

“For a lot of other sports, the top athletes are almost sectioned away from the rest of the community and you’re not going to be competing against them,” he said. “... In archery, everybody’s just a person. ... Everybody shoots together and you can find yourself shooting on the same bales as some of the top athletes in the world.”