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Grosse Pointe News

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MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR - 2021 - 2022 - 2023 - 2024 - 2025

July 2, 2026
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

3 file so far for school board Wayburn house fire

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — As of press time, and with less than three weeks to go before the deadline, three candidates have filed official paperwork to run for three open seats on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education.

They are Ginny Jeup, Walt Fitzpatrick and Mariel Krupansky.

Seats up for election this fall currently are held by Jeup, Sean Cotton and Valarie St. John. All three were elected to four-year terms in November 2022.

Numbers certified by the Wayne County Board of Canvassers following that election showed Jeup holding a 15-vote lead over Tim Klepp, 9,889 to 9,874, for the third open seat on the board at the time.

Klepp, who eventually was elected to a four-year term in 2024, filed a petition requesting a recount. When it was finished, Jeup still came out ahead, this time by four votes. The recount also showed Cotton gaining eight additional votes and St. John five.

Fitzpatrick retired from GPPSS in 2024, after 30 years with the district and 40 years total in education. He started here as a math teacher at Pierce Middle School before becoming assistant principal there. He served as principal at Trombly Elementary School from 2003 until it closed in 2020, then spent four years as principal at Kerby Elementary School.

He most recently has been serving as executive director of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for STEAM Support.

Krupansky, of Harper

See FILE, page 9A



By Renee Landuyt
Special Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Thursday June 25, at 6:49 a.m., a Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department dispatcher got a call about a residential fire in the 1300 block of Wayburn.

Flames and black smoke were pouring out of the roof which caused it to eventually collapse.

According to a press release sent by Park Sgt. Stephen Thiel, the new public information officer, the Park Public Safety and their mutual aid partners extinguished the significant residential structure fire.

Initial reports, provided by the homeowner, indi-

See FIRE, page 2A

Incident Commander Sgt. Scott Gilchrist comes out of the house with the Flir, (Forward-Looking Infrared) thermal imaging camera after checking for hot spots

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

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Live reading of the Declaration

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The War Memorial will join communities throughout the entire country for a simultaneous live reading of the Declaration of Independence at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 8.

“Two hundred and

fifty years ago at 6 p.m. on July 8, was the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence on the steps of the Pennsylvania State House, which is now Independence Hall,” said Deann Newman, regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Louisa St.



Clair Chapter. “So a lot of communities across the country are going to be (reading the declaration) at exactly the same time.”

A partnership between The War Memorial and DAR, Pointers are invited to take part in the shared

See LIVE, page 4A

WeGP event draws controversy

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — An event hosted last month by WeGP (welcoming everyone Grosse Pointe) has drawn national attention to the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

The event, held Saturday, June 20, included a march down Kercheval, beginning in

the parking lot at Richard Elementary School and ending in the parking lot of Maire Elementary School.

Photos and video from Maire posted to social media showed children giving money to men dressed as women wearing what many commenters deemed inappropriate costumes.

Many social media commenters said the

event should not have been on school property and that the attention hurt the district's reputation and could harm an already decreasing enrollment.

An account on X — formerly Twitter — called “LibsofTikTok,” which has 3.2 million followers, reposted the information, as did an Instagram account called “the-hodgetwins,” which has

3 million followers. Both are conservative in nature.

WeGP in its own social media post said, “We recognize that people will have differing views about aspects of the event, and respectful dialogue is part of any healthy community. Families chose whether and how to participate, and attendees described the event as welcoming,

joyful and meaningful.”

GPPSS Acting Superintendent Roy Bishop sent a letter to district families Thursday, June 25, explaining the event was not sponsored by the district.

“The event took place outside school hours, on a weekend, outside the school year. Attendance

See EVENT, page 2A

POINTES OF VIEW

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

Get in on the conversation.

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Anne Billiu
Home: Grosse Pointe Park
Retired teacher
Widowed mother of two girls, Kristin and Alexandra



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250 trees for 250 years

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The Garden Club of Michigan is matching the first \$10,000 donated to the City of Grosse Pointe Urban Forestry Commission's fundraising campaign to plant 250 trees in honor of the United States of America's 250th anniversary.

The campaign, 250 Trees for 250 Years, already has raised \$16,000 in private donations toward its goal to raise \$60,000 this year.

"It is part of the overall Urban Forestry Commission's initiative and vision to recreate a tree canopy over our streets," UFC Chair Rick Whitney said. "That's been an ongoing theme of ours and we've made good progress over the last decade, but we're still losing ground in the city."

According to a comprehensive gap survey conducted last year, the

City has 400 gaps in need of trees, as well as another 100 trees currently diseased or dying.

"There's just this tremendous ground (to cover)," Whitney said, "and the city budget is not able to catch up with the existing set of gaps there are, let alone the ongoing death of trees due to diseases, natural causes and storms."

Because the Garden Club's \$10,000 donation is for trees to be planted equally in the City, Farms and Park, the UFC is counting a third of it toward its \$60,000 goal to plant 250 trees specifically in the City.

While it is yet to be set in stone where the 250 trees will be planted, one strategy the commission is considering is to focus on a relatively small area, such as five blocks, blanketing the section with the intention of growing the visibility and community excitement around its efforts.

“Part of this also involves making sure

the homeowners are excited to have a tree," Whitney said. "Even if it's on a city right-of-way, the homeowners need to be involved with caring for these trees, such as watering them, especially the first two or three years. The city doesn't have the manpower."

Planting will take place in the fall and spring, to coincide with the healthiest time to plant specific species of tree.

“This is a hard push to get the city back to baseline and then we can make sure we’re annually managing the trees,” Whitney said.

Donations can be made via check to the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation — be sure to write “Trees” in the memo — and mailed to City Hall, 17147 Maumee Ave., Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

Online donations can be made via PayPal at donations@cityofgpfoundation.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUZY BERSCHBACH

Light up the night

Sigma Gamma hosted its 43rd fireworks picnic Tuesday, June 23, at Ford House. Proceeds benefited the Detroit Institute for Children, now operating as Boldli, which helps children with diverse abilities access the care, resources and opportunities they need to thrive. Here, from left, Chip Berschback, Betsy and Frank Schulte and Cyndee and Chris Harrison watch the fireworks over Lake St. Clair.

Maumee, St. Paul, Kercheval up for trip hazard repair

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The City has ramped up its sidewalk repair budget to \$50,000, which this summer will fund the replacement of approximately 105 sidewalk slabs in more than 40 locations throughout the city.

Targeted areas will be the city's key cross streets, such as Maumee, St. Paul and Kercheval, according to a memo by city staff.

“\$50,000 is a huge improvement over what

we used to have, which was \$10,000," Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said. "If you know concrete, you can't buy much for \$10,000, so that's great to see that we're doing that and that contract is out."

City council voted 6-0 to approve a \$44,625 contract with low bidder James J. Leamon Landscape Design & Construction Monday, June 15.

The company agreed to do the work, which focuses on slabs where

full replacement is necessary, for approximately \$425 per sidewalk slab.

"Eventually we'll get to the point where we've got the squares that need to be replaced, replaced, and then we can start grinding (others) down where they're b u m p e d u p," Tomkowiak said.

The city already has budgeted another \$50,000 for sidewalk repair and replacement next fiscal year.

— *Laurel Kraus*



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

FIRE:

Continued from page 1A

cate the incident began when he flipped the light switch on the second floor of his home and it was followed by an unusual electrical noise.

"I smelled smoke," Pierre Vinson, the homeowner, said, "and when I did, I pulled a panel off the wall and saw the fire. I immediately went downstairs and got my 11-year-old daughter out of bed and told her we needed to get out of the house."

First responders arrived quickly and were met with heavy fire conditions on the second floor that had quickly spread to the attic. Given the close proximity of the houses on that block, the firefighters' efforts successfully contained the fire to the one house preventing further property damage.

The fire was put out and no injuries were reported.

Approximately an hour later, after the fire was out, the officers returned to the scene to check for anything that might be smoldering, using fire axes to look for hot spots and spraying foam on the collapsed roof as a precaution.

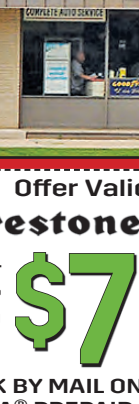


Sgt. Scott Gilchrist hands the homeowner, Pierre Vinson, his high school letterman's jacket from Cass Tech, saying, "I thought you might want this." Vinson was happy they found it because he ran track and field in high school and in college at Central Michigan. Vinson was inducted into the college's sports Hall of Fame in 2016 and was concerned that his letterman jacket, hall of fame flag, his championship rings and his medals didn't survive the fire.

Firefighters also recovered Vinson's wallet, ashes from two previously deceased pets and a bicycle.



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07/23/24

Bike parade maxes out

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The numbers added up for the America 250th birthday Children’s Bike Parade last Saturday afternoon on Kercheval.

“We had 250 kids for the 250th, no joke,” said Tom Caulfield, wearing an Uncle Sam costume while leading the parade through the lower Kercheval business district June 27. “Kids are having fun.”

Parents, too. They appreciated the city and Grosse Pointe Park Foundation putting on the parade a few hours prior to the first Kercheval After 6 street fair of summer.

“We love the events they’ve been putting on,” said Madison McMillan.

She and her husband, Chris, accompanied their 3-year-old daughter, Marcie, in the parade.

“It’s a great thing for our community that they are doing things like this,” Madison McMillan said.

Marcie wasn’t doing much talking. But her father said they spent a half hour decorating her training wheel bike with red, white and blue streamers, stars and an American flag on the handlebars. She smiled under a red bow in her hair and wore a white dress patterned with

American flags and blue ribbons.

“This was a great parade,” said Caulfield, the City Council’s liaison to the foundation.

Ben Walters, a student at Pierce Middle School, celebrated his birthday by winning the best decorated bike contest.

He said it took two hours to dress the bike with flags, bunting, pinwheels, star-shaped balloons and more.

“His 13th birthday is tomorrow,” said his mother, Erin Walters. “He wanted to be in the parade and was hoping to win.”

Many organizers remember being in grade school when the city had a July 4 bike parade.

“It’s great bringing it back,” said Caulfield, his voice muffled by the Uncle Sam beard.

After the parade, participants lined up in the Pointe Hardware Group parking lot for hot dogs and goodie bags donated by Park merchants.

“Grosse Pointe Park has the goods,” said Mayor Michele Hodges, dressed in our nation’s colors and wearing the reddest lipstick she could find. “We know how to build community. This is testimony to that. Thank you to our Foundation for pulling this off and contributing yet again to our vibrant community.”



Uncle Sam, aka Councilman Tom Caulfield, leads 250 registered participants in the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation’s kids patriotic bike parade Saturday afternoon, June 27, in the Kercheval business district.

The parade was the foundation’s second event this summer. A few weeks ago, members organized free Bike Safety Day inspections.

Some parade participants, including the McMillans and Walters, said they planned to return to the district that evening for the first of three Kercheval After 6 street fairs of summer featuring live music, carnival rides, food trucks and special

entertainment.

“Kercheval After 6 is one of my favorite events throughout the year in all of the Grosse Pointes,” said Park business owner Jim Brosnan, a presenter of the fairs. “My kids love it. My family comes down. I sponsor it because I love it.”

Also presenting Kercheval After 6 this year are Thermal Mechanical Service, Ahee Jewelers and Henry Ford Health.



Ben Walters committed two hours of effort preparing his bike for the parade. It paid off with him winning first place for best decoration.



A rare instance of parade participant Marcie McMillan, 3, smiling in public. Her parents, Madison and Chris, accompanied her on the route.

At the parade with Fenner



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Fenner is a fit, white-muzzled, male golden retriever with a deep chest and soft coat.

He obeys his owner’s instructions not to jump on people. But it can be seen in his eyes that he’s thinking about it. When he meets someone who doesn’t mind a face full of wet nose and forepaws, he goes from countdown to liftoff in a flurry of feathery fur.

“He’s named after my great, great, great grandfather,” said Dana Coyne, of Grosse Pointe Park.

They attended the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation’s America 250th Children’s Bike Parade Saturday, June 27, on Kercheval.

The Week Ahead

- WEDNESDAY, JULY 8**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- SATURDAY, JULY 11**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to noon at Kercheval and Lakepointe.

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Retired teacher is super-blessed survivor

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

For a life as uplifting as Anne Billiu’s, her story has so many ups and downs it’s amazing she’s come out ahead.

She beat cancer three times.

She survived one of the most devastating car crashes in recent Grosse Pointe history.

Her ailing husband didn’t live long enough to see her discharged after more than two months in a hospital. Yet their two daughters rallied from their homes in other parts of the country and surrounded her with care like a train of circled wagons.

Billiu’s childhood neighborhood in Detroit, where brick colonials and Tudors were no different than those in most of the Grosse Pointes, is now barren. Few landmarks of her formative years remain among stunted trees and bushes struggling amid occasionally mowed grass.

During her career teaching middle school in Detroit, duties descended into taking firearms from the hands of warring gang members.

Yet, in an angelic act of altruism, Billiu paid for a promising middle school student to be educated at a private high school instead of exploited for athletic ability.

That student, Rachel Louie, is now a mother, high school teacher and coach in Georgia. She recently earned a master’s degree, is enrolled in a Ph.D. program and owns a youth basketball organization that operates teams and leagues. “That woman you’re writing on is a big reason why,” Louie said. “Miss Billiu took me under her wings and I’ve been flying ever since.”

“She just sent me a photo of her getting a master’s degree in education,” Billiu said. “I’m so proud of her. It does my heart good.”

They met when Billiu was on staff at Farwell Middle School.

“You need a certain personality to teach middle school,” Billiu said.

Middle school students typically need more guidance due to their rapidly changing physical and emotional development, higher

academic demands, peer pressure and wanting to fit in.

“I coached boys and girls basketball with another man,” Billiu said. “I did journalism, which I started, and honor society. So, I was more active with the kids outside the classroom. I think that helped. I’m still in contact with a lot of them. They call me every once in a while.”

“She saw me in the gym playing with the boys,” Louie said. “That’s pretty much how Miss Billiu and I started our relationship. She told my mom I was good enough to play travel basketball.”

“Rachel was a tremendous player,” Billiu said. “When she was in seventh grade, high school coaches came to me trying to convince me to send her to their school.”

Recruiting was illegal, but, you know.

“Nobody was interested in her education; only her basketball skills,” Billiu said. “So, I took her to Bishop Gallagher and paid for her tuition for four years. I wanted her to get an education. She



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Anne Billiu, among rhododendrons in the backyard, wears a shirt that says it all: “I just want to work in my garden and hang out with my dog.”

through there. Some of those were beautiful homes.”

A little grocery store was within walking distance.

“It was a block over from my house on

ing World War II, teachers never lost their jobs,” Billiu said. “Other people did because they had to go into the services.”

She also likes children.

“Parents have to take responsibility for their children’s education,” Billiu said. “Some feel they don’t have to be involved in the learning.”

Billiu first taught at Burroughs Middle School in the area of Harper and Van Dyke. The building closed in 2012. Farwell, where she met Louie, also on Detroit’s east side, closed in 2012, but reopened as an elementary school.

Billiu sometimes taught all the children in a family.

“About six years ago, a woman called me and said, ‘Would you come back to teach so my daughter can have you?’” Billiu laughed. “I said, ‘Nope. I had you, your sister and brother. That’s enough.’”

Upon retiring, Billiu volunteered at the Goodwill Flip the Script program.

“This program was to tutor young men to get their GED (certificate),” she said. “Some of these men were ordered by a judge to take the program.”

“We believe that no matter what the obsta-

cle, everyone has an opportunity to change their story,” according to the organization’s website.

Billiu described without emotion surviving three separate types of cancer starting 50 years ago when she was in her 30s.

“I’m very blessed,” she said. “I’ve had surgeries. They were all self-contained.”

The car wreck was just as bad and all at once.

“And it’s been almost 11 years,” Billiu said.

Driving eastbound on Lakeshore at Warner in the Farms, she was hit head-on by an oncoming vehicle operated by another woman from the Pointes that crossed into her path of travel. The other driver died on the spot.

“She had a seizure and her kids were in the car,” Billiu said. “They had to use the Jaws of Life on both cars to get us out. Something went through my ankle. My diaphragm was ruptured and my organs pushed up.”

She was admitted to St. John Hospital for 10 weeks.

“My husband died

while I was in the hospital, but he was there, too, in hospice,” Billiu said. “We were in the hospital together.”

Her daughters, Kristin and Alexandra, came from their homes in South Carolina and Texas, respectively, to help. For a while, Billiu convalesced in Texas with Alexandra, a nurse practitioner and former 22-year employee of St. John.

Billiu’s friend and current colleague on the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, Pat Deck, gathered her church group to make Billiu a prayer quilt.

“I have it to this day,” Billiu said. “It was so thoughtful.”

Billiu gets around with grace and energy to spare.

She enjoys reading, tending her garden and being gently pestered for attention by her 14-year-old Irish setter, Lily, the latest in a series of rescue dogs of the same breed.

“I just turned 84,” Billiu said. “I keep going. I figure I have to keep going because if I stop, I’ll really be in bad shape.”

LIVE:

Continued from page 1A

national moment in celebration of America’s 250th. Attendees will be provided copies of the Declaration and invited to read along, as well as to sign a large version of the Declaration.

“Our chapter started (preparing for America 250) with a Revolutionary War Patriot Marker at the Joy Bells Park in the Farms two years ago,” Newman said. “We were really trying to get people just thinking about the fact we need to celebrate all that America stands for and all that we’ve done in our country and bring back that American spirit that just seems to be missing sometimes.”

The commemoration will be followed by an old-fashioned ice cream social on the lakefront lawn.

“Back in the day, people used to gather in the

community and do things like that,” Newman said. “This will be just a nice event for the community to share some sweet treats at the end and we’ll have some activities for the kids.”

Children will have the opportunity to write with a quill pen; make a colonial toy; color; explore a station containing items historically relevant to 250 years ago; and take a virtual tour of national sites such as Mount Vernon where George Washington lived.

Members of the DAR also will dress in colonial-era clothing.

“If kids can see it, if they can touch it, if they can feel it, it comes to life for them,” Newman said. “They can wow their history teacher when they go back to school.”

The festivities are free and open to the public. Registration is requested via The War Memorial’s website, warmemorial.org.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026 GROSSE POINTE PARK, GROSSE POINTE CITY, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY AND HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE. That any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of their City Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is Monday, July 20, 2026

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at their local clerk’s office (see locations below) at the following times: Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm; Saturday, August 1st from 8:00am to 4:00pm; and Election Day, Tuesday, August 4th from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

Full text of the ballot, including the proposals, may be obtained at www.mi.gov/vote.

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact their local City Clerk’s Office.

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Check fraud

An unknown man used a fraudulent check to purchase tires for \$1,515 at a Mack business Tuesday, May 26.

Intoxicated

A 41-year-old Sterling Heights woman was determined to be intoxicated after she drove into the Pier Park exit area and promptly drove back out at a high rate of speed at 10:45 p.m. Sunday, June 28. Officers caught up with her on Moross, where she was speeding 45 mph in a 25 mph zone. She failed field sobriety tests and had a blood alcohol content of 0.19 percent, for which she was arrested.

— Laurel Kraus
Report information

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

City of Grosse Pointe

Stolen vehicle

A 2017 Acura was stolen from a driveway in the 800 block of Lakeland at 2:30 a.m. Monday, June 22, after it was left unlocked with the key fob inside. It was recovered the same day in Detroit with significant damage.

Assault

A 29-year-old woman assaulted two security

officers at a local hospital as they attempted to escort her off the property at 2:45 p.m. Sunday, June 28.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Bank fraud

A resident in the 600 block of Birch Lane filed a report around 2 p.m. Monday, June 22, of five instances of fraudulent use of his bank account for \$2,400, and a pending charge of \$13,000

on a different bank account. Both banks are investigating.

Stolen bike

A green and white bike left unlocked in front of a business in the 20400 block of Mack was stolen around 3:30 p.m. Monday, June 22.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Drives into pole

When a 57-year-old

male motorist from the Park nailed a light pole on Mack at Kensington shortly after 8 p.m. Thursday, June 25, the impact rattled “multiple” empty mini liquor bottles of booze inside the vehicle, according to a police account. “The driver smelled of intoxicants and failed sobriety tests,” said an investigator. “(He) was arrested.”

Tires punctured

All four tires of a 2020 Kia Forte were flattened while parked in the driveway of a house in the 900 block of Nottingham. “(The tires) have approximately 1-inch

puncture marks,” according to police. Officers logged the incident, reported at 9:11 a.m. Friday, June 26, as malicious destruction of property.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Squatter dislodged

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The tip of the spear started the week by raiding a house in the Cabbage Patch. Members of the Grosse Pointe-Harper Woods special response team conducted the raid to roust a squatter in the 1200 block of Beaconsfield. The suspect’s takeover of the house was chronic. “The property had been the source of numerous complaints from many residents regarding suspected criminal activity, trespassing and other quality-of-life concerns,” according to a statement from Park police. Although the action began at 9 a.m. Monday, June 29, and ended an hour later, there wasn’t resolution. The squatter wasn’t home, so to speak. “The residence was

searched to make sure it was vacant and is currently being secured and boarded up to help prevent future unauthorized entry and eliminate the ongoing nuisance to the neighborhood,” police said at the time. Police issued email alerts during the event warning the public to stay away. “If you are traveling through the area, please use Lakepointe or Nottingham as alternate routes,” read the initial broadcast. “We will provide an update when the scene is clear.”

“I’m very proud about what happened,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “Thanks to calls from residents, we were informed there was a possible squatter in the home. We gathered evidence. We worked with (Park Municipal) Judge (John) Parnell, (Chief) Jim Bostock and the public safety department. Code enforcement worked on it as well.” “Strong neighborhoods are built when residents look out for one another and when government responds thoughtfully to commu-

nity concerns,” said Mayor Michele Hodges. “I am grateful to our public safety department and regional partners for their work today and for their ongoing commitment to keeping our neighborhoods safe.” Attempts failed to resolve the problem administratively before hitting crisis level. “The city tried to contact the homeowner,” Sizeland said. “We got no response for whatever reasons. We tried multiple times through

code enforcement.” Complaints piled up as city officials built their case. “This is not an instance where we can go in and do anything we want,” Sizeland said. “There are property rights. We want to make sure before we execute something like this that it is ironclad.” “I especially want to thank the residents who spoke up and remained engaged throughout this process,” Hodges said. “Their partnership helps us address challenges before they become larger problems. Together, we will continue working to ensure that every block

in Grosse Pointe Park is a place where our residents feel secure, welcomed and proud to call home.” “This enforcement action reflects our continued commitment to addressing community concerns, improving neighborhood safety, and working with property owners to prevent vacant homes from becoming havens for criminal activity,” according to the public safety department statement. “It’s definitely a partnership between the police and community,” said Park Sgt. Stephen Thiel. “We can’t do it alone.”



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POINTES OF VIEW

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Happy 250th!

(Editor's note: While we have run the Declaration of Independence in this space in prior years on or around the Fourth of July, it is especially poignant this year as Saturday marks the 250th anniversary of its adoption by the Continental Congress.)

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance. He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation.

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us. For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States. For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world.

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent. For depriving us in many cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury. For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences. For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies.

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments. For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble

terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren.

We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity.

We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

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.

Consider this

To the Editor:

I am writing to you because a requirement for my Boy Scout merit badge says I have to email an editor of my local newspaper about a problem that needs to be fixed so I am emailing you to express how we can make Grosse Pointe Woods even better for everyone who lives here. Lake Front Park is one of the best spots in our community, but the walking paths could really use some upgrades.

Right now, many sections of the paths are cracked or uneven, which makes it hard for people pushing strollers, kids on scooters or older residents to walk safely. Adding smoother pavement and a few more benches along the trails would encourage more families to get outside and stay active.

WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

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Ellie Carter

GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST						
July 2 - 8						
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
98° 74°	95° 70°	88° 67°	88° 66°	88° 64°	84° 62°	84° 65°
Very Hot	Very Hot	Chance T-Storms	Chance T-Storms	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
0%	50%	30%	40%	20%	10%	10%
SUNRISE 6:00 am SUNSET 9:12 pm	SUNRISE 6:01 am SUNSET 9:12 pm	SUNRISE 6:02 am SUNSET 9:12 pm	SUNRISE 6:02 am SUNSET 9:12 pm	SUNRISE 6:03 am SUNSET 9:11 pm	SUNRISE 6:04 am SUNSET 9:11 pm	SUNRISE 6:05 am SUNSET 9:11 pm

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

I SAY By Jody McVeigh

Steps in the right direction



I’ve been a regular gym-goer for about 10 years now, though my fitness journey began closer to 30 years ago when I started bending and stretching my way through yoga DVDs

while enjoying the single life and apartment living. After getting married and buying a house, my workouts moved into the basement and I graduated from yoga to Pilates, then to workouts led by the likes of Denise Austin, Gunner Peterson and Jillian Michaels. I would slog through those fitness routines after working all day and barely had enough energy for much else. Then a friend — a very fit, muscular, con-

vincing friend — talked me into going to the gym with her. Every Sunday for about a year, she’d have me as her guest until one day I decided to get my own membership. After a couple of weeks, getting up at 5:30 a.m. to be there by 6 a.m. didn’t seem so bad. Three days a week lifting weights, plus weekends on the elliptical in my basement, seems like a decent amount of exercise, right? Lately I’ve been in a

rut. Always looking for new ideas to reinvigorate my routine, a friend suggested I ask ChatGPT what a person my age and fitness level should do to get in better shape (read: lose weight). So I decided to give AI a try. The answer? Walking. I’ve never paid attention to the amount of steps I get, but when AI told me I should be getting 7,000 to 10,000 steps a day, I was curious. With a desk job, what might my number

be? I bought a pedometer. And after a week, when my average daily step count lingered around 2,000 steps, I bought a walking pad. The plus: I can walk while watching TV. I got in a lot of my steps while watching Jamie Ding slaughter the competition on “Jeopardy!” The minuses: It’s kind of noisy. And it scares my cat. And, like my early fitness days, I barely have the energy for it after working all day. Even worse: I haven’t touched it since I accidentally broke my pedometer; it currently is collecting dust in my living room (I’ve stubbed a toe on it more than once). My resolve: I am determined to use it again. I am determined to get a new pedometer. I am determined to get to a point where 10,000 steps is nothing (unlike right now, when I struggle to hit the 7,000 mark)! I refuse to give up. Just ask my gym partner, who has been patiently training me for more than a year to manage my first unsisted pull-up. If nothing else, I am persistent.

YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1951

75 years ago this week

HIGH SCHOOL HIRES MICHIGAN NET STAR TO REPLACE SCHULTZ: For the third time in 15 years Grosse Pointe High School will have a new tennis coach when the netters take to the courts next spring in quest of their third straight Border Cities League title. Principal Mike Cleminson announced that William H. Mikulich, a University of Michigan graduate, had been hired and will take over classroom duties as well as the tennis reins come next September. **FARMS PLAN TO REBUILD BEACH PIER:** Farms officials are looking ahead to the not-too-distant day when it will be necessary to replace the present pier at the municipally owned beach park. The pier is now more than 25 years old. It has a wooden structure and has just about outlived its usefulness. The Farms officials are anxious to have all plans made before the day arrives when immediate

action is needed. **DRAFT TAKING TWO POINTERS:** Two more Pointe youth are among a contingent to be inducted into the Army from Draft Board 87. Carl Schweikart, Board Chairman, announced that the two being called up next from the Pointe are Robert Ricard and Elliott H. Burkhardt.

1976

50 years ago this week

P O P U L A T I O N REPORT IS DISPUTED: A recent Southeast Michigan Council of Governments study, which reported an average 6 percent drop in population, has met with skepticism and criticism from Pointe public officials. The administrators are worried that the figures may be used as a basis for reductions in federal revenue sharing allocations and doubt their validity. **C O N C E R N E D PARENTS MEET TO DISCUSS ACTIVITIES OF ‘FOREVER FAMILY’:** A meeting last week of parents concerned with the activities of a se-

crete religious group, which has been seeking converts in the Grosse Pointes, was marked by tension and confusion as participants exchanged bizarre and often conflicting stories about the sect. All of the guests at the gathering had children who had become involved with the “Forever Family,” (newly incorporated as the “Church of Bible Understanding”) at its Roslyn Road location, which members refer to as a “fellowship.” **GP PARK CITIZENS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER VACANT HOME:** A Balfour Road home which has been vacant for several years was the subject of a petition from 21 neighboring residents, who termed it a fire hazard and a danger to property values, to the Park Council at its regular meeting. An estimated half dozen citizens, who requested action for the demolition or renovation of the home, attended the session to see what could be done to ease their concerns.

2001

25 years ago this week

LIBRARY PLANS GROW BIGGER: Future plans for the Grosse

Pointe Public Library may be bigger than expected. A district-wide programming assessment commissioned by the Grosse Pointe Library Board shows that the usage and service needs of the district library system is 84,000-square-feet according to the architectural firm David Milling & Associates and the library planning firm of Library Planning Associates. That amount is 18,000-square-feet more than projected when the two firms did a needs assessment of the library system in 1988. **BOARD OFFERS KLEIN 5-YEAR CONTRACT:** Dr. Suzanne Klein has spent five years as the Grosse Pointe Public School System’s superintendent of schools and plans on sticking around for at least another five. In a vote of confidence, the

Grosse Pointe Board of Education ratified a five-year contract for Klein at its June 18 meeting.

2016

10 years ago this week

I C O N O G R A P H Y COMPLETED AT ASSUMPTION: Since February, iconographer Vlasis Tsotsonis and his assistants diligently worked to finish a project started in 2006 to restore the interior paintings at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. The work was deemed necessary after a 2002 fire. Monday, June 20, the church hosted a reception to thank Tsotsonis and display the completed second phase of restoration. **DELOOFS MAKE TIME TRIALS:** Two local swimmers, Ali

DeLoof and her younger sister, Gabrielle DeLoof, qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials set for June 26 to July 3 in Omaha, Neb. Ali, a recent graduate of the University of Michigan and member of Michigan’s women’s swimming and diving team, is ranked No. 1 on the team in the 100-free style with a time of 47.54 and No. 1 in the 100-backstroke with a time of 51.21. She also has the top time in the 50-free style at 21.99 and is No. 2 in the 100-butterfly with a time of 54.47. Gabby DeLoof, a junior on the Wolverines’ team, is ranked No. 11 in the 100-freestyle with a time of 50.98, third in the 200-freestyle with a time of 1:45.71, fourth in the 100-backstroke at 53.59 and second in the 200-backstroke at 1:54.25.

LETTER:

Continued from page 6A

Our parks are the heart of our city and fixing up these paths would be a great way to improve our community. I hope the city considers adding this to their upcoming park maintenance plans.

FRANKYOAKAM
Grosse Pointe Woods

Do better, Grosse Pointe

To the Editor:

On June 22, I attended part of the Grosse Pointe school board meeting with my son, a rising sixth grader, who is a Boy Scout. He was required to watch part of a public meeting for a merit badge. Another scout was there too. I last attended a school board meeting in 2019. In fact, I made a hard decision to withdraw my kids from GPPSS after decisions made in the 2019-20 school year. My family also made the hardest decision of our lives to move from the Pointes after leaving the schools for a lot of reasons, but the decisions the school board made were a primary

driver. There was no reason to pay high property taxes here if we attend Catholic schools. Watching the meeting, I thought of the adage that a frog dropped in boiling water jumps out, but a frog in water slowly heated gets cooked. I am also struck by how far Michigan has fallen economically and educationally in the last 10 years. We are now behind even Mississippi in education achievement, yet few recognize it here because we are all being cooked slowly together. Perhaps the same is true in GP? I was in public life for 15 years in GP. I was also a city attorney in Downriver communities. I have sat through hundreds of public meetings. I understand your schools are facing important issues, such as enrollment numbers, test scores, union negotiations, among others. The budget is the most important action a board takes in a year. It sets in place its policies through financial action. Yet, during the public hearing on the budget that, by law, must be approved by

July 1, the board majority decided that was time to amend the agenda to deal with Facebook posts from a month ago by the minority members who have no real power. Facebook posts! The board took over 45 minutes of the public’s time on this topic where insults were slung from opposing sides. When I was a city attorney in Allen Park during its emergency financial management era, the city council was in turmoil. At one meeting, two council members called each other names, threatened each other to a fight and had to be separated by the police. I was shocked. I had never seen such behavior by public officials in a public forum. What I saw at the school board was similar; it was also shocking. Worse, the two Scouts’ first exposure to live American democracy was not action for the taxpayers, debating serious issues about the budget, but 45 minutes arguing over social media posts. The Scouts were disturbed. GP can do better.

DANIEL GRANO
St. Clair Shores

Healthy Habits, Healthy Heart



By Basil Dudar, MD

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains the leading cause of death worldwide and continues to pose a major public health challenge. According to the World Health Organization, cardiovascular diseases account for approximately 18 million deaths annually, representing nearly one-third of all global deaths. In the United States, heart disease remains the leading cause of death for both men and women and is responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths each year. This significant burden of CVD highlights the importance of preventing risk factors before they develop. Prevention begins with addressing risk factors including hypertension, high cholesterol, obesity, diabetes, and tobacco use. Two of the most effective tools in this effort are maintaining a healthy diet and engaging in regular physical activity. A heart-healthy diet emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and lean sources of protein such as fish and poultry. Healthy fats, including those found in olive oil and nuts, are encouraged, while saturated fats, trans fats, excess sodium, and added sugars should be limited. These dietary habits support healthy blood pressure, cholesterol, body weight, and blood sugar, all of which are essential for long-term cardiovascular health. Regular physical activity is equally important. Current guidelines recommend at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise each week. Activities such as brisk walking, cycling, swimming, and other forms of aerobic exercise improve cardiovascular fitness, reduce blood pressure, enhance cholesterol profiles, and help maintain a healthy weight. At Corewell Health, prevention and early detection are central components of cardiovascular care. Advanced screening tools, including comprehensive lipid testing and coronary artery calcium scoring, can identify cardiovascular risk before symptoms develop. Our physicians partner with patients to develop personalized prevention plans based on their individual risk factors, helping identify opportunities to prevent heart disease before it develops. Combined with personalized guidance on nutrition, exercise, and lifestyle modification, these preventive efforts empower patients to take control of their cardiovascular health. By identifying risks early and promoting healthy habits, we can reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease, improve quality of life, and help more people live longer, healthier lives.

Dr. Dudar is a Board-Certified cardiologist and interventional cardiologist. He provides inpatient cardiovascular care at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital. His office is conveniently located on the hospital campus, at 16815 E. Jefferson Avenue, Suite #110 in Grosse Pointe, (313) 473-4690. He is currently accepting new patients.



Italian American chefs partner to open Angelo’s Fine Italian in The Village

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Current construction plans have Angelo’s Fine Italian set to open in the former City Kitchen space in The Village in September or October.

The restaurant and partnership was years in the making for Jared Gadbaw — chef and owner of Oak & Reel on East Grand Boulevard in Detroit — and Cory Barberio — executive chef and managing partner of the Shinola Hotel in downtown Detroit.

“We want to become a part of the community and become an asset to the community and provide a quality dining option,” Gadbaw said. “I know that the community believes they have plenty of Italian restaurants, but we want to make sure we’re delivering on a product that will make people want to come back to ours in particular.”

Angelo’s is named after Barberio’s 10-year-old son. “He’s a goof and he’s fun and



kind of like what we want the restaurant to be — fun and family-oriented,” Barberio said.

At its core, Angelo’s will be a family-oriented, Italian neighborhood restaurant serving classic Italian-American dishes, in addition to riffs on classics not found elsewhere.

“You can come in with your family on the weekend, have a more intimate date night in the back room, host a dinner party in the basement or bring clients,” Barberio said. “‘Something for everybody,’ is what we want it to be.”

The space will feature an open kitchen, the same bar area

which was a popular congregating place within City Kitchen and a private event space on the lower level that has its own bar and AV equipment and can accommodate around 40 people.

“It’ll have some of those familiar tones, but with upgrades we hope will complement and improve the overall experience,” Gadbaw said.

Though days and hours of operation have yet to be determined, the owners intend to start with being open for dinner hours six days a week.

As they settle, they hope to move into lunches, as well as



COURTESY PHOTO

Cory Barberio, left, and Jared Gadbaw

offer weekly specials.

“We really want to focus on hospitality and making sure people feel very warm and welcome,” Barberio said. “One of the biggest parts I’m excited about is to learn the neighbors and learn the regulars. You’ll see me in the dining room a lot.”

Now heavily into the construction phase, Angelo’s is being designed to tap into the

Italian-American culture on the eastside, as well as carry forward the longheld reputation of City Kitchen as a local staple.

“We know the importance of the community getting behind us and welcoming us,” Gadbaw said, “so hopefully we will earn their trust and become a staple like this place was prior to us.”

Angelo’s Fine Italian will be located at 16844 Kercheval.

Residential Electric powers growth with new location, apprenticeship program

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

From a one-man operation working out of a garage to a growing company with a new location and a state-accredited training program, Residential Electric has built its reputation across the east side of Michigan.

Owner Dan Pitters founded the business in 2015, driven by necessity and his drive to create something of his own. After spending years in the residential electrical field and taking on side jobs, he began to see a different kind of value in the work, one rooted in human connection.

“I found a passion for interacting with customers,” Pitters said. “In commercial work, you have no interaction. In residential, you see the project from start to finish and feel like you instantly helped someone, whether you light up a space or troubleshoot an issue they didn’t think they could figure out.”

That people-first mindset helped shape the foundation of the company,

even as it navigated the uncertainty that came with starting small. Over time, the demand grew and an unexpected moment in history accelerated that growth.

“COVID launched us,” Pitters said. “We were one of the few industries with the government stamp of approval as essential workers. That made us feel important.”

With more homeowners relying on in-home services, Residential Electric gained traction throughout the community. What began as a smaller company quickly evolved into a recognizable name among customers and peers.

“We were slowly infiltrating the industry in the area,” Pitters said. “Supply houses would hear about us coming out of nowhere. I’m a competitive person and I’m not satisfied until it’s all ours.”

That growth eventually required a larger physical presence, one that reflects both how far the company has come and where it is headed. The new Harper Avenue location marks a step forward, but also tells

the story of years of expansion.

“We began in my garage in St. Clair Shores,” Pitters said. “Then we moved into a rental and now we needed more space.”

Transforming the former Mickey Shorr building into a functional and welcoming office and warehouse took vision, but for Pitters, it was an opportunity to invest back into the business.

“All we had was four walls and a roof,” he said. “We put our love into it and made it our own.”

Today, the space serves as an office and warehouse, supporting its growing team. It also represents a shift in mindset, from early-on side money to long-term stability.

“It went from, ‘Wow, we’re making money, this is glorified side work,’ to, ‘This is real and sustainable,’” Pitters said.

As the company has expanded, so has its commitment to the people behind the work. Pitters emphasizes that investing in employees is just as important as growing the business itself.



“We love our employees,” he said. “We treat them with respect. We pay above scale, provide tools, sick days, vacation days. It’s a burden on the company, but you have happy workers that produce important work.”

That philosophy has extended into one of the company’s newest initiatives, as they have announced a state-accredited apprenticeship program designed to develop the next generation of electricians. Rather than waiting for experienced workers to appear, Pitters chose to build talent from the ground up.

“We couldn’t find qualified people,” Pitters said. “So we said, ‘We’ll create them.’”

The program combines structured education with hands-on experience, giving apprentices the opportunity to learn in real-world environments while building foundational knowledge.

“You can be book smart,

but when you’re faced with it in real life, it’s different,” Pitters said. “We put it in front of them, let them feel the material and work through that.”

Participants complete a state-approved curriculum online and attend in-person sessions twice a month, guided by instructors and industry professionals. Over the course of four years, 8,000 hours of work experience and 588 hours of learning, apprentices develop the technical skills and confidence needed to succeed.

“You go from making \$29 to \$30 an hour as an apprentice to \$45 overnight all because you have that stamp of approval,” Pitters said.

Pitters hopes to connect directly with local students and introduce them to career paths that may not always be emphasized in traditional education settings. By partnering with schools and outreach programs, he wants to highlight the value of

skilled trades at an earlier age.

“Trades were neglected for a long time,” Pitters said. “Now kids are realizing there’s another option.”

For those considering the field, Pitters said the most important qualities are simple, but essential, to work in electricity. You must be reliable, put in the effort and control your attitude.

“You can control your attitude, attendance and your care,” Pitters said. “We want people who aren’t afraid to get dirty.”

He believes the work offers something deeper, a sense of accomplishment that comes from solving problems and making a visible impact every day.

“There’s a sense of pride,” Pitters said. “You’re making a difference, fixing things, getting instant gratification. It’s something to be proud of and demand is only increasing.”

With a growing team, new office space and long-term investment in training future electricians, Residential Electric is continuing to build on its growth. For Pitters, the vision is clear to have steady growth, strong relationships and a lasting presence in the community.

“We want to dominate the industry in a positive way and be a household name,” Pitters said. “It happens over time with trust and brand recognition. We want to take over the metro Detroit area.”

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BoE passes 2026-27 FY budget

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education passed the district’s 2026-27 fiscal year budget 4-1 at its meeting Monday, June 22.

President Clint Derringer, Vice President Colleen Worden, Treasurer Tim Klepp and Secretary Valarie St. John voted in favor. Trustee Ginny Jeup voted against, with Trustees Laura Hull and Sean Cotton absent.

Jeup said she voted

no because the budget did not take into account costs associated with new union contracts (see related story, below).

“Since the board will not revise the budget to reflect these contracts, I can’t vote for this because it is not reflective of the truth,” she said.

Projected revenues are \$101.3 million, with projected expenditures of \$101.2 million, absent costs associated with the aforementioned bargaining agreements.

The budget does have a placeholder indicating every 1 percent raise for

all employees would equate to an additional \$780,000 in spending.

Another placeholder shows the district would have an additional \$359,850 in revenue if it achieves its goal of enrolling 30 students in its new virtual school and another \$406,440 if 36 students enroll in the expanded Great Start preschool program.

“I appreciate the addition of the placeholders because it’s simply better practice to have known or likely known expenditures accounted for,” Klepp said. “We know there will be more expenditures associated

with salaries.”

Jeup and Klepp requested the additional information be included during a first reading of the budget earlier in June.

CFO Andrea Agrusa said such changes would be addressed in the first budget amendment in December.

Non-homestead property values are up \$632.1 million, or 3 percent, over the 2025-26 fiscal year, while total taxable value of all property in the district stands at \$3.3 billion.

The operating millage on non-homestead property increases from

14.47 mills to 14.95. A mill is \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 in taxable value. Commercial personal property, essentially a tax on equipment, increases from 2.47 mills to 2.95.

The hold harmless millage drops from 3.5 mills to 3, and the sinking fund millage drops from 2.96 to 2.93. The bond debt millage remains at 3.14.

Revenue assumptions are based on the loss of 30 full-time equivalent students, which would put enrollment for the coming school year at 6,334.

It is unknown what

the per-pupil state aid amount will be, but proposed budgets from the state House, state Senate and governor’s office all have a \$250 increase. That would bring GPPSS up to \$11,995 per student in state aid.

Under capital projects, the district expects to spend \$811,000 from the 2019 sinking fund and \$706,000 from the 2021 bond, both of which would be closed out during the year. Another \$11 million will be spent from the 2024 sinking fund and \$20 million from the 2025 bond.

BoE approves three union contracts

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education approved contracts with three of its bargaining units at its meeting Monday, June 22.

All passed 5-0, with Trustees Laura Hull and Sean Cotton absent.

The unions involved are the Grosse Pointe Educational Plant Association (maintenance) and Grosse Pointe Educational Office Association.

All are four-year agreements.

“It’s historic to have four-year contracts with our employees, so the fact we were able to get this done is amazing,” Acting Superintendent Roy Bishop said. “We wanted to extend the conversation beyond the two-year model to see how we can give our employees something to look forward to down the line and not only attract people but keep them.”

Bishop added the contracts show progress toward the district’s new strategic plan, one goal of which is to “attract and retain the best personnel.”

Moussa Hamka, assistant superintendent for human resources, noted one of the main issues in the new contracts is how leave time is structured and accumulated.

“We were very restricting (in the past) to the point of not being reflective of the essence of who we wanted to be as an organization,” he said. “We wanted to do what’s right for our employees and what’s right for our organization to bring consistency.”

The new contracts cover things such as maternity and paternity leave, adoption and FMLA issues.

“We clarified things

within the contracts and between groups as well so that everyone felt they were being treated in a similar fashion,” he added.

Each group will receive 3 percent raises each year, plus step increases for those eligible, while paraprofessionals also will get hourly longevity raises after their fifth year of employment starting at 55 cents and topping out at \$2.30 after 25 years.

The yearly budget impact is:

GPEPA

- ◆ Year 1: \$131,000,
- ◆ Year 2: \$231,000,
- ◆ Year 3: \$207,000 and
- ◆ Year 4: \$194,000.

GPO

- ◆ Year 1: \$85,000,
- ◆ Year 2: \$108,000,
- ◆ Year 3: \$96,000 and
- ◆ Year 4: \$85,000.

GPP

- ◆ Year 1: \$121,000,
- ◆ Year 2: \$129,000,
- ◆ Year 3: \$129,000 and
- ◆ Year 4: \$124,000.

The district continues to negotiate with the Grosse Pointe Education Association. Its current two-year contract expires Aug. 30.

It included 2 percent raises each year and step increases. A step increase equates to about a 4 percent pay boost. The deal also included three fewer

teacher work days the past two academic years. Each day equals 0.5 percent of salary, so that was a 1.5 percent in-kind pay raise each year.

“The GPEA congratulates our association colleagues and the district on their respective tentative agreements,” GPEA Co-President Taryn Lougher said in a statement. “We are committed to reaching an agreement with the district that meets our shared goal of ensuring our district and students shine by recruiting and retaining the best professional staff. Hopefully we can come to an agreement soon.”

GPFPE secures Pierce obstacle course additional funding

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education has received a \$15,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan in support of a new outdoor obstacle course at Pierce Middle School.

The course will serve students by providing developmentally appropriate opportunities for physical activity that builds fitness, resilience, teamwork and healthy habits.

Designed to support both curriculum-aligned instruction and unstructured play, the course will give physical education teachers new tools while offering students a space to challenge themselves, collaborate with peers and develop confidence through movement.

“We are incredibly grateful for this investment in our students and our schools,” Cynthia Sohn, president of GPFPE, said in a press release. “This obstacle course will give students at Pierce and the broader community a dynamic space to move, grow and thrive, and it reflects exactly the kind of community-supported, student-centered opportunity that the GPFPE was created to champion.”

GPFPE previously gave the district \$10,000 for the project, while the Grosse Pointe Foundation for STEAAM Support gave \$20,000. The entire

project cost is \$69,772.50, with \$24,772.50 coming from the school’s PTO. The plan is to have it completed by the time classes resume in September.

The Wilson Legacy Funds, which the Community Foundation manages, focus on regional caregiving, design and access to public spaces, youth sports and the Grosse Pointe communities. It established the funds to support issues that were important to the late Ralph C. Wilson Jr., a Detroit native and former Grosse Pointe Shores resident who was one of the founding members of the American Football League and the founder and longtime owner of the Buffalo Bills.

—Ted O'Neil

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Continued from page 1A

Woods, is a lecturer in technical communication in the college of engineering at the University of Michigan. She and Fitzpatrick both served on the GPPSS Bond Advisory Committee last year.

The deadline to file for the Nov. 3 election is 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 21. Paperwork can be obtained at the Grosse Pointe Park Clerk’s office. Candidates can circulate nominating petitions and gather between 40 and 100 signatures of regis-

tered voters within GPPSS or pay a nonrefundable \$100 filing fee. They also must file an affidavit of identity.

Candidates have until 4

p.m. Friday, July 24, to withdraw their nomination. Write-in candidates have until 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, to file a declaration of intent.

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Mom, daughter have ‘Brilliant’ Broadway debut

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

“Law & Order: SVU” star Mariska Hargitay turned an ordinary trip to New York into an unforgettable adventure for Karen and Stephanie Westrick.

The mother and daughter from Grosse Pointe Woods not only got to see Hargitay star in a Broadway performance of “Every Brilliant Thing,” but they also got in on the act, literally.

The show debuted on Broadway earlier this year with Daniel Radcliffe in the lead role, but when Stephanie Westrick learned Hargitay was taking the lead, she didn’t think twice about booking her seat.

“I’m really into ‘Law & Order: SVU’ and into Mariska Hargitay as a human being,” she said. “I really admire her intelligence and her advocacy work.”

The play features a single lead working in collaboration with handpicked audience members. The main character, Narrator, over the course of many years creates a list of things worth living for as a response to low points in their life.

The production’s theme of mental health was a draw, Stephanie Westrick said, as she recently earned undergraduate degrees in film and psychology from the University of Michigan. She’ll start grad school this fall at Central Michigan University, where she’ll work toward a master’s degree in school psychology.

“It’s a one-woman show that follows Narrator throughout her life, from age 7 to 37,” Stephanie Westrick explained. “After Narrator’s mother’s first suicide attempt, she begins to make a list of every little thing that makes life worth living.”

The list starts with ice cream, but as Narrator ages and faces challenges throughout the journey, the list expands, maturing with the character.

“The list changes throughout her life,” Karen Westrick said. “She used it to help her mom cope with depression. It’s meant for her mom, but it really helped her character, too. At the end, the list is 1 million things.”

Seeing the play was the sole purpose of their visit to New York. It was Karen Westrick’s first time there, while her daughter visited the Big Apple during her senior year at Grosse Pointe North High School.

“It was a busy trip — one night and two days,” Karen Westrick said. “We hoofed our way around the streets of New York.”

Though they did their best to see the sights before the June 3 theatre-in-the-round performance, Stephanie Westrick made sure they got to the Hudson Theatre early. Even though they had two of a limited number of onstage seats, they wanted to be



Left, Stephanie Westrick holds her playbill and “Brilliant Thing No. 24.” Right, Karen and Stephanie Westrick stand in the lobby of Hudson Theatre, where hundreds of Post-it notes, each containing a “brilliant thing” written by people associated with the production, hang from the ceiling.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN WESTRICK

among the first to arrive.

“I knew there was an element of audience participation,” Stephanie Westrick said.

Added her mother, “Everybody else knew that same thing: We were all lined up on the street waiting to get in.”

As it turns out, their timing was perfect.

Each show involves two tiers of audience interaction. Before each performance, the lead actor casts audience members, handing out numbered cards that each have a “brilliant thing” written on them.

“When we got inside, Mariska Hargitay and a couple stage managers were on stage ... interacting with the audience before the play started,” Karen Westrick recalled. “Mariska Hargitay came over to Stephanie and said she needed someone to read this card. She said, ‘This looks like you’ and handed her Brilliant Thing No. 24.”

It was one of several cards doled out to audience members, so when Narrator called out the number, the person holding the corresponding card shouted what was written on it. Stephanie Westrick’s Brilliant Thing No. 24 was pasta with butter and cheese.

But the Westricks’ interaction didn’t end there. For each performance, five audience members are selected for significant roles, including that of Mrs. Patterson, a school guidance counselor.

“I didn’t know what all the roles were, but I knew one of them was a school counselor,” Stephanie Westrick said. “I told her, ‘You look like a school counselor; they’re going to pick you.’”

“Ten minutes later, they came and asked if anyone was interested in playing a

role,” said Karen Westrick, who did end up with the role of Mrs. Patterson.

“Five people were picked to play different characters,” she added. “The first couple, she told them what to say. When it came to me, it was different. ... (I had to) follow her lead; it’s not scripted.”

“The first thing they did with Mrs. Patterson was, Mariska Hargitay, as a 7-year-old, comes in to see the counselor,” she continued. “She says, ‘She took off her shoe,’ so I took off my shoe. Then she says, ‘She took off her sock.’ I wasn’t wearing socks, but the sound crew threw one on stage ... for me to use as a sock puppet.”

While the performance was Karen Westrick’s first time onstage, Stephanie Westrick is no stranger to the spotlight. Among her theater credits is performing in North’s production of “High School Musical.”

They picked a great night to attend “Every Brilliant Thing,” as Hargitay tends to select familiar faces to participate in the show.

“I’m glad we went on a night when there were no famous people there,” Stephanie Westrick said.

Added Karen Westrick, “She picks her friends who come see her. Katie Couric was picked one night.”

Another timing bonus came by way of the NBA championship schedule.

“We were fortunate the New York Knicks were playing away that night,” Karen Westrick said. “Mariska Hargitay is a huge Knicks fan. The next time she performed, she told the audience she couldn’t sign autographs afterward, then as soon as the play was over she ran 10 blocks to Madison Square Garden and to her seat.”



Above, Mariska Hargitay, right, thanks Karen Westrick for participating in the performance. Below, Stephanie Westrick anticipates the show’s opening.



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Exhibition could be end of an era

Muccioli Studio Gallery hosts photography exhibit

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Diana Muccioli doesn't remember much about her great-grandmother, Anna Muccioli, but the woman was her role model for the sheer amount of art she created during her lifetime.

"I remember going to her house every Sunday for family dinner," Muccioli said. "I remember her house; her basement was full of her art. Her gallery was full of her art, too."

That gallery — Muccioli Studio Gallery — will host an exhibition curated by Muccioli and three other recent Wayne State University graduates — Jake Leslie, Zora Engalan and Adam Scott — to champion new artists and celebrate the building's history.

"Between Now and Then: Times of Transition" opens with a reception from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, July 10, and will run for three weeks. It will feature photography from 17 up-and-coming artists.

"We had an open call for art," Muccioli said. "One of my biggest dreams is to do an exhibition. My whole life we've had this building and I've been artsy my whole life."

With permission from her grandfather to host an exhibition in the space, Muccioli said, "It all became so real, so quick."

The gallery, located in the Alexander Chapoton House at 511 Beaubien in Detroit, has been in the family since 1979, when Anna Muccioli purchased the structure. Prior to moving to the space, Muccioli Studio Gallery was located at 85 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"She bought it, fixed it up and got it recognized as a historical building," Muccioli said. "She



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DIANA MUCCIOLI

Above, Muccioli's "The Light Left Behind"
Right, Muccioli's "Departed"
Below, a piece by Jake Leslie



worked very hard to get that designation."

The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places and became a Michigan State Historic Site in 1980, and was added as a City of Detroit Historic District in 1986.

For decades, the gallery hosted artists' exhibitions, then welcomed small shops to its space. Since Anna Muccioli died in 2008, "the building was used here and there, but there were not a ton of exhibitions," Muccioli said. "This will be the first one in a really long time and I'm excited to do it."

Two large rooms will showcase photography, while a third space will feature Muccioli's great-grandmother's paintings and sculptures.

Muccioli also will feature some of her own pieces at the show, paying homage to her family history.

"I really pulled from the fact this could be the last exhibition at the family gallery because the building is up for sale," she said. "I don't know if it will stay a gallery. I don't know what's next. My work centers on the gallery of my great-grandmother; it's the last thing I



have of hers.

"My project is about her," she continued. "They're photos I shot of her building. And she owned another building ... that she wanted to turn into a big gallery with an apartment in the back and a studio in the back. I have an image of that building, too. It's a lot about the unknown — what's left of

theme from the fact we're all graduating," Muccioli said of her fellow curators, "so it's about transitioning to a new part of life. The theme is about transformations individually. We're all at pivotal points in our lives: the now, the what's next, the transition to the future, moving through the structure of the familiar to the uncertainty of change."

The exhibition, presented in partnership with the Nova 24 Photo and Film Festival, is the first big project the friends have curated. Knowing how hard it is for artists to have their work showcased, they hosted a wide-open call for art.

"We tried to get as many artists from around Detroit as we could," she said. "We wanted it to feel like everyone could enter."

"These are all up-and-coming artists, so hopefully they'll sell some art," she added. "That's the biggest goal, to sell the work. It's a cool legacy as well. I'm really excited to host this."

While Muccioli is open to curating more exhibitions, she has a different plan in mind for her immediate future.

"My goal is to go to Italy

for grad school for design," she said, noting she earned degrees in industrial design and photography from Wayne State.

She also plans to get a Master of Fine Arts degree in photography with the goal of becoming a photography professor.

"I swam for Wayne State, so I will coach while pursuing my MFA," she said.

In the meantime, she teaches private lessons around Grosse Pointe.



A piece by Zora Engalan



A piece by Adam Scott



This piece by Zora Engalan was used for the exhibition's flyer.

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her and her space, how it's changed over the years."

That evolution follows the exhibition's theme, "Between Now and Then: Times of Transition."

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Heavy hitters on tap for America 250 event

Michigan Supreme Court Justice Megan Cavanagh, former U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts and Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Chris Trebilcock will stop at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, as part of the “Justice in Motion” tour.

In the days following America’s 250th birthday, a group of retired judges, lawyers and civic leaders will board a bus in Pittsburgh and embark on a weeklong journey through diverse communities, meeting Americans where they are to talk about why the rule of law matters to the American way of life.

The bus will stop in the Farms from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, July 10. Registration is required by 10 a.m. July 10.

“The people’s trust is the foundation of an effective judiciary,” Cavanagh said. “We build that trust by being fair, accessible, trans-

parent and engaged with local communities. This forum is a perfect opportunity to connect with the public, strengthen understanding of the role courts play in our daily lives and make clear that our commitment to protecting the basic principles of freedom, truth, equality and justice is just as strong today as 250 years ago when our nation was founded.”

“Most people will never spend time inside a federal courtroom, but the courts affect their lives every day,” Roberts said. “They help protect our rights, resolve disputes fairly and ensure that the law applies equally to everyone. One reason I am participating in ‘Justice in Motion’ is because I believe judges should occasionally step outside the courthouse and engage directly with the communities they serve. As we mark our nation’s 250th anniversary, this is an opportunity to listen, answer questions and have meaningful

conversations about the institutions that help sustain our democracy.”

“The rule of law isn’t something that exists only in courtrooms,” Trebilcock said. “It’s part of our everyday lives. It helps families resolve disputes, gives businesses confidence to invest and grow and ensures that people can count on fair treatment under the law. As we celebrate America’s 250th anniversary, we must remember that our system of self-government depends on us all. It depends on citizens understanding and trusting the institutions that serve them. That trust is earned through openness, accountability and a shared commitment to the rule of law.”

The stop is being presented by Keep Our Republic and Democracy Rising Collaborative, in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe.

Register at grossepointe.librarycalendar.com

Great things happening at Chandler Park with Conservancy

Alex Allen III, president and CEO of the Chandler Park Conservancy, spoke to the Lakeshore Optimist Club about how the conservancy has transformed Chandler Park into a unique resource for the community. The Chandler Park Conservancy is a non-profit corporation, formed in 2014 by the Chandler Park Promise Coalition, a project of the Eastside Community Network. Its mission is to develop exceptional educational, recreational and conservation opportunities at Chandler Park for youth and people of all ages.

The vision of the conservancy is a revitalized Chandler Park, which is one of only four 200-plus-acre regional parks in the city of Detroit. The conservancy is working to develop a multi-facility “urban conservation campus,” the only one of its kind in the state of Michigan.

The facilities complement the existing Chandler Park Golf Course and Wayne County Family Aquatic Center. The campus includes spectacular outdoor sports venues for all ages and genders, community outing venues, community gardens and wetlands, a skatepark, self-contained stormwater management system, walking path and special installations to convert Chandler Park as a “living lab” for environmental and ecology-related education for school-age children and the community.

Allen said they are focusing on a wide range of programming to provide fun and educational



COURTESY PHOTO

Chandler Park Conservancy President and CEO Alex Allen III, left, and Lakeshore Optimist Club President Steve Licari.

opportunities for everyone. Some examples for summer include pickleball, summer youth tennis, a community arts music festival, mental health resource fair, Eastern Market at the Park offering free produce, cheer and dance camp and movie night. For more information, visit chandlerparkconservancy.org/

Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to

attend. Visit gpoptimists.com for monthly locations, dates and times and follow the club on Facebook.

Correction

The article “First-time author getting noticed with ‘The Beauty of Individual Things,’” published in the June 25 Grosse Pointe News, should have said the July 23 launch party is a private event.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

— Central branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

- ◆ Drop-In Afternoon Kids’ Craft, 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 8.
- ◆ Storytime, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, July 9.
- ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, July 9.
- ◆ Meet Up & Make — Sculpting and More, 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 9.
- ◆ RJ Spangler jazz concert, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 9.
- ◆ Commemorating America 250 — Keep our Republic, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, July 10.

— Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park

- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 7.
- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, July 7.
- ◆ Rock On! With the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 8.
- ◆ Art in Bloom: Gardens Inspired by Masterpieces (Georgia O’Keeffe), 2 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, July 9.
- ◆ Silent Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 9.
- ◆ Yoga Storytime, 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 11.

— Woods branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

- ◆ Teen Movie Afternoon: “You, Me and Tuscan,” 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 7.
- ◆ Storytime, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 8.
- ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 8.
- ◆ Playtime Pop-Ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, July 9.
- ◆ Library Bigs & Littles, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, July 11.
- ◆ Teen Tabletop Game Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 11.

Ford House

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

- ◆ Shoreline Restoration Project Ribbon Cutting, 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, July 7.
- ◆ Storytime: “Through the Fairy Door,” 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays in July.
- ◆ Food Tales: “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs,” 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 9.
- ◆ Outdoor Summer Concert: Saved by the 90s, 7 p.m. Friday, July 10. Admission prices vary.
- ◆ Art Camp, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Monday, July 13, to Friday, July 17. Cost for Friends age 3 to 17 is \$225. Cost for the public, ages 3 to 17, is \$275.
- ◆ Food Tales: “Every Night is Pizza Night,” 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 16.
- ◆ Food Tales: “Stone Soup,” 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 23.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday, July 7, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, July 12, St. Margaret Catholic Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.
- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.
- ◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, July 17, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, July 19, Ray Laethem Buick, 17677 Mack, Detroit.

Register at redcross-blood.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe.

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

- ◆ Declaration of Independence Live Reading & Ice Cream Social, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 8.
- ◆ War Memorial History Tour, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 9.
- ◆ VetConnect Seminar Series: Trip to Selfridge Military Air Museum, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 14.
- ◆ SummerFest Concert: Rhythm Society Orchestra, 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 15.
- ◆ Awaken Your Senses: A Morning of Yin Yoga & Sound Bath, 9 to 10:15 a.m. Sunday, July 19. Cost is \$35.
- ◆ SummerFest Movie: “The Sandlot,” 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 22.
- ◆ Picnic & Play by the Lake, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, July 23.
- ◆ The Vintage Market at The War Memorial, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 26.

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 familycenter-helps.org or RSVP to register@familycenter-helps.org.

- ◆ Teddy Bear Picnic, 11 a.m. Friday, July 10, for ages 18 months and older. This structured class led by Danielle Mitchelson includes a snack. Toddlers and their parents or caregivers should bring water and towel to sit on, along with a stuffed animal.

Harper Woods Library

The Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper, Harper Woods, hosts Gentle Evening Yoga from 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays, July 13 and 27, Aug. 10 and 24, and Sept. 21. Classes are taught by Yemisi

Odetoyinbo. Registration is encouraged.

The Friends of the Harper Woods Library hosts A Novel Evening at the Library, 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 17, at 19601 Harper, Harper Woods. The fundraiser includes food, drinks, live jazz and more. Proceeds benefit the Friends’ efforts to support the library.

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.

- ◆ Drums Alive, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Thursdays in July, with instructor Rosa Hunter.
- ◆ Morning Mingle & Learn: Vein Health, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 15.
- ◆ Lunch & Learn: Energy Smart Seniors, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, July 16. Cost is \$10.
- ◆ Field Trip: Canal Days, Grand Rapids, Ohio, 7:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Thursday, July 16. Cost is \$97 per person and includes transportation, lunch and a canal boat ride.
- ◆ Elder Fraud Town Hall, 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 21.
- ◆ Out To Lunch Bunch: New York Deli, noon to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 22.
- ◆ UFOs Over Michigan, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 23.
- ◆ Shredding at The Helm, 11 a.m. to noon Thursday, July 23.
- ◆ Me & My Grand: Apron Art Party, 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, July 24. Cost is \$15 per adult, free for children.
- ◆ Jazzy Patio Party, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, with entertainment by Gwen and Charles Scales. Cost is \$25 and includes dinner.
- ◆ Friday Lunch & A Movie, noon Friday, July 31. “Eleanor the Great” will be shown. Cost is \$10.
- ◆ 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.

GPAA

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

- ◆ Independent Painting Study with Liz Frankland, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in July.
- ◆ Plein Air with Donald Cronkhite, 10

See EVENTS, page 8B

WE ARE FAMILY

Trace your own history while celebrating America’s

By Grosse Pointe News Staff

Millions of Americans will spend some time this year commemorating the start of United States history. The U.S. turns 250 in July 2026, and the summer figures to be an especially celebratory time across the 50 states.

As Americans engage with stories of yesteryear, they might be compelled to learn more about their personal history as well. Genealogy has become an accessible and popular pastime. The National Archives offers these tips to anyone looking to do some digging into their family past.

Start with yourself

Your own personal details will serve as a starting point as you work toward more unknown facets of your family tree. After you note all of your own details, learn and document all you can about your parents and then do the same in relation to your grandparents.

Emphasize four vital components

Names, dates, places, and relationships are the tools of the family researcher. That’s because these nuggets of information have long been used to trace people in public records.

Peruse any existing family archives

Many families have kept their own archives over the years, even if that record-keeping was not widely known within a family. A relative might have kept various types of documents that help to paint a picture of your genealogy. Ask around in the family to see if anyone has kept records, which might include:

- Newspaper clippings
- Letters
- Diaries
- Photographs/albums
- Scrapbooks

Let others know

Inform family members near and far that you’re working on a genealogy project. A relative might have beaten you to it, and that person could have lots of valuable information and documents to share. Others might be able to point you toward a relative who has become the unofficial family historian. In addition, cousins, aunts and uncles might have records from their own immediate families, which can help you as you conduct your own research. Don’t forget to branch out to in-laws for a complete family tree.

Interview older relatives

Talk to the eldest generation of your family as well as old family friends and neighbors. They will be a wealth of information and the closest living connection to your ancestors. Beyond dates and documents, they hold family stories and funny, interesting or heartwarming anecdotes that will give your family history personality and meaning and have insights that may not be captured anywhere else.

Make a little part of every family gathering about sharing the past — or plan a get-together around bringing photos and sharing old stories. Record or document everything you hear so you can sort it and document it later. Your interest will not only fill in the blanks of your historical past, but also create new family memories to cherish.

Access government records

State and county archives also can be wonderful resources. They hold records of the notable events and milestones that shape a family. Even local libraries might have records of your family, especially if they have been settled in the same area for a significant amount of time. The U.S. federal census dates all the way back to 1790, which makes it a potentially excellent source of information for your project.

Susan Skilton, of AncestryProGenealogists, recently blogged on Ancestry.com about tracing European families of the 1800s who immigrated to the U.S. Midwest. She had several tips for those searching for relatives of the past.

“It is always exciting to learn just where your overseas ancestors came from and even more thrilling to uncover the records from their birthplaces,” she said on her Ancestry.com blog.

To locate records for your overseas ancestors, she advises to start with two very important pieces of information. The relative’s birthdate and hometown or parish.

“With those at hand, you’re ready to start investigating records in the village of origin,” Skilton said.

It’s important to remember that ancestral surnames may have changed or been altered over the years. Many of the immigrants coming through Ellis Island into the United States adopted whatever was written on official registries, even though they might be misspelled or shortened versions of the original.

Names such as “Jakubowski” might be rewritten as Jacoby, due to language challenges and literacy of the time. Rubinawicz could become Rubin. Smythe became Smith and the like. So it’s wise to explore similar spelling variations and root names that may have had additional syllables that were altered or dropped.

Skilton recommends improving your likelihood of success by first reviewing multiple records in the U.S., and approaching name spellings with flexibility.

Creating a timeline of your immigrant ancestor’s life will map their steps in the United States. Working both forward and backward, seek the date of arrival as well as death and

burial dates. Identify the hometown or region. Even if that is not listed, Skilton urges to find other clues such as information about a sibling or a parent that aligns.

Ancestry.com is a great resource to plot residential locations over time. They have a robust collection of U.S. federal census records as well as numerous vital records. Other helpful resources are:

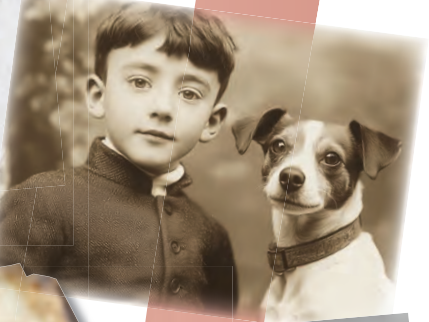
- Birth certificates
- Marriage certificates
- Divorce records
- Death notices
- Cemetery and burial records
- Headstone inscriptions
- Find a Grave (findagrave.com)
- Land records
- U.S. Homestead records
- Passports
- Military records
- Draft cards
- U.S. Civil War pension index
- Naturalization records
- Church directories/member lists
- Local histories
- Historical societies

Grosse Pointe natives can check into the Grosse Pointe Historical Society at gphistorical.org. Many other towns and cities have historical societies of their own.

For additional tips on tracing your ancestry, follow Skilton’s genealogy blog at sksgenealogy.blogspot.com or check out Ancestry.com

U.S. Americans are a unique blend of people from all over the world. Some can be traced back hundreds of years while others may have their investigation stopped at U.S. shores.

Whatever you find, it will be truly fascinating and uniquely yours.





Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

Inflation

Inflation is a hot topic these days. I have witnessed inflation, firsthand. When I was 15, I earned 50 cents an hour for helping my piano teacher teach a gaggle of youngsters the basics of music theory — scales and intervals and chords and rhythm and sight-reading. I helped her with two one-hour classes after school one afternoon each week and was thrilled to go home with \$1. Babysitters also earned 50 cents an hour back then, but if the sit

involved more than two or three children or if the kids were unruly, sometimes the parents coughed up a nice tip. “Oh, we’re the men of Texaco. We work from Maine to Mexico. There’s nothing like this Texaco of ours.” Every Tuesday night at 8 p.m., a quartet of animated men in Texaco uniforms sang this opening jingle for “The Texaco Star Theater,” a 1950s TV program starring Milton Berle. Gas was 30 cents a gallon

when I got my first driver’s license in 1956. And it included more than plain old gasoline. A uniformed attendant greeted me at the driver’s side window and asked how many gallons I wanted. Then he pumped the gas, checked the oil, washed the front windshield and the rear window, wiped off the headlights, checked the tires, took my cash and returned with the correct change. If my dashboard clock wasn’t working (it usually wasn’t) he’d fixed that, too. My first full-time job after college graduation was teaching English and social studies in a

Livonia junior high school. I needed a car to get to and from work. My dad was adamant. He did NOT purchase used cars. “We don’t want somebody else’s troubles,” he claimed. My first car was brand new. It cost \$2,000! My dad paid for it with cash and I paid him back, \$100 a month (he didn’t charge interest). It was a Plymouth Valiant. White. Blue interior. I loved that car. Last month I wrote a check for \$2,000 for a new pair of hearing aids. After I married and we both had steady jobs, we lived week to week on my husband’s salary. My paycheck went into a savings account that

earned interest. Within two years, we had enough for a down payment on a house. Our first house — three bedrooms, one and a half baths, separate two-car garage, long narrow lot — cost \$33,000. Today, \$33,000 might buy a new car. A three-bed, 1 ½-bath house in the same neighborhood would go for at least \$370,000 today. (True. I Googled it.) When I was a pre-teen, Saturday afternoon movies at the local theater cost 15 cents and we could stay until dinner-time and watch everything over and over, again and again. We saw the main movie, several cartoons, a newsreel and a serial episode that left us wanting to return for sure next Saturday because the hero or heroine was left dangling on the edge of a cliff or was about to be mauled by a bear. The main attraction

was usually a western. The hero wore a 10-gallon hat and rode a white horse. A box of candy cost five cents. Back in the ’50s, if you were thirsty, you either searched for a drinking fountain or walked into any establishment — a drug store, a restaurant, a hardware store or an office building — and asked for a glass of water. You got it, free, right out of the faucet. Today, intelligent people fork over a dollar — or more — for bottled water that claims to be “pure” or “100 percent natural spring water” or “purified by reverse osmosis.” It has taken us thousands of years to figure out how to transport clean drinking water to individual taps in individual buildings. Instead of using it, we turn up our noses and BUY water in plastic bottles with screw-on caps. Talk about inflation!

The Helm offers learning, wellness, summer experiences throughout this month

Whether learning something new, focusing on wellness, creating memories with family or accessing helpful community resources, July at The Helm offers something for everyone to enjoy. Those looking to stay active and energized can join Drums Alive, which takes place 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Thursdays, July 9 to 30. This energetic evening class combines movement and rhythmic drumming routines designed to build strength, improve focus and create a fun, social fitness experience. July also includes opportuni-

ties to learn through engaging educational programs. Morning Mingle & Learn: Vein Health, taking place 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 15, features Jeffrey H. Miller, M.D., a triple-board-certified vein specialist, who will discuss common vein concerns and available treatment options. Attendees also may take advantage of complimentary leg ultrasounds following the presentation. Then from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, July 16, Lunch & Learn: Energy Smart Seniors will provide practical tips to

help participants improve energy efficiency and reduce electricity and natural gas costs while enjoying lunch and receiving a take-home efficiency kit. Cost is \$10 per person and supplies are limited. For families looking to create memories together, Me & My Grand: Apron Art Party from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, July 24, invites grandparents and grandchildren to design and paint personalized aprons while enjoying refreshments and taking home a goodie bag.

Cost is \$15 per adult; children attend free. Additional July offerings include UFOs Over Michigan from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 23, during which presenter Bill Konkolesky takes attendees on a fascinating journey through some of Michigan’s most intriguing and well-documented sightings and unexplained encounters. Community members also can take advantage of The Helm Community Shredding

Event from 11 a.m. to noon Thursday, July 23, offering secure on-site document destruction through ShredCorp’s “No Touch” process. Volunteers will be available to assist with unloading boxes and participants can witness the destruction process on-site. Registration is required for activities at The Helm. Visit helmlife.org or call (313) 882-9600 for registration details and additional information.

The Helm partners with U.S. Attorney’s Office to host elder fraud town hall

Older adults, caregivers and community members are invited to attend an upcoming elder fraud town hall hosted by the United States Attorney’s Office, in partnership with its law enforcement partners and The Helm. The program will take place 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 21, at The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms. Presented by Ryan A. Particka, assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Detroit and the district’s elder justice coordinator, the town hall will explore current fraud schemes targeting older adults, practical steps to reduce risk and available resources for those who believe they may have been affected. Particka serves on the Anti-Corruption Unit and focuses on the investigation and prosecution of large, multi-jurisdictional fraud schemes. Fraud targeting older adults continues to evolve, making awareness and education important tools in pre-

vention. This community program is designed to help attendees better understand common scams, recognize warning signs and know where to turn for sup-

port. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Registration is encouraged. To learn more or reserve your spot, visit helmlife.org or call



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 (showing, 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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ON LAKE SHORE DRIVE

Ever wonder what the suburban dream looked like in the 1920s?

Look no further than this original promotional brochure of *Lake Shore Drive Estates* printed by Arthur J. Scully, a prolific Grosse Pointe realtor and developer.

Interested in learning more about Arthur J. Scully and which homes he developed? Discover this, and more fun tidbits about the Pointes, by scanning the QR 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!

6B | OBITUARIES

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.

Alexandra Robertson Phillips

Alexandra Robertson Phillips, 65, died peacefully in early 2026, in Grosse Pointe, of natural causes.

Alexandra was born in 1960, to Gail and Elliott Phillips, and raised in Grosse Pointe Farms. She attended University Liggett School before graduating from Groton School in 1979. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1983 from Harvard College, where she continued her passion for rowing crew and pursued her passions for drama and the arts.

Alexandra started her career with the CIA and then spent time in retail management in Chicago for major luxury brands, including Tiffany & Co. and Bernardaud.

She was predeceased by her parents. She is survived by her brother, Hunter (Sally).

Alexandra will be remembered by all who knew her for her artistic style, quick wit, generosity and love for all living things. She nurtured her pets, gardens and local wildlife with commitment and care, and she volunteered for animal welfare organizations throughout her life. She was a loving daughter and loyal friend.

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

Roy Joseph Gaglio

Roy Joseph Gaglio, 87, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

Roy was born in 1938, in Detroit, to Jack and Rose (nee Siragusa) Gaglio. He was the oldest of three children.

After graduating from Denby High School in 1957, Roy attended the University of Detroit and earned a bachelor's degree in 1965. He met and married the love of his life, Marjorie (nee Reame) and together they raised four children in Grosse Pointe Park.

Roy started his career as a stockbroker at Kenower, MacArthur and Co., then worked with Olde and Co. He also was a proprietor of Le Clair Men's Wear located inside the General Motors Building (now Cadillac Place). Following his retirement in 1995, Roy worked part-time at the Jos. A. Bank store on Kercheval.

Roy was an avid golfer who belonged to the Detroit Golf Club for 24 years. He also participated in the Grosse Pointe Senior Men's Club. He once scored a hole-in-one at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head, S.C. Roy loved baseball throughout his entire life — as a high schooler, he played for the American Legion Team. He also coached Little League baseball for the U.S. Air Force and Red Legs teams, as well as the San Diego Padres team in the Babe Ruth

League. He continued to coach after his own children grew up. He also loved bowling and even appeared on the TV show, "Beat the Champ."

Roy will be remembered most for his love of family and delightful sense of humor. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Roy is survived by his wife of 66 years, Marjorie (nee Reame); children, Perry Gaglio (Anne Marie), Philip Gaglio (Lisa), Kathryn Tzetzso (Christopher) and Linda Cook; grandchildren, Nicole LaValley (Adam), Adam Gaglio (Kathleen), Alexander Tzetzso (Haley), Jennifer Tzetzso, Sophia Cook, Jack Cook and Lauren Cook; great-grandchildren, Thomas, Michael, Isabella, Henry, Nathaniel, Benjamin, Arthur and Emmaline; and sister, Annette Locricchio (Ben). He was predeceased by his parents; and brother, Benny (Nancy).

The family will visit with friends starting at 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 10, at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. A funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/3K6FsFQ.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Andrew Edward Amato

Andrew "Andy" Edward Amato, 96, died on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, 2026, in St. Clair Shores.

Andy was born Aug. 16, 1929, in Detroit, to Joseph and Josephine (nee Ferrante) Amato. Andy was the beloved husband of Sarah "Serafina" for 75 years. He was the loving father of Dan Amato (Bettina), Rick Amato (Sharon), Andrea Amato and Thomas Amato (JoMarie); and the proud and devoted grandfather of Danielle Amato (Matthew McCowan), Andrew Amato, Elise Amato (Eli Guttenbeil), Drew Amato (Patrina), Gabi Amato, Nicholas Amato, Melana Amato, Patrick Amato (the late Devon Reich) and Sean Amato. Andy was blessed and truly loved visiting with his great-grandchildren, Rocco, Olive, Thomas, Salvatore and Lillian. He was predeceased by his parents; dear brothers, Joe and Gasper; and beloved sister, Connie Meadlock (Bill).

Andy grew up in Detroit. He mastered the accordion from an early age and played his first gig at age 15, earning a whopping 25 cents per hour. He didn't look back and continued playing and performing his entire life.

Andy served his country in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1956. He played and performed with the 4th Army Band while sta-

tioned in San Antonio. After his military service, he continued his musical career by playing throughout the Detroit area. He was a proud member of the Detroit Federation of Musicians for more than 75 years. Andy was thrilled to have guest appearances with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, local TV shows, The Gaylords and Motown Records. During the 1980s and 1990s, he led the Gale & Rice musical group "The Singing Dolls," which performed throughout the Detroit area and nationally.

From 1960 to 1992, Andy operated Amato Music Store in Detroit, where he sold instruments, accessories and sheet music and taught musical lessons to hundreds of eager and appreciative students in the Eight Mile area.

Andy loved playing cards and going to the casino. He played baseball and basketball for St. Philip Catholic Central High School and loved playing pingpong. He was an avid fan of the Detroit Tigers and Lions. After retiring, Andy loved going to Kissimmee, Fla., where he, Sarah, their friends and family played cards and swam in the pool all day before catching the "early bird" specials. For many years, he led groups that visited casinos around the Midwest and organized card games at his senior center.

Services were held Friday, June 26, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Cynthia Lynn Van Elslander

Cynthia Lynn Van Elslander, 71, of Grosse Pointe Park, died Sunday, June 14, 2026.

Cynthia is survived by her children, Katherine C. "K.C." Van Elslander and Stephen Van Elslander; partner, Steven Plague; sisters, Diane Simpson (Lloyd) and Nancy Riegler (Jerry Thomas); and many loving stepchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 11, until her 11 a.m. funeral service at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot, Detroit.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Full Circle Foundation, 15401 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230, fullcirclefdn.org/product/support-full-circle-foundation/; or Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan, 30130 Harper, St. Clair Shores, MI 48082, wigs4kids.org/how-you-can-help/in-memory-donations.html.

Share a memory at temrowski.com.

Karen Ann Berschback

Karen Ann Berschback, 80, passed away peacefully Sunday, June 21, 2026, in the presence of her devoted husband,



Alexandra R. Phillips



Cynthia L. Van Elslander

James F. "Jim" Berschback.

Karen was born April 1, 1946, to James and Marian Miller, both now deceased. She met Jim, her high school sweetheart, in 1963. In 1968, they began 57 years of a truly memorable marriage.

Karen and Jim are the proud parents of three children, Bonnie Berschback-Moyer, James C. "Jay" Berschback (Jenny) and Michael Scott Berschback. She is also survived by their four remarkable grandchildren, Jenna, Benjamin, Lindsey and William. She also leaves behind her brother, James Faulds (Diane Klund) of Reno, Nev.; and sister, Katherine Baker (the late William) of Houston; as well as many friends, in-laws, nieces and nephews.

Despite struggling with multiple crippling afflictions over the past years, Karen enjoyed life to the fullest. Her world centered around her children and grandchildren. She thoroughly enjoyed splitting time between their lakeside home on Duck Lake in Interlochen, Mich., and their Grosse Pointe Woods house, close to family and friends. Her highlight of 2026 was the celebration of her and Jim's 80th birthdays in April. Some of her favorite things included traveling, shopping, gardening and enjoying an ice-filled glass of cold water.

A celebration of life is being planned for later this summer.

Memorial donations may be made in Karen's name to any charity or organization of the giver's choice.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Carol Jean Bendure

Carol Jean (nee Ruthven) Bendure, 77, passed away Saturday, June 27, 2026, shortly after her birthday.

Carol was born June 19, 1949. She was one of five generations of Grosse Pointers. As a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in elementary education, she devoted her early adulthood to the care of her daughters, Heather Bendure (Matt Martus) and Holly Bayster (Andy). She instilled in her children an early appreciation for justice, compassion and the



Roy Joseph Gaglio



Karen Ann Berschback

courage to stand up for what they believed in, and even brought her young daughters to marches and protests with her. In her later years, Carol became a community organizer and co-founded Pointes for Peace. She was also heavily involved in numerous local groups that aligned with her values and inspired positive change.

She dedicated her life to making the world a better place for her four grandchildren, Andrew Bayster, Auden Martus, Caroline Bayster and Alexander Bayster. Just as she had always shown up for the causes she believed in, she also showed up for her family. Carol adored being a grandmother and could be found in the audience at school concerts or on the sidelines of baseball and soccer fields.

She is survived by her sister, Barbara Morrow; siblings-in-law, Brian, Cindy, Bruce and Mary Ann Bendure; daughters, Heather Bendure (Matt Martus) and Holly Bayster (Andy); grandchildren, Andrew Bayster, Auden Martus, Caroline Bayster and Alexander Bayster; and her husband of 56 years and high school sweetheart, Mark Bendure. Carol was predeceased by her parents, Robert and Marilyn (nee Grewe) Ruthven; and brothers, Robert Neil Ruthven Jr. (Joya) and Douglas Ruthven (Janet).

A celebration of life is planned for later this summer.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Carol Bendure Peace and Justice Scholarship Fund, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230. Donations may also be made by emailing bendurescholarship@gmail.com.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Joann Margaret Kramer

Joann Margaret Kramer, 81, of St. Clair Shores, passed away Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

Joann was born Nov. 17, 1944, in Detroit, to Cornelius and Ruby (nee Leitch) Diehl, both now deceased. She is survived by her beloved husband of 59 years, Michael Kramer; loving children, Michael Kramer (Linda Nehasil), Mark Kramer (Michelle), Nancy Murlick (Mitchell) and Matt Kramer; loving



Andrew Edward Amato



Carol Jean Bendure



Joann Margaret Kramer

grandchildren, Megan Kuchta (Patrick), Lauren Kramer, Bradley Kramer, Nicholas Kramer (Allison), Margaret Kramer, Meredith Kramer, Madison Murlick, Mackenzie Murlick and Kayla Kramer; loving great-grandchildren, Viviane Kutcha and Aubrey Kutcha; brothers, Richard Diehl (the late Jacqueline), Thomas Diehl (Gina) and Jack Diehl (Ellen); and aunt, Margaret Matyn. She was predeceased by her loving father, Jack Diehl.

Joann was a proud business owner of a retail shop in Grosse Pointe that she ran with her husband, Mike, for 36 years. She liked to show support for her community by organizing various annual events, such as Taste of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe's Greatest Garage Sale. She also volunteered for Crime Stoppers and Pregnancy Aid. Joann was a cherished matriarch who loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also enjoyed baking and cooking and was an avid reader.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, with a vigil service at 7 p.m. at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. She will lie in state from 9:30 a.m. until a 10 a.m. funeral Mass Thursday, July 2, at St. Lucy Catholic Church, 23401 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the St. Lucy Food Pantry, 23401 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080, stlucychurch.com/st-lucy-food-pantry; or the Henry Ford Van Elslander Cancer Center, 19229 Mack, Ste. 28, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, henryford.com/development/make-a-gift.

Arrangements entrusted to A.H. Peters Funeral Home.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

8B | CHURCHES

St. Paul hosts third annual Walking with Moms outreach retreat

St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church recently hosted the third annual Walking with Moms, an outreach retreat hosted in collaboration with neighboring parishes. “We had a group of 25 moms attend and many brought their children to participate in this special day,” said Tricia Kesteloot, director of evangelical charity at St. Paul. “The retreat provided an opportunity for prayer, inspirational speakers, art activities, a

luncheon, resources and self-care packages for the moms. Moms were provided with childcare during the retreat for their children up to age 10. Children participated in their own luncheon and day of crafts, games, outdoor play and story-time activities. They went home with the crafts and a ‘little library’ bag of books from the retreat, along with a backpack full of school supplies for the new school year.”

The event was hosted in response to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops and the Archdiocese of Detroit’s Walking with Moms in Need initiatives, Kesteloot said. Nearly 50 volunteers from neighboring parishes participated to ensure the retreat — cochaired by Kesteloot, Kelly Woolums and Carla Schultz — was a meaningful experience for the women and their children.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, each child was sent home with a bag of books, as well as a craft and school supplies. Below, a volunteer helps children through a craft project.



Crafts were available for adults, as well as children during the event.



The value of a shade tree

By Suzy Berschback
Guest Writer

Every year many mature shade trees disappear. Some succumb to age, disease, storms or development. Others are removed simply because they drop leaves, block sunlight or require maintenance. Too often, a magnificent 100- to 120-foot shade tree is replaced with a small 20- to 30-foot ornamental tree — or not replaced at all. The loss is far greater than most people realize. A 120-foot shade tree is not equivalent to a newly planted ornamental flowering tree. Large shade trees provide exponentially greater benefits than smaller trees. A mature oak or maple can intercept thousands of gallons of rainwater annually, reducing stormwater runoff that otherwise would flow into our streets, storm sewers and Lake St. Clair. Their extensive root systems stabilize soil and help prevent erosion. Their broad canopies also cool our neighborhoods. During summer heatwaves, temperatures beneath mature shade trees can be 10 to 20

degrees cooler than exposed pavement. This natural cooling reduces air conditioning use, lowers energy bills and helps protect vulnerable residents from dangerous heat. A mature tree can remove hundreds of pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year while storing many tons of carbon accumulated over decades. By contrast, a newly planted ornamental tree may take generations to provide even a fraction of those climate benefits. Southeast Michigan is experiencing more intense rainstorms, hotter summers and greater weather extremes than previous generations. Ironically, one of the most effective tools for helping communities adapt is already growing in our front yards. Large shade trees act as natural climate infrastructure. They absorb carbon, cool neighborhoods, filter air pollution and manage stormwater. When we remove a mature tree, we don’t simply lose a landscape feature; we lose a functioning piece of environmental infrastructure.

If a 100-year-old oak is removed and replaced with a decorative ornamental tree, the community experiences a net loss in environmental benefits for decades. The replacement tree may be beautiful, but it will not provide equivalent shade, cooling, carbon storage, wildlife habitat or stormwater management within our lifetimes. Studies consistently show that tree-lined neighborhoods enjoy higher property values. Shaded streets encourage walking, outdoor recreation and social interaction. Patients recover faster when they can see trees. Children play longer outdoors. Residents report lower stress levels and greater community satisfaction. Mature trees also provide critical habitat for birds, pollinators and other wildlife. The diversity of species that can live in a century-old oak cannot be replicated by a small ornamental tree. Most importantly, mature trees connect us to previous generations. Many of the grand trees that define Grosse Pointe today were planted by residents who understood they were creating



beauty not just for themselves, but for their grandchildren. This does not mean every aging tree should be preserved at all costs. Trees can become hazardous, diseased or structurally unsound. Removal is sometimes necessary, as is regular maintenance. But when we lose a large shade tree, we should recognize the magnitude of what has been lost and seek to replace it thoughtfully. Whenever possible, communities and homeowners should plant species capable of becoming the next generation of large canopy trees — oaks, maples, lindens, tulip trees and other species that will provide substantial shade and environmental benefits for decades to come. Ornamental trees have their place. They add seasonal beauty, flowers and visual interest. However, they should complement our urban forest, not replace it.

The choices we make today will determine whether future generations inherit streets shaded by majestic canopies or neighborhoods increasingly exposed to summer heat and environmental stress. A mature shade tree is one of the few community assets that becomes more valuable with age. Once lost, it may take a century to replace. The next time you stand beneath one of our towering trees, consider what it provides: cooler summers, cleaner air, wildlife habitat, stormwater protection, beauty, history and a tangible defense against a changing climate. That is not merely landscaping. That is infrastructure. And it is worth protecting. Suzy Berschback is a resident of Grosse Pointe Farms and an advocate with the Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative. Learn more at gplearns.uls.org/trees.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 3B

a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, July 16 to 30. ♦ Exploring Encaustic on Paper with Candace Law, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

Reunion

The Grosse Pointe North High School Class of 1976 will celebrate its 50th reunion Sept. 19, at MotorCity Casino Hotel. The event features a casual dress code, food stations and a cash bar. For more information or to RSVP, visit gpnclas-sof1976.com.

Sunrise on Vernier

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

Adaptive yoga

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

Toastmasters

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

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Students awarded P.E.O. scholarships

Several young women recently were honored by Chapter AO of the International P.E.O. Sisterhood for their educational and community achievements.

The Grosse Pointe chapter of this international Philanthropic Education Organization, which provides educational opportunities worldwide, awarded Gabriella Kish-Salkovski, a 2026 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, with the Johanna M. Gilbert Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts. This scholarship salutes an outstanding South senior woman in the performing arts, a legacy honoring the late Gilbert, who was a community leader, member of Chapter AO and talented arts supporter and performer.

Johanna Gilbert was especially noted for her voice and performed early in her career with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. She later was a much-requested soloist, continuing her music while raising six children and staying active in many community organizations, including as past president of Chapter AO.

Chapter AO Vice President Gretchen White and Scholarship Chair Patricia Elian said they are thrilled to see the legacy continue from the Gilbert family as Johanna

Gilbert was a longtime supporter of P.E.O. activism for women’s education.

In other awards from Chapter AO, the chapter presented Grace Piggot, now a senior at Grosse Pointe North High School, and Kassiani Norris, now a senior at Grosse Pointe South High School, the annual Florence Miller Award to assist with college applications. Both young women were nominated by their schools for leadership and achievement in academics and extra-curricular activities.

The awards share the qualities of the late Florence Miller, a longtime Grosse Pointe educator who also was a leader in Chapter AO, P.E.O. Sisterhood, while serving as assistant principal at Grosse Pointe North and leading in other community activities, including the Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees.

In addition to these awards, Chapter AO’s nominee and Grosse Pointe North graduate Lauren V. Loper received the highly competitive Star Scholarship from the national P.E.O. to further her work at Michigan State University, where she will double major in chemistry and criminal justice, as well as minor in Spanish.

Information on P.E.O. may be found online at peointernational.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOJO PHOTOGRAPHY/MELISSA ARONDOSKI

Above, Chapter AO-P.E.O. Vice President Gretchen White congratulates Gabriella Kish-Salkovski, winner of the music scholarship honoring Johanna M. Gilbert.

Left, North senior Grace Piggot, left, and South senior Kassiani Norris, who both received the Florence Miller Award from Chapter AO-Grosse Pointe of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAPTER AO

Lauren V. Loper, a Grosse Pointe North graduate, received the national Star Scholarship award from the national P.E.O. Sisterhood.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOPER FAMILY

ASK THE EXPERTS By Dr. Maya Pinjala

How your brain changes as you age

This is part one of a two-part series.

Childhood Brain Development

Just as your kids’ bodies can sprout up several inches a year, their brains also can continue to form thousands of neurons.

“It’s a busy time for brain development, so it’s important for kids to get the tools they need for their brains to stay healthy,” said Dr. Maya Pinjala of Henry Ford Health.

Eating a well-balanced diet that provides plenty of folate, B vitamins, omega-3 fatty acids and choline is important for growing brains. These nutrients feed the brain and help its development stay on track. A diet that includes leafy green vegetables, eggs, fish, nuts, whole grains and berries will ensure a healthy mix of these brain-building essentials.

Understanding the Teen Brain

Even if your teenager has reached their full adult height, their brain is nowhere near done growing and changing. The brain is especially busy during the teens and early 20s, maturing and figuring out how to work efficiently.

“The prefrontal cortex is the last part of the brain to develop,” Pinjala said. “That’s the part of the brain in charge of decision-making and planning ahead.”

The fact that it’s still forming explains why teens and young adults struggle with these functions.

Is it True Brains Shrink with Age?

Some brain shrinkage is a natural part of aging.

“Starting around age 55, the hippocampus — the part of the brain responsible for learning and memory — shrinks about 1 percent each year,” Pinjala said.

The prefrontal cortex also is vulnerable to aging and starts to show signs of decline at midlife. Changes in this part of the brain can impact your ability to multitask, focus and stay on track.

Other natural changes with age affect how well neurons communicate with each other. This can result in slower word recall or forgetting what you wanted after walking into the kitchen.

Drops in estrogen that occur for women around menopause may also impact brain function. It’s not uncommon for women to report an increase in brain fog and memory issues around this transition.

Benefits of an Aging Brain

By the time you hit 50, you’ve learned a lot of things. That knowledge can give you an edge over someone younger, even though their brain might process information faster.

Research also has shown that older adults have bigger vocabularies than their younger counterparts (even if you do forget the occasional word!).

Dr. Maya Pinjala is a neuropsychologist who sees patients at Henry Ford Health. For more health tips, visit henryford.com/blog

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

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Focus on friendship strengths, not shortfalls

Dear Gabby: I have a friend I’ve known nearly 20 years. I organize every lunch, every dinner, every coffee date and every birthday gathering.

If I stopped reaching out, I’m not sure we’d ever speak again.

Should friendships be this one-sided? — Doing All the Work in the Park

Dear Doing All The Work: Some friendships are balanced. Others are powered almost

entirely by one person with a calendar and a type A personality.

Before you assume your friend doesn’t care, consider another possibility: Some people are terrible initiators but wonderful participants.

The real question isn’t who makes the plans. It’s how your friend shows up once the plans are made.

Do they listen? Support you? Celebrate your victories? Check on you

when life gets hard?

If so, you may have a good friend who simply lacks organizational skills.

But if you’re doing all the planning and all the caring, it may be time to stop watering a plant that isn’t growing.

— Gabby

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



Celebrating freedom, family and love this Fourth of July

DEAR READERS: On this Fourth of July, I hope you give yourself permission to slow down.

Let the day be simple. Enjoy the sound of laughter from the next yard. Notice the flags moving in the breeze. Sit outside with a cold drink. Watch the children run through the grass. Stay up for the fireworks, even if you are tired.

There is something about this holiday that brings us back to the things that matter most.

Freedom. Family. Friendship. Hope.

We often think of free-

dom in big, historic terms, and we should. We owe so much to the men and women who served, sacrificed and helped build this country.

But freedom also lives in the small moments.

It is the freedom to call someone you love. To speak your mind. To choose a new path. To start over. To sit quietly and be exactly who you are.

Those moments may not seem grand, but they are precious.

So today, do not worry about making everything perfect.

The table does not

have to look beautiful. The food does not have to be homemade. The family does not have to agree on everything. And the fireworks do not have to be seen from the best seat in town.

What matters is being present.

Look around at the people beside you. Listen to their stories. Laugh when you can. Forgive a little faster. Put the phone down for a while.

And if someone you know is alone today, reach out.

A phone call can change the shape of a

lonely afternoon. An extra chair can mean more than you realize. Kindness is one of the most beautiful ways we can celebrate freedom.

Some of you may be carrying sadness this holiday.

You may be missing someone. You may be worried about your family, your health or the future. You may not feel much like celebrating.

That is all right.

You do not have to force joy. Sometimes peace is enough.

Take a walk. Listen to music. Make yourself



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

something good to eat. Watch the sky. Let the day meet you where you are.

Our country is not perfect. Neither are we.

But there is still so much goodness around us. There are still people helping neighbors, caring for strangers, serving their communities and choosing hope when it would be easier to give up. That is worth celebrating.

As the fireworks light up the night, I hope you remember that darkness never gets the final word.

There is always another spark. Another chance. Another morning.

May this Fourth of July leave you feeling grateful, peaceful and a little more hopeful than you did before.

And may you remember that the best part of this country has always been its people.

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF AETH ENTERTAINMENT AND RICH ENTERTAINMENT GROUP.

Left, Michael Douglas as William McKay and Walker Scobell as Kyle in the 2025 movie “Looking Through Water,” based on Bob Rich’s 2015 novel “Looking Through Water” and his 2025 memoir “Catching Big Fish: An Anglers Challenge” with the screenplay written by Zach Dean and Rowdy Herrington and directed by Roberto Sneider.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Looking Through Water”
2025 - Not Rated
1 hr 46 min
★★★★☆

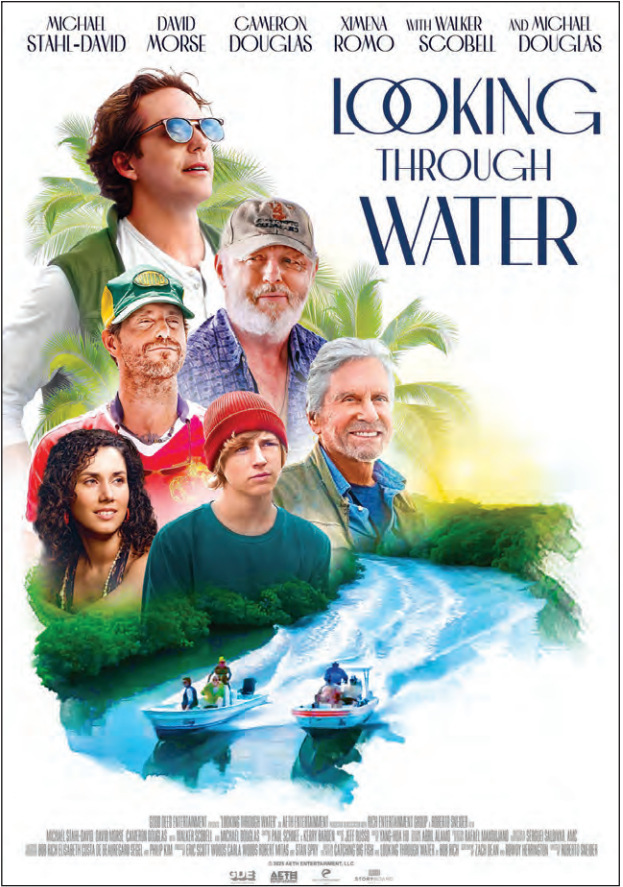
What a career the award-winning actor Michael Douglas has had. He recently celebrated 50 years in the entertainment industry and is known for his roles in iconic films like “Fatal Attraction,” “Basic Instinct,” “Romancing the Stone” and “Wall Street,” to name just a few. He’s also an activist and philanthropist, supporting various arts groups and gun control advocacy. I was taken by surprise when he announced his retirement after making last year’s “Looking Through Water.” I guess it makes sense to quit while you’re ahead.

This is one of those solid, well-crafted, written and acted dramas that Hollywood seems to have forgotten how to make these days. It’s a movie

about family relations, generational interacting and healing, loosely set against a backdrop of fishing. Don’t let that scare you off, you don’t have to be into fly fishing to appreciate this wonderful film. It’s based on two books by Bob Rich — one a memoir about the author’s quest to catch 10 prized saltwater fish in a year, and the other his novel titled “Looking Through Water.” Rich worked on the screenplay along with Zach Dean and Rowdy Herrington.

The film’s director, Roberto Sneider, is best known for his television work which includes “Shameless” and “Acapulco.” He’s produced a heart-warming film here that for some reason, hasn’t received the attention it truly deserves. With a cast of stars like Douglas, David Morse, Michael Stahl-David, and his son Cameron Douglas, it really should be better

known. It saw a limited release in theatres, but lucky for us, it’s now



Movie poster for “Looking Through Water”



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”

available for streaming.

As the film begins, we encounter a testy young 14-year-old boy, Kyle (Walker Scobell), who has been suspended from school. His mom forces him to spend the day fishing with his grandpa William (Michael Douglas). When asked about his bruised face and split lip, Kyle refuses to talk about it. He’s busy listening to music and an exasperated grandpa

grabs his expensive earbuds and joyfully tosses them in the water. Now they can have an earnest conversation.

William tells his grandson that his injury will probably leave a scar, and he lifts his fishing cap to reveal a scar of his own. Then he proceeds to tell the story about how he got it and how it changed his life. We jump back in time some 40 years to the 1980s. A younger William, played by Michael Stahl-David, is attending an awards ceremony, where he is about to receive recognition for his philanthropic work. He’s there with his beautiful fiancée and his best friend and business partner. After receiving a phone call, everything suddenly changes. He’s informed that not only is his partner plotting to take over his business, he’s having an affair with his fiancée.

He makes a big scene in front of the crowd at the gala event, then storms out of the auditorium. Back at his penthouse, he proceeds to get totally drunk and accidentally shoots himself with a bullet that grazes his temple. Hence, the scar. William is woken up by a phone call from his estranged father (David Morse, “The Green Mile,” “The Indian Runner”) who he hasn’t spoken to in over 10 years.



In fact, William doesn’t even know where his dad is living. So he’s surprised when he’s invited down to Belize, to participate in a father and son fishing tournament, where competitors try to catch three different species of fish in three days.

So, having nothing to lose, he hops on his private jet and flies down to Central America to join his father. At first, he desperately tries to resolve his business problems via phone. But eventually, he throws himself into winning the tournament. Until now, William has had no interest in the world of fishing and it takes some coaching from his father to learn how to cast a fly-fishing line. The couple is joined by Cole (Cameron Douglas), who not only captains the boat, but looks after William’s dad, who isn’t in the best of health.

It should come as no surprise that there’s a bit of a romantic element to the film. In one of the local bars, William can’t help but notice the attractive

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I used to be the girl who would always style my hair with heat before leaving the house. It made me feel more put together. But between early-morning workout classes and trying to not COMPLETELY fry off my curly hair that everyone calls a “gift,” using hot tools every day started to feel like more damage than it was worth. As someone who still loves an effortless styled look, I need something easier and healthier.

I’ll be honest, I thought the heat-less curl sets were kind of a TikTok fad. Like there would be no way they actually would give me salon-level curls without looking messy or falling flat. But I did finally cave and tried one — and wow, am I



obsessed! I wrap my hair at night, sleep in it and wake up with soft and bouncy curls. The best part? Zero effort in the morning. I just take it out, run my fingers through my hair and take off. No heat, no damage and no standing at the mirror with my arms feeling like they’re on fire for 30 minutes. It’s especially perfect for busy days when I still want to look like I tried.

A few things I have learned: Slightly damp hair works best and a little leave-in product also helps curls hold longer. Also, practice makes perfect. That first time might feel a little awkward, but you get the hang of it fast.

I would rate this a 4.7 out of 5. It gives effortless healthy hair without the

daily struggle and damage. Find it on Amazon here: tinyurl.com/y4unvmtk

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



A summer shrimp boil

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

We are always at the Thumb of Michigan for my daughter’s birthday and this year was extra special because she turned 18. My oldest is now an adult! Even though most of her festivities were planned around her friends, I managed to steal her for a night on the beach with summer family to celebrate.

Such a milestone deserved something out of the ordinary and a big

you can imagine that. Then I cooked it in my kitchen, walked the pot right to the beach and dumped it out over a picnic table lined with a bunch of paper.

I like to use shell-on shrimp. The shell helps the shrimp to not overcook and peeling them is part of the fun. But you could use peeled shrimp. Just don’t use already cooked shrimp because it won’t absorb any flavor.

I add lots of Old Bay, fresh lemons and bay



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON



Learning about wine

My first exposure to fine wine occurred around 1973, when I took a UCLA extension course vaguely titled Wine Education, and I was fortunate to have some background in the subject.

The instructor, a jolly West Los Angeles wine collector whose name was John, had no guidelines from the extension studies office, so he wrote his own syllabus. And it was obvious from the first class that he expected much more of most students.

The problem was that there was no textbook; this was a “tasting-oriented” course — a perfectly fine format for most attendees. But it was obvious that my friend Mike and I were far ahead of the others in wine knowledge.

By the second session, I could see that most of

those taking this course were completely lost with some of the terms John used.

Which John understood. It was as if he were “playing the piano to a cow,” an idiom translated from Mandarin Chinese when someone tries to explain something to people who could never hope to understand or appreciate what’s being said.

I’ll never forget John trying to explain a flaw he (and Mike and I) identified in one wine that John had served. The wine was too old and had oxidized. John tried to explain the differences between oxidation and maderization. So someone asked John to explain the differences.

After a few frustrating minutes, John gave up.

The class seemed relieved.

What impressed me most about the class was that John seemed to know a lot about wine, but it was difficult for him to explain because most of the time he was comparing California wines to those from Europe. And most of us had never tasted the European wines he mentioned.

Months later, I became friendly with John and his basic advice to me was the best way to learn about the subject.

He said that to master wine, I should try different wines from the same grape variety, but do so from different regions. He said that where the grapes grew usually contributed something more interesting to a wine than just what the grape variety was.

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

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leaves to the broth. The potatoes and broth soak in all of the flavor from the broth and the sausage.

The actual shrimp boil is the star of the show but it wouldn’t be complete without some kind of dipping sauce. And since butter goes with everything, I decided to make a quick garlic butter sauce. I dipped everything from the shrimp to the corn. In fact, people were standing in line to dip. I recommend making the sauce and dividing it up into multiple dipping containers. It’s rich and lemony with some heat from Cajun seasoning. You could also swap the Cajun seasoning for any all-purpose grill seasoning. This was a last minute addition that I thought of but I quickly discovered it’s a must-have!

You don’t need a beach for this dinner. A picnic table, paper and lots of napkins are the only requirements! This Fourth of July marks our country’s 250th milestone. Make it memorable and out of the ordinary with a family-style shrimp feast.

- Cheers, Mombeau
- ### Shrimp Boil
- 4 lbs raw shrimp, with shell on
 - 2 lbs baby red potatoes
 - 4 ears of corn, shucked
 - 2 13.5 oz packages andouille sausage
 - 4 bay leaves
 - 4 lemons, sliced in quarters
 - ½ cup Old Bay
 - 2 sticks butter
 - 2 tsp cajun seasoning
 - 1 tsp garlic powder
 - Juice from ½ lemon
- Fill a very large stock pot about two thirds of the way with water. Add in the Old Bay seasoning and bay leaves. Squeeze two lemon halves into the water and then drop them in as well. Bring to a boil. While it comes to a

boil, cut the sausage into 2-inch pieces. Then cut each ear of corn into five pieces.

When the water has come to a boil, add in the potatoes and sausage and cook them on a low boil for 10 minutes.

Next drop in the corn and cook for another six minutes. Lastly, drop in the shrimp and cook for about three minutes. Once the shrimp are just cooked through, turn off the heat.

Carefully drain the water out either using a large colander or using the lid. It’s a two person job for sure. If using a colander, add everything back into the pot.

To serve, line a table with paper and pour the shrimp and everything over the top. Squeeze the juice of the remaining two lemons over the top. Dip everything in the butter sauce and serve with lots of napkins!

To make the butter sauce, melt the butter, Cajun seasoning, garlic powder and lemon juice in a small saucepan. Whisk together and serve on the side.

MOVIE

Continued from page 2C

woman on stage, Julia, (Ximena Romo, “This Is Not Berlin”), singing a ballad. After her set is over, the two strike up a conversation and she volunteers to bandage up the wound on his temple. She reveals she’s actually a doctor and does charity work in third-world countries.

In the final third of the movie, much is revealed. We discover why young Kyle is involved in fights at school. We also learn more about William’s father and his relationship with Cole. However, as per usual, my lips are sealed and you’ll just have to discover these revelations for yourself.

If you’re interested in a couple of my favorite

fishing(-ish) movies, I highly recommend the classic film (and beautiful book by Norman Maclean) “A River Runs Through It.” A more recent offering is “Mending the Line” about the healing powers fly fishing can have treating soldiers suffering from PTSD.

Note to parents: The film is not rated, but I’d give it a “PG-13”.

Currently streaming for free on Kanopy with your library card. Also on Prime and to rent on Apple TV, Fandango, YouTube, and Prime Video.

My rating system:

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

but you have to rate it nonetheless.

- ★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.
- ★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren’t any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.
- ★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.
- ★★★★★ So good you’d actually buy it!

If you have any movie suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com.

Also, if you’re looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.

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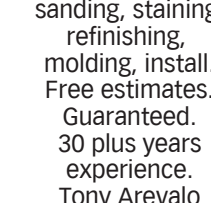
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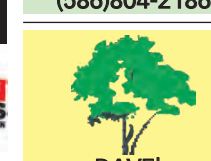
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Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL
Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

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Pointe Word Search

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

ADAMS
DECLARATION
FRANKLIN
FREE
HANCOCK
JEFFERSON
LIBERTY
LIFE
PEOPLE
RULES
SIGNERS
TAXES
WASHINGTON
WORDS

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



Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions after 1 p.m. EDT today (from 10 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. PDT). After this, the Moon moves from AQUARIUS into PISCES.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, July 2, 2026: You're sensitive, protective and perceptive. You want what is good for others. This is a year of new beginnings, adventures and major changes in your life. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities. Stay flexible!

♈

ARIES

(March 21-April 19)

Listen to the advice of someone older or more experienced today. It could be to your advantage. Because this is a good day to make plans for the future, any advice will be a welcome thing. (Two heads are better than one.) Tonight: Think about goals.

♉

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20)

Today you're high-viz. People notice you more than usual. However, this also means that some people know personal details about your private life. Be aware of this in case you have to do some damage control. A discussion with a boss will go well. Tonight: Be modest.

♊

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20)

This is the perfect day to do something different. Shake things up a little. If you can't travel, then be a tourist in your own city, which can be fun. Read books, see films and talk to people who can broaden your world. Tonight: Explore!

♋

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

You are fortunate because the Sun is in your sign, which will help any discussions about shared property, taxes, debt or inheritances go in your favor. Authority figures will support your ideas. Tonight: Check your finances.

♌

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22)

Today a conversation with a partner, spouse or close friend will focus on practical matters, perhaps related to travel, legal or medical issues. Whatever the case, these discussions will be sensible. Tonight: Schmooze.

♍

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You'll be productive at work or with any task that you set for yourself because you're in a practical frame of mind today. Make a list and tackle it. Advice from someone older or more experienced might. Tonight: Get organized.

♎

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

A practical approach to taking care of kids, planning for vacations as well as making art will give you results today. Half of the problem is attitude and planning, and you have this in abundance because your mind is focused. Tonight: Playful socializing.

♏

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Family discussions will be productive today. This could relate to long-range plans for the home or for a family member. With Venus high in your chart, you'll be diplomatic. Tonight: Relax.

♐

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This is the perfect day to learn or study something new because your mind is focused and you will pay attention to detail. You will more easily retain what you're learning. Be patient with partners, spouses and close friends. Tonight: Study.

♑

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You'll be careful about your spending today. But today you might want to buy long-lasting, practical things, or maintain what you own to preserve or keep their use. An older family member might have advice. Tonight: Check your belongings.

♒

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today the Moon is in your sign, which gives you a slight advantage over other signs. Things will tend to go your way. Discussions with others will be serious and practical. Decide to get a lot done; this is possible. Tonight: You're strong.

♓

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20)

Keep a low profile today. Rest if you can. This is a playful, fun-loving time for you, in addition to which, it's also a productive time because employees and friends are supportive to you. Behind-the-scenes research will pay off. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

BORN TODAY

Actress Lindsay Lohan (1986), actress, producer Margot Robbie (1990), pianist, composer, bandleader Ahmad Jamal (1930).

Contract Bridge

SWAPPING HORSES

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q J 9 6 3
♥ 9 4
♦ 8 2
♣ A 8 3 2

WEST

♠ 7 5
♥ J 6 3 2
♦ 6 4 3
♣ K J 10 9

EAST

♠ 8
♥ A K Q 10 8 7 5
♦ J 10 9 7
♣ 6

SOUTH

♠ A K 10 4 2
♥ —
♦ A K Q 5
♣ Q 7 5 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 4 ♥
6 ♠

Opening lead — two of hearts.

Declarer sometimes changes his mind midway through the play and does the opposite of what he intended to do at the start. Usually, the reason is that he has discovered something unexpected about the opposing hands that forces him to reconsider his original plan.

That's what happened on this deal, where declarer had to hold himself to one club loser to bring home the slam. When he first saw dummy, South

thought that at some point later he would make the normal play of cashing the ace of clubs and then leading toward his queen, hoping East had the king.

This approach seemed more likely to succeed considering East's bid. However, South decided to keep an open mind while he tried to learn more about the adverse hands.

After ruffing the heart lead, declarer drew two rounds of trump and cashed the A-K-Q of diamonds, discarding a club from dummy. South then ruffed his last diamond in dummy and, when East followed suit, radically altered his original plan of play.

Since East had shown up with one spade and four diamonds and surely had at least seven hearts for his leap to four hearts, he could not possibly hold more than one club. So, at trick eight declarer ruffed dummy's last heart, then led a low club and played low from dummy!

It didn't matter to South which opponent actually won the club. If East took it, he would have to return a heart, allowing declarer to discard dummy's remaining low club while he trumped in his hand. In the actual case, West's nine won, forcing him to lead a club from the king or yield a ruff-and-discard. Either way, South could not be stopped from scoring 12 tricks.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg July 2, 2026

ACROSS

1 Fatty acids
7 Jeans maker Strauss
11 It's over your head!
14 National park in Maine
15 Molecule part
16 Mined material
17 Tall, tropical tree with edible fruit
19 Annoy
20 Opposite of WSW
21 Bearded beasts
22 Nobel-winning Mother
24 Gently persuaded
26 Hosiery material
27 Blends well
30 Cathedral recess
32 New York Harbor's Island
33 Strictly according to the rules
38 Woeful word
39 Avarice
40 Steak order that doesn't take as long
41 "Just forget it!"
43 Allude
44 Tilt
45 Add some spices to
46 Comic's specialties

49 Opposite of lost
52 Like lemons and oranges
54 Calm under pressure
55 "Dapper" dude
58 Gomez Addams' cousin
59 "Understand what I said?" ... or a hint to the end of 17-, 33- or 41-Across
62 Tennis do-over
63 "How can I ___ thank you?"
64 Cream-filled pastry
65 Hog's home
66 Stitched up
67 Hung around

DOWN

1 Frilly fabric
2 Screen symbol
3 Walk back and forth
4 Wedding words
5 Australian wild dogs
6 Steamy spots
7 Expire, as a subscription
8 Greek H
9 Battery unit
10 Massive
11 Shack
12 Playground retort
13 Dallas resident

18 Groom's garb, for short
23 Pastrami holder
24 Worked on a sculpture
25 Went out with
27 Statistical average
28 French fashion magazine
29 Croat or Serb
31 Advanced deg.
33 Take along
34 Kyoto currency
35 Buffoons
36 Cookie brand that teamed up with BTS in 2026
37 "Show Boat" composer Jerome

39 ABC a.m. show
42 Dwells
43 Put back in office
45 Makes sleeping sounds
46 Locks up
47 The letters in Scrabble, for example?
48 Meowing baby animal
50 Squirrel's snack
51 Debt letters
53 Sheltered inlet
55 June 6, 1944
56 Parisian pal
57 Geeky sort
60 Certain evergreen
61 In the style of

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

6/25 Solution

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Open to Interpretation by Susan Gelfand

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

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2D-3D ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES | 4D-5D COMICS

Athlete of the Year voting continues through July 8

By GP News Staff

The Grosse Pointe News Athlete of the Year contest is in full swing and there is still time to vote for the best male and female high school student-athletes in the Pointes. Voting is open now and continues through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 8.

Votes can be cast online at www.grossepointenews.com/athlete. Paper ballots can be submitted to the Grosse Pointe News office at 16980 Kercheval Place in the Village.

This year, 41 athletes have been nominated for Athlete of the Year through the Grosse Pointe News' Athlete of the Week feature series, which has highlighted standout performances throughout the year. From Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School, these athletes have represented their schools and teams with accomplish-

ments in the pool, on the field, court, diamond and ice, as well as in the classroom, across all three sports seasons.

The Athlete of the Year contest gives readers and the community an opportunity to recognize the athletes who made the biggest impact in the 2025-26 school year. It is also a way to look back on some of the great moments and performances that defined a year of high school sports and celebrate the achievements of these athletes and their teams.

In the July 16 edition of the Grosse Pointe News, four Athletes of the Year will be announced. One male and one female winner will be selected by the Grosse Pointe News staff, while one male and one female winner will be chosen by readers through the voting process. Each winner will receive a \$500 scholarship to their respective college or university.

Voters are allowed to submit one ballot per

person every 24 hours, so readers are encouraged to return daily to support their favorite athletes throughout the voting process.

The Athlete of the Year contest and the Athlete of the Week feature series would not be possible without the help of our sponsors who have helped support the Athlete of the Week series throughout the year. This year's Athlete of the Week sponsors included: Fairway Packing Co., Ray Laethem Buick GMC, Pointe Capital Management LLC and Shana Sine Cameron — Sine & Monaghan Real Estate. The Grosse Pointe News thanks these sponsors and our readers for continuing to support local athletes and the community sports scene throughout the year. A full list of Athlete of the Year nominees and the official voting ballot may be found on pages 2D and 3D, as well as online at www.grossepointenews.com.

Grosse Pointe News



ATHLETE
OF THE
YEAR

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Junior sailing thrives at Bayview with local and global instructors

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Since 1950, Bayview Yacht Club in Detroit has been helping kids and teens learn the basics of sailing and begin their journeys on the water with the BYC Junior Sailing Program. While the program has been around for quite some time, it has experienced a boom in participation in recent years, proving why Bayview has become a successful place for young sailors to find a love for the sport.

Since 2019, the Junior Sailing Program has seen enrollment

increase from just over 30 participants to nearly 90 this summer. The program is run by a group of instructors from both the Detroit area and around the world; some are even former Junior Sailing Program participants themselves. One is program director Sergei Lie, who grew his sailing knowledge and love for racing during his years as a junior sailor at Bayview. He now is able to give that experience back to the club and the next generation.

"This program has grown by leaps and bounds," Lie said. "We used to be based out of

one room and I grew up making lifelong friends and it took me to places I never thought I would go."

Lie is in his second year as the program director. He originally came to Bayview at age 9 to join the Junior Sailing Program after learning about the club's great reputation for racing. Now, Lie and the other instructors help young sailors from ages 8 to 18 learn how to sail and develop to a competitive level with daily lessons in the classroom and on the water and compete at five regional regattas throughout the summer.

"Coaches help all the kids rig up correctly and safely," Lie said. "Then they do some kind of lesson and then the kids get to go out for about two hours doing drills or fun activities on the water. Then they get lunch and do a debrief from the morning, then get to do it all again in the afternoon."

Alongside Lie as head instructor this year is Nico Vidal. Vidal, a native of Argentina, has been sailing for much of his life and has spent previous years coaching sailing in the United States, mainly on the East Coast. Vidal has coached at many differ-

ent levels, but getting to work with junior sailors on and off the water has always been one of his favorite things to do.

"We try to get them as many hours as they can in the water and in the boat and, day by day, continue growing," Vidal said. "I always say that sailing is a way of life. When the kids are in the water, they have to learn how to be independent. It's good to see that when you're helping them make the right decisions, they're growing as sailors and as people."

Another one of the international instructors

who joined the club for this year's Junior Sailing Program is Carolina Rodriguez from Uruguay. This summer is her first time coaching sailing in the United States, but with a background in sports psychology, Rodriguez has the chance to teach young sailors how to find success on the water, as well as deal with the mental side of sailing.

"I love the sport and really have a passion for it," Rodriguez said. "It's a really good opportunity to teach my passion to the kids. ... I try to have the kids build their confidence and learn teamwork and set daily goals and weekly goals for themselves."

Whether they come from around the world or from down the street, the instructors and students at Bayview's Junior Sailing Program all share a passion for the sport. It has helped bring people from across the globe to experience the sailing culture in Michigan and helped young sailors learn everything about being on the water.

One of the best parts about the program and its longevity is how it has allowed people like Lie and fellow instructors, like Grosse Pointe Park native Jack Riley, the chance to give back to the club and program that helped foster their love for sailing. Knowledge and passion are being passed from one generation of sailors to the next — something



PHOTO BY MARTIN CHUMIECKI

Sailors and instructors for the 2026 Junior Sailing Program stand on the point at Bayview Yacht Club. This year's program includes nearly 90 junior sailors being taught by instructors both from Michigan and from around the world, including countries such as Spain, Argentina and Uruguay.

See SAILING, page 6D

2D | ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



Scan to vote

Vote for the Readers' Choice Athlete of the Year!

One male & female athlete will receive a \$500 scholarship!

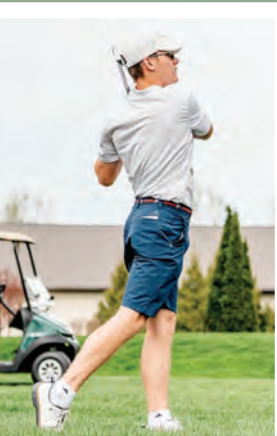
Please vote by checking one box for your favorite male athlete of the year and one box for your favorite female athlete of the year. Or visit grossepointenews.com/athlete. Voting ends on Wednesday, July 8.



Eugene Agnone
Grosse Pointe South
Lacrosse



Brady Ancona
University Liggett
Soccer



Ben Bieri
Grosse Pointe South
Golf



Brady Bond
Grosse Pointe South
Swim & Dive



Caleb Butler
Grosse Pointe North
Football



Ollie Cooley
University Liggett
Soccer



Jack Danielewicz
Grosse Pointe South
Baseball



Nick Gould
University Liggett
Hockey



Javion Gray
University Liggett
Baseball



Matthew Holowinski
Grosse Pointe South
Tennis



Dane Lezotte
Grosse Pointe South
Baseball



Trevor Lipscomb
Grosse Pointe North
Baseball



Landen Maltby
University Liggett
Lacrosse



Griffin Marchal
University Liggett
Hockey



Charlie Michelotti
Grosse Pointe South
Football



Charlie Mueller
Grosse Pointe North
Hockey



Lucas Reynolds
Grosse Pointe South
Hockey



Kooper Richards
Grosse Pointe South
Basketball



Sam Rouleau
Grosse Pointe South
Football



Lewis Simmons
Grosse Pointe North
Basketball



Jack Smith
Grosse Pointe South
Lacrosse



Charlie Thomas
Grosse Pointe South
Golf



Marty Wayman
Grosse Pointe South
Golf



AJ Zieleniewski
Grosse Pointe South
Football

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES | 3D



Laila Aslam
Grosse Pointe North
Tennis



Eva Borowski
Grosse Pointe North
Basketball



Caroline Bryan
Grosse Pointe South
Swim & Dive



Leah Burney
Grosse Pointe North
Hockey



Gabby DiVita
Grosse Pointe South
Volleyball



Morgan Duff
Grosse Pointe South
Basketball



Sydney Eickhorst
Grosse Pointe South
Hockey



Mischa Eng
Grosse Pointe South
Swim & Dive



Lyla Hampton
Grosse Pointe South
Lacrosse



Whitney Handwork
Grosse Pointe South
Swim & Dive



Sonya Jayakar
University Liggett
Tennis



Ruby Lenhard
Grosse Pointe South
Hockey



Olivia Marcero
University Liggett
Field Hockey



Anna Nguyen
Grosse Pointe North
Gymnastics



Viviana Ostrowski
Grosse Pointe South
Softball



Abby Owczarek
Grosse Pointe North
Hockey, Figure Skating



Avery Welsh
University Liggett
Hockey



Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR 2026 VOTING FORM

Please fill in the circle next to one male and one female athlete.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Email _____

CAST YOUR VOTE ONLINE

Visit grossepointenews.com/athlete
or scan the QR code



Send your completed form to:

Grosse Pointe News

16980 Kercheval Pl.

Grosse Pointe, MI 48230-1554

or send a photo of the completed form to:

media@grossepointenews.com

Entry must be postmarked Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

MALE

- ☐ Eugene Agnone
- ☐ Brady Ancona
- ☐ Ben Bieri
- ☐ Brady Bond
- ☐ Caleb Butler
- ☐ Ollie Cooley
- ☐ Jack Danielewicz
- ☐ Nick Gould
- ☐ Javion Gray
- ☐ Matthew Holowinski
- ☐ Dane Lezotte
- ☐ Trevor Lipscomb
- ☐ Landen Maltby
- ☐ Griffin Marchal
- ☐ Charlie Michelotti
- ☐ Charlie Mueller
- ☐ Lucas Reynolds
- ☐ Kooper Richards
- ☐ Sam Rouleau
- ☐ Lewis Simmons
- ☐ Jack Smith
- ☐ Charlie Thomas
- ☐ Marty Wayman
- ☐ AJ Zieleniewski

FEMALE

- ☐ Laila Aslam
- ☐ Eva Borowski
- ☐ Caroline Bryan
- ☐ Leah Burney
- ☐ Gabby DiVita
- ☐ Morgan Duff
- ☐ Sydney Eickhorst
- ☐ Mischa Eng
- ☐ Lyla Hampton
- ☐ Whitney Handwork
- ☐ Sonya Jayakar
- ☐ Ruby Lenhard
- ☐ Olivia Marcero
- ☐ Anna Nguyen
- ☐ Viviana Ostrowski
- ☐ Abby Owczarek
- ☐ Avery Welsh

Vote online at grossepointenews.com/athlete



*Scan
to vote*

Grosse
Pointe
News

THURSDAY

COMICS

Charles M. Schulz

Peanuts

THAT WAS SOME LINE DRIVE, CHARLIE BROWN... IT KNOCKED YOUR SHOESIES AND YOUR SOCKIES RIGHT OFF!



© 1978 Peanuts Worldwide LLC. Dist. by Andrews McMeel

MAYBE WE SHOULD COUNT TO SEE IF YOU STILL HAVE ALL YOUR TOESIES...



www.snoopy.com

GET OUT OF HERE!



JUST FOR THAT, HE CAN COUNT HIS OWN TOESIES!



4/1 SCHULZ

Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

Reg Smythe

I never allow myself to become anxious or worried about anything.



FRETLESS BASS

Wayno & 2 Pistas 6-12-26

POLICE STATION

POLICE

WE'LL LET YOU OFF WITH A WARNING THIS TIME. YOU'RE FREE TO GO, ANDY

GOOD, I CAN FINALLY GET OUT OF THIS DUMP



YOU KNOW THAT FOOD YOU SERVED ME FOR BREAKFAST WAS ABSOLUTE SLOP!



OH, DEAR. LEAVE AN ONLINE REVIEW AND ONE OF OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE PEOPLE WILL GET BACK TO YOU

POLICE SARCASM AT ITS FINEST



GOLDSMITH & GARNETT

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy

B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni

YOU THREW THE FRISBEE ON THE ROOF AGAIN?



AAH... TIME FOR A NICE, PEACEFUL COMMUNE WITH NATURE...



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RAWLL! CRASH! SLAM! ROAR!



MAYBE THIS WILL BE EASIER AFTER THE MESOZOIC...



JohnHartStudios.com

Reality Check

Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

I CAN TELL YOU'RE AN AI! CARTOON!

YOU HAVE 5 FINGERS

HOW?



WHAMOND

BUSTED!

©2026 LITFICIAL by Andrews McMeel for LITF

ARE YOU TRYING TO HIT ON ME?

I WOULD NEVER DO THAT



GREG + MORT WALKER

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I'M MORE OF A 'MAKE A PASS' KINDA GUY



6/3

Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters

GUESS WHERE I'M CALLING FROM?



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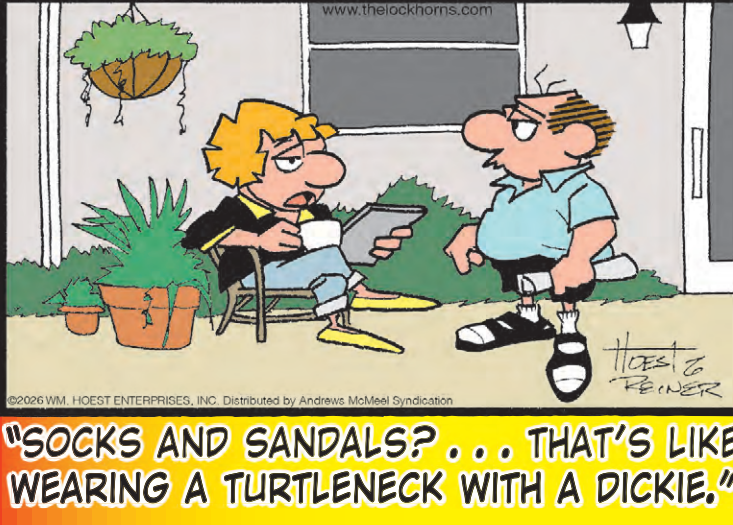
The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

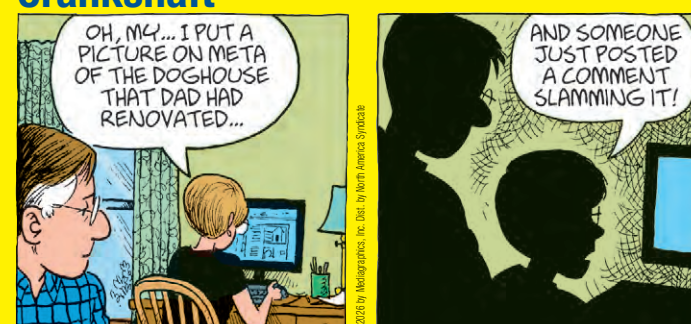
"SOCKS AND SANDALS? ... THAT'S LIKE WEARING A TURTLENECK WITH A DICKIE."



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OH, MY... I PUT A PICTURE ON META OF THE DOGHOUSE THAT DAD HAD RENOVATED...

AND SOMEONE JUST POSTED A COMMENT SLAMMING IT!



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YEP... THE GOOD OLD ANTI-SOCIAL MEDIA!



BATIUK & DAVIS

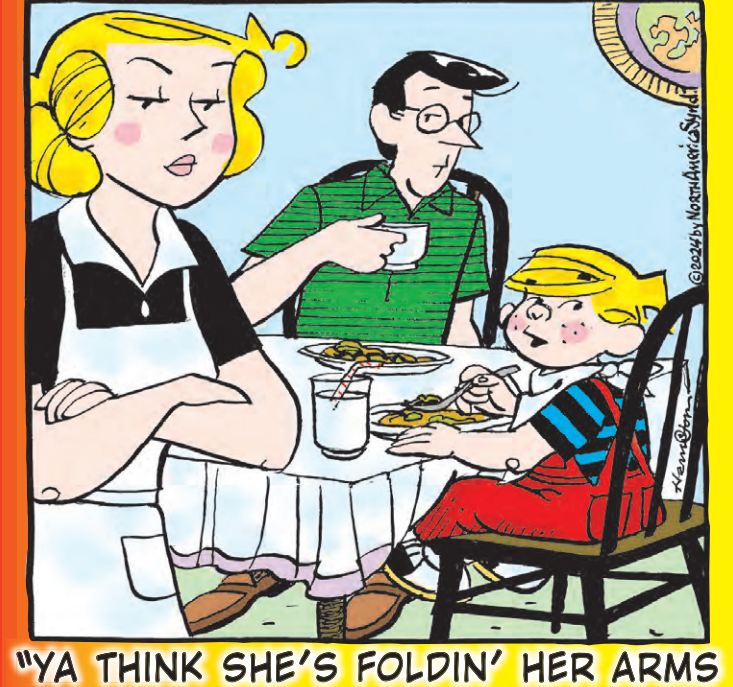
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton

Carpe Diem

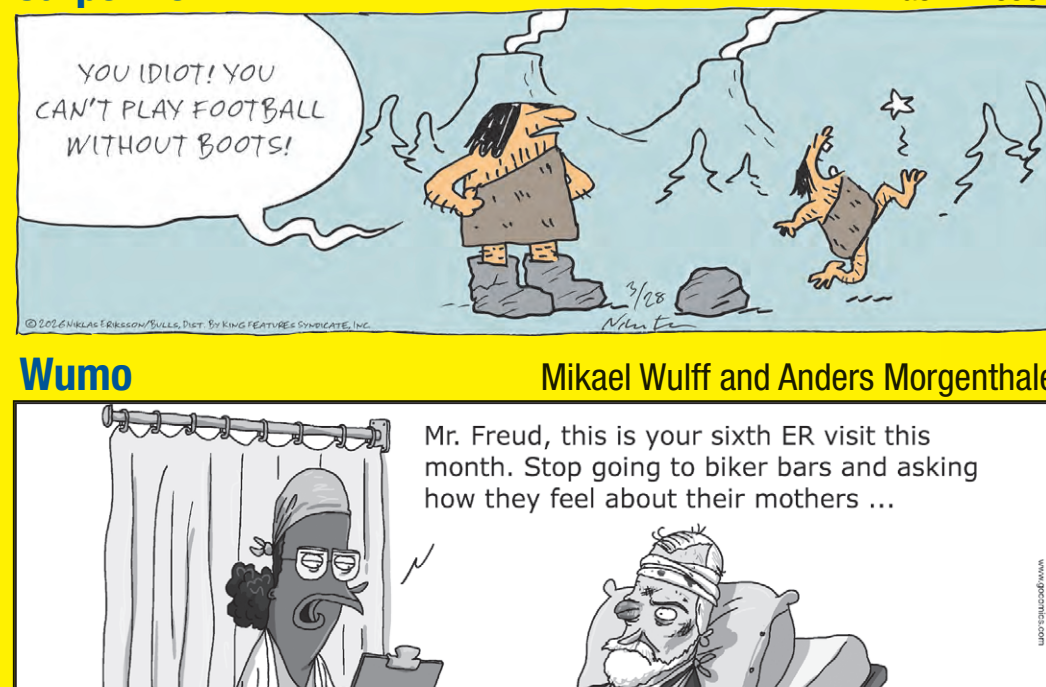
Niklas Eriksson

"YA THINK SHE'S FOLDIN' HER ARMS BECAUSE SHE'S TIRED OR MAD?"



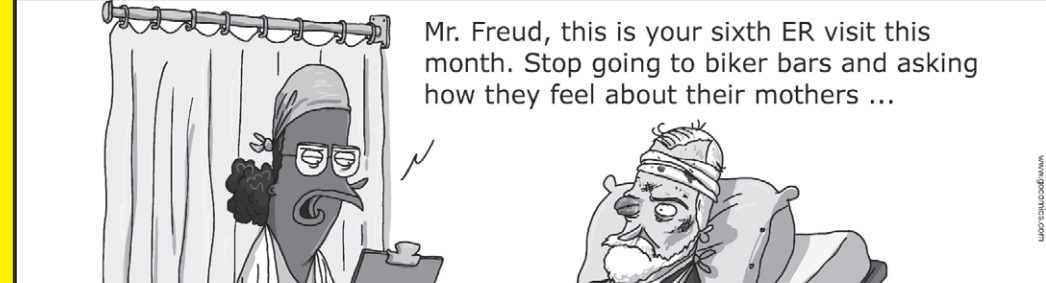
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YOU IDIOT! YOU CAN'T PLAY FOOTBALL WITHOUT BOOTS!



©2024 ENIKLAS ERIKSSON/BUCKLE UP! BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.

Mr. Freud, this is your sixth ER visit this month. Stop going to biker bars and asking how they feel about their mothers ...



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Wumo

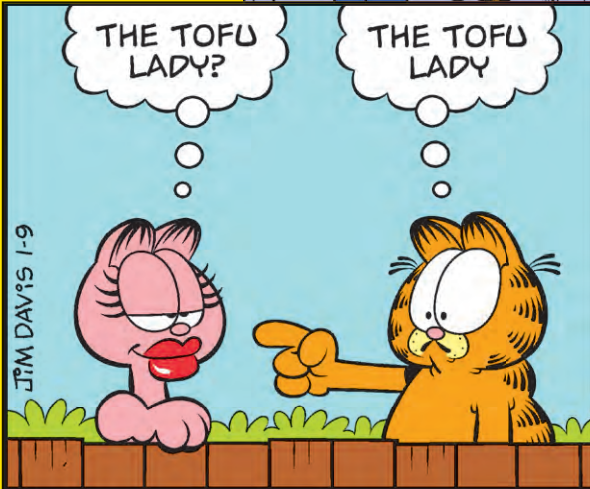
Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

Grosse
Pointe
News

THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis



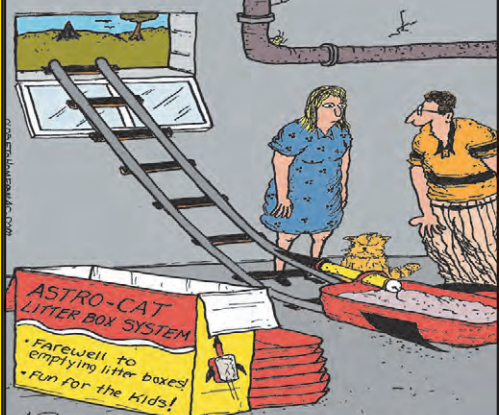
Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators)

Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren

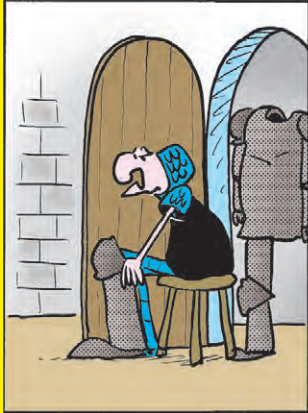
Close To Home

John McPherson

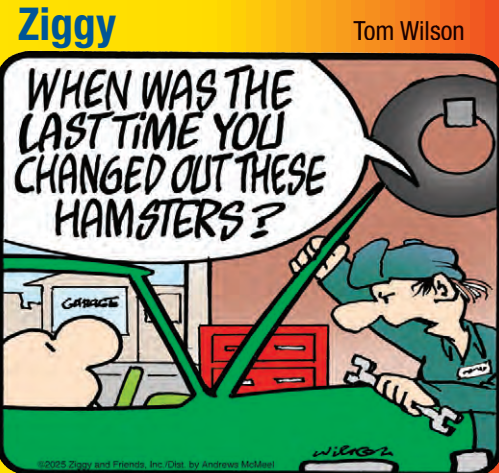


Wizard of Id

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



"When it's full, you just light the fuse and... FOOSH! It's out the window and into the woods where it will quickly decompose!"



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



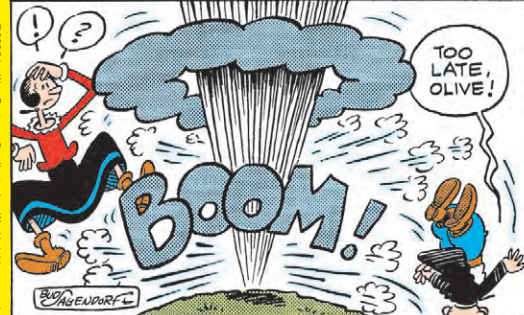
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



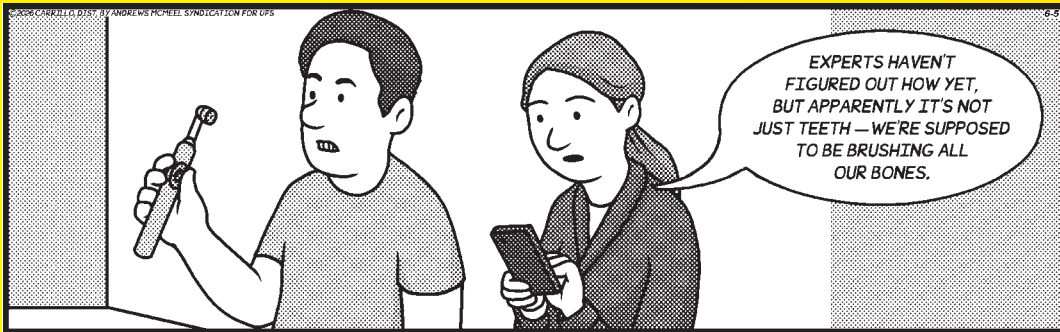
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Marmaduke

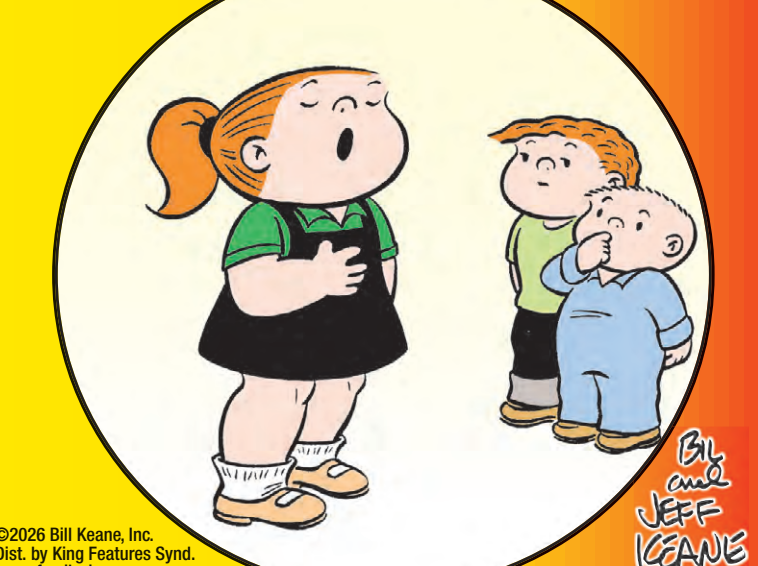
Paul & Brad Anderson



"Hey! This is my present!"

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



"I pledge deletions to the flag..."



6D | SPORTS



Bayview Junior Sailing Program participants practice sailing Optimist boats on the Detroit River.

PHOTO BY MARTIN CHUMIECKI

SAILING:
Continued from page 1D

Bayview hopes continues for a long time. “I started when I was 8 and sailed until I was about 17,” Riley said. “I went through all the boats, sailing Optimis, Lasers and 420s. I got a feel for everything and grew up having fun doing everything with junior sailing. I was able to take what I learned from here and am now applying that to the kids who are here now.” For more information about Bayview’s Junior Sailing Program, visit bycjuniorsailing.org.

Senior All-Stars rout Macomb for district title

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe Senior League All-Stars baseball team had no trouble bringing home the trophy after last weekend’s District 6 Senior Baseball championship series. Grosse Pointe defeated the Macomb Senior League in a two-game sweep of a best-of-three series to win the title, with both games being lopsided victories.

The first game was a 19-2 win for Grosse Pointe. Shane Denworth was able to steal home plate for the first run of the first inning, and another run scored for Grosse Pointe later in the opening frame on a Macomb error. That made it 2-0 Grosse Pointe after the top of the first inning, but Macomb answered with a pair of runs in the bottom of the inning to tie the game again.

Grosse Pointe’s rally in the second inning was when the team began to break away. Grosse Pointe brought in seven

runs in the inning, stringing hits and baserunners together for some great production. The team added six more runs in the fourth inning and another four in the fifth inning to bring its total to 19 and come away with the win.

Luke Brennan threw five scoreless and hitless innings on the mound with 10 strikeouts, while also having three hits at the plate. Jonas Wooten, James Van Marcke, Daniel Griesbaum and Enzo Baratta all finished the game with two RBIs each during a high-powered outing on offense.

Grosse Pointe went on to complete the sweep with an 11-1 victory in Game Two. Peter Barrett led the way with five RBIs, while Van Marcke added another pair as well for another strong game at the plate for the Grosse Pointe lineup. Denworth pitched all five innings, surrendering one run on four hits with eight strikeouts.

“The best part of the All-Star team is that it brings so many kids together,” coach Nathan



COURTESY PHOTO

The Grosse Pointe Senior League Baseball All-Stars defeated Macomb Senior League in two games Saturday, June 27, to win the District 6 championship and advance to the state tournament. The team’s roster included: Andrew Gwinnell, Charles Spies, Daniel Griesbaum, Dexter Pata, Enzo Baratta, Henry Rennpage, Hunter Vishey, James Van Marcke, Jonas Wooten, Luke Brennan, Marshall Pata, Michael McLeod, Peter Barrett, Preston Treska, Shane Denworth and coach Nathan Treska.

Treska said. “We’ve got kids from Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South, U of D (Jesuit) High School, Parcels Middle School, Pierce Middle School, Our Lady Star of the Sea, and one from De La Salle (Collegiate), so four different high schools and three middle schools all coming together.”

The district championship victory helped the Grosse Pointe Senior All-Stars advance to the state tournament. State tournament play begins Thursday, July 9, hosted by West Portage.

District tournaments for other age groups begin soon. The Grosse Pointe Woods-Shores Little League is hosting this year’s 12U and 11U Little League district tournaments at Ghesquiere Park beginning Sunday, July 5. The Grosse Pointe Park Little League will host this year’s 10U district tournament at Art Getz Field starting Monday, July 6.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN GRIESBAUM JR.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

Blue Devils, Norsemen shine in All-Star games

Some standout players from the Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South varsity baseball and softball teams represented their schools at the recent MAC vs. OAA All-Star baseball and softball games.

Above left: Dan Griesbaaum Jr. with Grosse Pointe South’s Dane Lezotte, Grosse Pointe North’s Trevor Lipscomb, and Jack Danielewicz from South after the MAC vs. OAA Baseball All-Star Game at UWM Field June 16. Lipscomb was named the MAC MVP of the game after having two RBIs.

Above right: Grosse Pointe South varsity softball coach Bill Fleming, center, with South players Mackenzie Simon, left, and Vivi Ostrowski, at the MAC vs. OAA Softball All-Star Game at Oakland Softball Field June 23.