

Public safety assessment will be on November ballot

Public engagement community session planned for late July

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A community meeting to educate City residents on the need to add a public safety assessment to their tax rolls will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 30, at Maire Elementary School.

It will serve as the next step after city council Monday night unanimously voted to place the four-year, 1.25-mill assessment on the November ballot.

The additional \$613,000 in revenue generated each year partially would fund public safety operations, while also enabling the city to catch up on deferred equipment purchases — such as a fire-

truck — and needed repairs to the aging Neff Park pool.

It is an alternative option to a public safety millage, which would be subject to state roll-backs, and is necessary, city officials say, to offset continued budget deficits the city narrowly has avoided the last several years.

The proposed ballot language is as follows:

“Should the City of Grosse Pointe raise money to partially equip, maintain, and operate the City Police and Fire Departments (Public Safety) by annual special assessment levies of up to 1.25 mills (\$1.25 per \$1,000 of taxable value) on all real property in the City that is not exempt from property taxes, for a period of four years with

the levies to be from 2026 to 2029 to provide funding for the 2027 to 2030 calendar years? If approved and fully levied in December 2026, the estimated revenue from this special assessment collected in the first year would be approximately \$613,750.00.”

For an average taxable value of \$225,000, the assessment would cost residents approximately \$281.25 per year.

Should it pass the Nov. 3 ballot, a public hearing would be held Nov. 16, to consider a resolution to establish a special assessment district — essentially the whole city — and a resolution to direct the collection of the special assessment.

Next, on Dec. 21, an additional public hearing would be held to consider a resolution to distribute the special assessment.



From left, Memory Care Director Janet Barolo, Executive Director Leslee Poegel, Life Enrichment Director Kaitlyn Doran and Business Office Manager Britney Mitchell.

Regal guest

American House Grosse Pointe Cottage celebrated this month's Family Night with a patriotic event honoring America's 250th birthday. The evening was a star-spangled celebration filled with red, white and blue decorations, great company and an unforgettable guest — a live bald eagle.

The majestic bird, named Bald Eagle, is a female ambassador eagle that travels with Michigan Avian Experience. Residents, families and staff at American House were captivated seeing the magnificent eagle up close. The experience was educational and inspiring, creating lasting memories for those in attendance.



American House Grosse Pointe Cottage Executive Director Leslee Poegel poses with Bald Eagle.

COURTESY PHOTOS

AWARDS:

Continued from page 1A

An additional highlight was the News placing first in General Excellence for a non-daily newspaper in its circulation class. The judge, who reviewed three full editions of the paper, commented, “A focus on community really makes this paper shine! Well designed, continuity, visually appealing and engaging. Everything from school news to public (safety) reports for the crime

fans. Letters to the editor, submitted photos for the new sports feature spread, are proof that readers still appreciate having a newspaper. Well designed throughout the entire editions, including ad content. Really enjoyed those Life & Leisure pages that remind me of the '80s-'90s papers, with party planning, school lunch tips, etc. Congratulations on 1st place!”

Other editorial honors — including 10 categories open to daily and non-daily newspapers —

included:

◆ Best Front Page Design, fourth place, Jody McVeigh

◆ Best Reader-Generated Campaign, third place, yearly calendar, Donna Zetterlund, Editorial staff and Sales team

◆ Best Reporting on Local Government, third place, Laurel Kraus for “Theft ring brought to light with aid from GP”

◆ Best Sports Column, second place, Brad Lindberg for “Softball is better than baseball”

◆ Best Sports Column, fourth place, Mike Adzima and Production team for “Guest pickers”

◆ Best Headline Writing, first place, Ted O'Neil for “Hans off that lizard!” and Lindberg for “Ambulance beef lacks meat”

◆ Best Local News Coverage, second place, Editorial staff for April and September editions

◆ Best Editorial, second

and third places, Editorial staff for “Enough is enough” and “No creativity allowed”

◆ Best Editorial Page, third place, Editorial staff

◆ Best Original Editorial Cartoon, second and third places, Ken Schop for “I'll show you my database ...” and “Kids now and then”

◆ Best News and Opinion on Public Corruption, fourth place, O'Neil for “BoE trustee facing scrutiny over tax forms”

◆ Best Breaking News Photo, second and fourth places, Renee Landuyt for “Burn, baby, burn” and “Beautiful reunion”

◆ Best Feature Photo, third place, Landuyt for “Poodle wears ‘doggles’”

◆ Best Sports Photo, second place, Landuyt for “Superman touchdown”

◆ Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition, third place, Adzima and John Pigott for “Kickoff! Your

guide to the gridiron”

◆ Best Business Feature Story, second place, McVeigh for “Couple creating culinary dream with Pangea Global Kitchen”

◆ Best Profile Feature Story, third and fourth places, McVeigh for “Images captured in Vietnam tell portion of veteran's story” and “Priest's 'last best friend' publishes book honoring longtime church leader”

◆ Best Sports Feature Story or Series, fourth place, O'Neil for “Running it back”

◆ Best Information Graphic, third place, Zetterlund for “Info Graphics”

The Sales and Production teams garnered seven honors in advertising categories, which were open to daily and non-daily newspapers alike.

Awards included:

◆ Best Advertorial or Sponsored Editorial, second place, Zetterlund, Olivia Monette, Pigott, David Hughes and Sales team for “2025 Fall Style Guide”

◆ Best Classified Section, second place, Melanie Mahoney, Hughes and News staff for “Classified Section”

◆ Best Multiple Advertiser Section, third place, Julie Sutton, Ken Ong and Zetterlund for “Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society group ad”

◆ Best Multiple Advertiser Section, fourth place, Adzima, Pigott and Gryzenia for “Kickoff!”

◆ Best Real Estate Ad, first place, Monette, Zetterlund, Sutton and Staff for “Finer Pointes”

◆ Best Restaurant Ad, first place, Monette and Production for “Brine Oyster House — Best of”

◆ Best Small-Page Ad, third place, Hughes for “Grosse Pointe Zoology”

“Receiving seven national advertising awards from the National Newspaper Association directly reflects the faith our advertising partners have in the Grosse Pointe News,” Retail Advertising Manager Shelley Owens said. “It is both humbling and gratifying, serving as a reminder of why we love what we do on a weekly basis. As always, we share each award with everyone who made it possible and remain grateful to our advertising partners for their continued and loyal support.”

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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The city last summer relocated the Music on the Plaza series to the vacant greenspace, while St. Clair was being resurfaced.

St. Clair developer loans greenspace for city events, parking

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — To make the best out of a less-than-ideal situation, the City of Grosse Pointe is creatively partnering with the apartment developer of the greenspace on St. Clair behind the CVS parking lot.

“We have an agreement now with City Center Apartments for that empty lot behind CVS,” Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said. “While he’s still working on putting that deal together and is working very hard

on that, he is letting us use (the lot) for activities all summer long, which I think is going to be great and help add to the vitality of the city.”

Through the remainder of the year, the City at no cost — but with an agreement to cut the grass — may use the plot of land for community events and activities. The first such use of the space was the Color a Community of Kindness event in late May, which invited community members to color one of 150 panels to make up a mural, which now hangs in the covered walkway

between Small Favors and Bakehouse 46.

“I’ve talked to some different places like The Neighborhood Club and The Family Center about maybe partnering with some things, looking into some art-themed events,” said Cindy Willcock, executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe, as she considers options for use of the space. “I’ve talked to some folks about some family-friendly, kids-focused events.”

The agreement also enables the city to pilot a new parking initiative for employees of the busi-

ness district within the small parking lot in back of the greenspace.

A discount employee parking pass will allow two passes per business for a significantly discounted rate of \$25 for the rest of the year.

“The trade-off is basically freeing up closer parking spaces for customers and then these employees get a discounted rate of \$25 from now until the end of the year,” Willcock said, adding employees also will have to walk a little farther to the 40-space

See LOAN, page 8A

Voters to decide parks & rec millage

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Voters will be polled Election Day on ponying up money for parks and recreation.

Council members resolved this month to request on the November ballot a seven-year funding plan for repairing assets at the city’s two municipal parks.

“The proposed millage is intended to provide a dedicated funding source for major capital repairs and replacements that preserve the long-term quality and safety of recreation facilities,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “This supports a multi-year plan rather than a one-time Band-Aid fix.”

An assessment of recreation system infrastructure by the city’s consulting engineers, OHM Advisors, determined assets at Windmill and Patterson parks have been short-changed by more than \$6 million in deferred maintenance.

“One of the most immediate concerns is

the swimming pool at Windmill, which is estimated to require approximately \$1.65 million in repairs and upgrades,” Sizeland said.

Facilities deteriorated so much that without the millage, the city faces a \$400,000 annual funding shortfall to return recreation infrastructure to acceptable standards.

Elected officials on July 13 agreed to seek 0.65 mills per year dedicated to system maintenance.

“The purpose of the proposed recreation millage is not to expand the park system or fund routine operations, employee wages or benefits,” Sizeland said. “Those costs are already supported through the city’s annual operating budget.”

City officials pitched the millage as a nearly \$80 annual savings per taxpayer, because it would replace a slightly higher debt service bond payment that expires in October.

“Residents are cur-

See MILLAGE, page 9A

The Week Ahead

- MONDAY, JULY 20**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation meeting, 7 p.m.
- TUESDAY, JULY 21**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Senior Citizens’ Recreation Commission meeting, 4 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 22**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park DDA meeting, 7 p.m.
- THURSDAY, JULY 23**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- SATURDAY, JULY 25**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to noon at Kercheval and Lakepointe.
 - ◆ After 6 on Kercheval, 6 to 10 p.m. on Kercheval, between Nottingham and Wayburn.

WALK:

Continued from page 1A

will be ample signage, consists of Kercheval between Cadieux and Neff, including all pedestrian plazas and public parking lots serving The Village business district.

Alcorn emphasized the overarching focus will be on education rather than enforcement with citations. As such, the city

has partnered with TCBY to encourage good behavior.

Officers who see children walking their wheels through The Village will present them with coupons for a free kid-size frozen yogurt from TCBY.

“We’re not going to reach an enforcement level of citation until there’s an egregious act or, God forbid, an accident or just a complete disregard,” Alcorn said.

“Everything’s going to be about education for us.”

The intentions of implementing the zone include reduced pedestrian/rider conflicts, improved safety and comfort for shoppers and families, an enhanced Village experience and strengthened community awareness of shared-space etiquette.

“We want The Village to be the first place kids come,” Councilwoman Maureen Juip noted, “and

I think you have struck a really good tone with this in making sure that people do feel so welcomed and then just making sure that everybody knows what the shared etiquette is.”

The city additionally will look for further opportunities to install more bike parking, as well as continue to collaborate with elected state officials on e-bike legislation.

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

From Grosse Pointe to Los Alamos: Pointer honors father’s hidden history

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

When Toni Michnovicz Gibson relocated to Michigan decades ago, she never anticipated that her family’s archive eventually would be so impactful on pieces of American history. For three years, the Grosse Pointe Park resident meticulously sorted through hundreds of old photographs, negatives and recordings to culminate in the publication of her book, “Los Alamos 1944-1977.”

Published by Arcadia Publishing in 2005, the book brought long overdue recognition to her father, a military photographer whose lens captured humanity during the Manhattan Project.

Gibson grew up in Albuquerque, N.M., the second oldest of 13 children. Her parents met at a secret laboratory in Los Alamos during World War II.

“My parents met during the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos,” Gibson said, “and when the war was over, my dad stayed working there. He was then sent to Albuquerque because it was like the overflow site for Los Alamos, because it was pretty small.”

After graduating from the University of New Mexico with a teaching certificate, Gibson was eager to forge her own path.

“I graduated and at that point I wanted to move as far away from my family



Clockwise from top left, Toni Michnovicz Gibson’s parents during the Manhattan Project era; John “Mike” Michnovicz, posing with his camera; and a photo Michnovicz took capturing humanity in Los Alamos during the Manhattan Project.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TONI MICHNOVICZ GIBSON

as I could,” Gibson said. “So I moved to Hawaii.”

While on Oahu she met her husband, who was serving at Barbers Point and Pearl Harbor as one of the final draftees of the Vietnam War.

“We met in a choir singing with the Honolulu Symphony and so we got married a year later,” Gibson said.

Because her husband

was a Michigan native, the couple eventually relocated to the Midwest, where he earned an advanced degree in Ann Arbor and secured a position as an archivist at the Detroit Public Library. Gibson spent 20 years teaching elementary school in the Detroit Public Schools before retiring.

Today, she has seven grandchildren and remains active in the community as an avid gardener and by giving historical tours at Pewabic Pottery, as well as St. Paul Cathedral and St.

Matthew’s & St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church in Detroit.

Though Gibson always knew her parents had worked at the time of the Manhattan Project, the true scope of her father’s historical contribution came to light unexpectedly during a family trip back West. While visiting the White Sands National Monument with her daughters and nieces, Gibson picked up a historical book in the gift shop detailing the lives of wartime women in Los Alamos.

“I picked up this book

and ... thought, ‘This picture looks familiar’ and ‘I saw this picture’ and ‘I’ve seen this before,’” Gibson said.

She purchased the book and took it to her father’s house.

“I showed my dad,” she continued. “I said, ‘This looks really familiar.’ He said, ‘Yeah, it’s right there on the wall.’ It was one of his photos. It’s ‘Road to Los Alamos’ and this is one of his pictures he took back in the ‘40s.”

John “Mike” Michnovicz then went through the book identifying numerous photographs as his own. When Gibson expressed amazement, her father produced two large boxes filled with original photographs, negatives, portraits and a mass of wartime artifacts.

Recognizing the immense historical value of the collection, Gibson embarked on a three-year project to organize the materials, sitting down with her father to preserve each story behind the lens.

“When I did organize them, I sat down with my dad and we tape-recorded with a cassette him

describing every photo, who was in it, when it happened, if he took the picture, because sometimes he’s in the picture,” Gibson said.

As Gibson dug deeper into the disorganized boxes, she discovered her father had unprecedented access to the absolute highest tier of the Manhattan Project’s leadership and scientific elite. Among the artifacts was an original print that stunned her.

“He brought out this photo of Robert Oppenheimer and I actually had this — it’s a print, but I actually have the 8-by-10 of this, the original — and Oppenheimer has autographed it,” Gibson said. “So when he brought these out, it was kind of amazing to me.”

Beyond the autographed portrait of Oppenheimer, her father captured intimate, candid moments of other legendary figures, including Nobel Prize-winning physicist Enrico Fermi. Despite the massive historical weight of the images, her father’s name was completely erased from the public record.

“He never got any credit for any of this,” Gibson said. “His name is never mentioned, because he was in the Army, so he didn’t technically own the images. They belong to the Army, so he was never recognized.”

Because her father had been drafted into the military as a college student with a background in physics and engineering, the officer at Los Alamos reviewed his service record, noticed he had shot photos for his college yearbook and ordered him to the photo lab.

His true legacy was documenting the human reality of a community built completely in secret. He shot portraits of world-famous scientists, but he also captured the raw substandard daily living conditions of the base.

“His photos are not the photos of the atomic bomb, photos of science experiments,” Gibson said. “They’re photos of the life people did in their spare time — where they ate, where they did community events, how they played sports. So this was all about life in this secret

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See HISTORY, page 8A

Grosse Pointe News

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Advertising proof deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday.

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City of Grosse Pointe

Cool down

A 73-year-old Farms woman was caught on video stealing six bags of ice worth \$20 total from a gas station on Mack at 1:15 p.m. Saturday, July 4.

She was identified and cited.

Scam

A Grosse Pointe woman was scammed into buying \$2,000 worth of gift cards to fix a virus on her Apple computer Monday, July 6.

Stolen Charger

A 2014 Dodge Charger was stolen from the 400 block of St. Clair between 7 p.m. Monday, July 6, and 9:30 a.m. the next morning.

Off the rack

Approximately \$1,100 worth of various clothing was stolen from a store in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 3:50 p.m. Tuesday, July 7.

The three suspected women fled in a white Cadillac.

An investigation is

ongoing.

Bank fraud

Multiple fraudulent transactions were made from a Grosse Pointer's Chase Bank account at 4 p.m. Friday, July 10.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Too late

An officer parked at Mack and Kerby watched a 64-year-old Ann Arbor man attempt to put on his seat belt before driving past the patrol car at 5:07 p.m. Monday, July 6.

The vehicle had an In-Transit Repair license plate and the man was ticketed for improper use.

Smashed

The driver's side rear

window of a vehicle parked in the 400 block of Roland was smashed around midnight Monday, July 6. Nothing appeared missing.

Return to the scene

Nearly \$3,000 worth of lawn equipment, tools and a mini bike were stolen from a closed garage — the back door may have been unlocked — in the 200 block of Kerby between 3 p.m. Monday, July 6, and 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 7.

A prowler then was captured on backyard security footage at the same house at 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 9. Nothing additional was stolen at that time.

Revived

After good Samaritans found a 54-year-old Detroit man passed out behind the wheel of a truck on Mack near Moran at 4:33 p.m. Friday, July 10, an officer

delivered three doses of Narcan to pull the man out of a drug overdose.

He admitted to using crack cocaine and was safely transported to an area hospital.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Bike stolen

These streets are made for walking now that a resident of the 1200 block of Maryland reported the theft of a \$100 navy blue Fuji mountain bike parked in the front yard.

A suspect hasn't been identified, according to police.

They said the theft happened between 7 and 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 7.

Bookcase caper

A variation on the

theme of porch piracy concerned the theft of a \$600 bookcase ordered online and delivered midmorning Wednesday, July 8, to the rear driveway of a house in the 800 block of Beaconsfield.

It was taken between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., police said.

"(The) bookcase was discovered missing after delivery," investigators said.

The driver, a 53-year-old man from Ohio, reportedly smelled of alcohol.

"(He) failed field sobriety tests (and) was arrested," police said.

— 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.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Hearing postponed in CSC case

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

ST. CLAIR SHORES — Former Grosse Pointe South High School hockey coach Ben Warda waived his statutory right to a probable cause conference within 21 days of arraignment during a hearing Tuesday, July 14, in Macomb County 40th District Court.

State law requires the hearing be held within 21 days of arraignment unless the defendant waives that right. It was rescheduled for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25.

Warda's attorney, Peter Torrice, told the judge the request was to have more time for discovery, including await-

ing results of DNA testing.

Warda, 38, was arraigned Wednesday, July 1, on one count of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree, which involves force or coercion. Macomb County Prosecutor Peter Lucido's office verified to the Grosse Pointe News that the complainant is an adult female.

A press release from Lucido's office said the alleged incident occurred Saturday, June 13, on Warda's boat while it was docked at a marina in St. Clair Shores. Warda faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

A letter sent via email at 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, from Grosse

Pointe Public School System Acting Superintendent Roy Bishop to South families stated: "This afternoon, the Grosse Pointe Public School System was informed by law enforcement that a member of the boys South High School varsity hockey coaching staff was arrested, charged and arraigned with criminal sexual conduct in the third degree. Based on the information currently available, the allegations do not involve GPPSS

See CASE, page 16A

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Best of the Best, again

It is fitting that this quarterly full-run issue — meaning every address in the Pointes should get it if the post office cooperates — contains our sixth annual Best of the Best special section.

Businesses of all sorts are recognized in 40 different categories, with winners crowned after several weeks of voting by you, our readers.

Returning favorites asked about things like the best barber, coffee joint, Realtor and florist. New categories this year asked where you go for the best onion rings, subs, breakfast sandwiches, ice cream sodas and more.

Be sure to keep an eye out for window decals and plaques the winners receive while you are out and about. Some even have multiple window stickers from years past.

Or, if you are in need of a certain product or service and have not patronized one of the winners detailed in the special section, keep them in mind.

The Grosse Pointe News, however, has picked up its own type of Best of the Best award. Again. Readers may recall back to April, when we won our fifth consecutive Michigan Press Association Newspaper of the Year Award in our class. In that contest, press associations from around the country judge entries from other states to take bias out of the equation as much as possible.

Based on our work from Aug. 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025, we won 55 awards in the editorial and advertising categories. That included things like headline writing, editorials, columns, features, photographs, page design, special sections, sports and ads.

Well, to paraphrase ZZ Top, now “We’re nationwide.”

We found out last week we received first place for Best General Excellence in the National Newspaper Association’s Better Newspaper Contest (see story, page A1). More than 90 newspapers from 32 states submitted 1,800 entries.

We received 25 editorial and seven advertising awards for the same categories listed above.

Some of the comments from the judges included: Congratulations on 1st place!! A focus on community really makes this paper shine! Well designed, continuity, visually appealing and engaging. Everything from school news to public reports for the crime fans. Letters to the editor, submitted photos for the new sports feature spread, are proof that readers still appreciate having a newspaper.

We also won the “It’s All About Audience” award for our fishing contest, which we have been updating you on over the last several weeks (see related content, pages 4-7C).

We would be remiss if we did not also mention that in May we received 14 awards in the Society of Professional Journalists, Detroit Chapter’s Excellence in Journalism contest.

There also is a Best of the Best type of award in our sports section today (see page 1D) in the form of our Athletes of the Year.

This year, 41 athletes were nominated for Athlete of the Year through the Grosse Pointe News’ Athlete of the Week feature series, which highlighted standout performances throughout the year. From Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School, these athletes represented their schools and teams with accomplishments 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 gave readers and the community an opportunity to recognize the athletes who made the biggest impact in the 2025-26 school year. It also was a way to look back on some of the



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST VIEW By Melissa Fradenburg

Before summer slips away

If you’re like many in the Grosse Pointes, you probably spent the Fourth of July on a dock somewhere. Maybe it was Harsens Island. Maybe northern Michigan. Or maybe you were one of the many families without power after the July 3 storm. With the internet down, the TV off and phones slowly losing their charge, there wasn’t much to do except sit together and talk.

Those quiet moments often lead to conversations we never seem to have during the rest of the year.

- ◆ Should we retire a little earlier?
- ◆ Can we afford to purchase a vacation home?
- ◆ Are we actually on track?

It’s funny how a change of scenery or even an unexpected power outage can give us a different perspective. Away from the meetings, practices, errands and endless notifications, we finally have time to think about the future instead of simply managing the present.

As a financial advisor, I’ve learned that the best planning conversations rarely begin across my conference table. They start long before that on a boat ride back to the marina, during an evening walk or over a cup of coffee on the deck. Summer has a way of slowing us down just enough to ask the questions we’ve been too busy to ask all year.

Before long it’s back-to-school shopping, football games, volleyball tournaments, college visits, packed calendars and holiday planning. The conversations we meant to have get pushed aside for another year.

This summer, those conversations may feel even more important.

If you haven’t looked at your investment accounts lately, you may be pleasantly surprised. Despite concerns about inflation, interest rates and global uncertainty, the stock market has continued to climb. Much of that growth has been driven by excitement surrounding artificial intelligence and a relatively

small number of the market’s largest companies. Many investors who believe they own a broadly diversified portfolio may be more concentrated than they realize.

One of the questions I’ve been hearing more frequently this summer is whether today’s market has become too dependent on artificial intelligence. While no one knows exactly what the market will do next, I believe the more important question is whether your financial life is prepared for whatever comes next.

Before summer slips away, take an hour to pull out your most recent investment statements and ask yourself a few important questions. Is your portfolio still properly diversified, or has this year’s AI-driven rally caused a handful of investments to grow into a much larger portion of your portfolio than you intended? If the market declined 30 percent, would your retirement plans still be on track? Do you have enough emergency savings to cover six to 12 months of living expenses so you wouldn’t be forced to sell investments during a downturn?

Good financial planning has never been about predicting the next headline. It’s about building a plan that can weather both strong markets and difficult ones.

Before the pace of fall takes over, revisit those conversations that started on the dock or around the kitchen table during the power outage. If they left you wondering whether you’re truly on track, I’d be happy to continue the conversation. Sometimes the greatest peace of mind comes from knowing you have a plan.



Melissa Fradenburg, CDFA, AIF.

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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.

Wake-up call

To the Editor:

I am writing in regards to the July 9 article “Children trapped in home invasion.” I have lived in the “neighborhood” between Chalfonte and Webster for 35 years, so to hear of such a frightening incident on a

See LETTER, page 7A

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July 16 – 22



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Mostly Clear	Partly Cloudy	Chance T-Storms	Chance Rain	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
0%	20%	60%	30%	30%	10%	10%
SUNRISE 6:09 am	SUNRISE 6:10 am	SUNRISE 6:11 am	SUNRISE 6:12 am	SUNRISE 6:13 am	SUNRISE 6:14 am	SUNRISE 6:15 am
SUNSET 9:06 pm	SUNSET 9:05 pm	SUNSET 9:04 pm	SUNSET 9:04 pm	SUNSET 9:03 pm	SUNSET 9:02 pm	SUNSET 9:01 pm

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

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia



Gratitude for continued support

The Grosse Pointe News has just received 32 national awards from the National Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Contest — 24 for editorial excellence and seven for advertising, along with a special Audience Development Award recognizing our Fishing Classic as an outstanding community engagement initiative.

Among nearly 1,800 entries submitted by 93 newspapers from across the country, the Grosse Pointe News earned first

place for Best General Excellence in our class — the highest recognition a newspaper can receive.

To say I am proud is an understatement.

When we entered this contest, I honestly had no idea what to expect in terms of winning. I am psychotically competitive and we have tremendous confidence in our staff and the work we produce every week, but this was a national competition judged by respected journalism professionals against papers in dozens of states. We knew we would be up against some of the finest community newspapers in America.

To come away with 32 national awards — and to earn recognition in

nearly every category we entered — is both humbling and incredibly rewarding. Actually, I don't know why it's humbling; I sort of feel like it's the opposite of humbling. It's validating. And vindicating.

The judges wrote that our "focus on community really makes this paper shine," praising everything from our reporting and design to reader-submitted photos, letters to the editor and the features that bring neighbors together.

In today's world, everyone has an opinion about journalism (along with everything else). Some readers agree with every editorial we publish. Others disagree with everything we print just because. But whether

someone agrees with every viewpoint we express has never been the measure of a quality newspaper. Also, to paraphrase Dave Portnoy's new book (which is very entertaining by the way), if everyone likes you, you probably aren't doing anything interesting.

The judges didn't know our local politics. They didn't know who sits on city councils, serves on the school board or writes letters to the editor. They simply evaluated the work — and determined the Grosse Pointe News stands among the very best community newspapers in the United States.

Occasionally, someone will tell us they use

the paper for birdcage liner. Usually right before insisting we should publish a particular letter, cover a certain story, donate to their auction or devote more attention to an issue they care about.

I'd respectfully offer this thought: If our newspaper matters enough to ask it to inform your neighbors, shape public discussion and preserve the history of this community, then it's worth supporting.

Every week our reporters attend city council and school board meetings that stretch late into the evening. They photograph Friday night football games in the rain. They cover school concerts, ribbon cuttings, nonprofit fundraisers

and the victories and heartbreaks that make this community what it is. That kind of journalism only exists because readers and advertisers choose to support it.

Winning all of these awards isn't the finish line. But it's confirmation that the path we're on is the right one. It's another feather in our cap and, frankly, it's refreshing to realize that we have the best team, best community and best supporters we could ask for.

Thank you for believing in local journalism. Thank you for supporting the Grosse Pointe News. And thank you for helping make our hometown newspaper one of the finest in America.

LETTER:

Continued from page 6A

street where we often walk our dog on late summer nights is upsetting. I am grateful for the quick and heroic actions of Sgt. Mike Ryan of the Farms police and that no one in the home was harmed. That being said, it is alarming that a family in our community had to experience such a violation of their home and of their safety.

I am also very grateful to our Farms Judge Charles Berschback for his swift arraignment on July 3 of this intruder and a bond set that assures us he will not be getting out anytime soon.

With all that said, and the knowledge that we have an outstanding police force in the Farms and in all the Pointes, it is still concerning that a crime like this could happen in our community.

As an avid reader of the weekly crime reports in GP News, I again praise our officers for the arrest of criminals in our cities who often have prior convictions or warrants out for their arrests. This home invasion was committed by a habitual offender with a long criminal history, as the paper stated. The question on all our minds is why was he able to be on our streets, stealing from one of our local businesses with such a violent criminal record? I will be watching for the follow-up story after Judge Berschback's probable cause conference on July 15. This is yet another wake-up call to all residents of the Pointes that we need to be more vigilant in protecting our homes and our neighborhoods, and to thank our police officers and firefighters for their quick response times whenever possible.

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07/16/26

LOAN:

Continued from page 3A

lot. “Hopefully it provides at least some short-term relief to the businesses and the employees while we continue to look at how the parking system functions. Or it at least lets people save up a little bit of money so when that space is no longer available, they’ve at least saved for six months.”

The city will cover the cost of parking signage and minor repairs to the lot, including re-striping.

“(Mike Bailey) is a very community-minded developer, so we’re fortunate to have that and his willingness to let us



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The 40-space parking lot will allow the city to launch a discount parking pass for employees of the downtown business district.

use the space while he continues to explore opportunities for the site,” City Manager Joe Valentine said. Bailey got city approval

for a planned unit development, four-story apartment building, dubbed City Center Apartments, in December 2022.

Since that time, market feasibility showed the original plan included too many one-bedroom units for the current market.

The developer since has been working on a financially feasible way to restructure the development for more two-bedroom units, while also coming up against skyrocketing construction costs.

“We’re really fortunate that the property owner is so generous and is allowing us to use that space,” Willcock said. “Even before he starts

building, he’s really demonstrating that he’s a community partner and he cares about this community and supporting it, so I’m excited to see his project move forward as well.

“As nice as it is to have that space, I think what he’ll bring to The Village when he develops that space is going to be so important, too.”

When initial development discussions took place in late 2022, the completed development was expected to bring in \$100,000 in property taxes annually for the City, \$130,000 for the Grosse Pointe Public School System and \$12,000 for the Grosse Pointe Public Library.

HISTORY:

Continued from page 4A

town.”

Her father was a true Renaissance man in the camp. In addition to working in the photo lab, he was a gifted musician who played in a band on Los Alamos’ isolated, internal radio station and he frequently photographed local weddings, babies and square dances with the neighboring Pueblo peoples.

Beyond preserving national history, the project served as a profound emotional bridge between Gibson and her father. Growing up one of 13 children under the roof of a military man meant that family life oftentimes was strictly disciplined.

“He had to run a tight ship, so we all were kind of afraid of him I guess you could say,” Gibson said. “So this project really brought me a lot closer to him and I appreciated his work.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TONI MICHNOVICZ GIBSON

The photo of Robert Oppenheimer that John “Mike” Michnovicz took.

I appreciated his humility.”

The race to finish the book became deeply urgent when her father was diagnosed with colon cancer in his 70s. As his health rapidly declined, Gibson fought desperately to get a physical copy of the book into his hands.

“He was getting increasingly

more ill and I really wanted him to see this,” Gibson said. “I called my editor and said, ‘Do you have any copies available?’ And she said, ‘Yes, we can give you an overnight one.’ I was in Michigan, so I got on the plane and got there that night. Then the next morning, the doorbell rang and UPS was delivering a book, so my dad got to see it and he died a week later.”

Decades later, a similarly bittersweet tragedy struck the family. In February 2024, Gibson organized a major pop-up photo exhibition and book talk at the Grosse Pointe Public Library. Her brother, Jon Michnovicz, a prominent New York doctor who had co-authored the book by manually developing the old negatives in a local print lab, had advanced lung cancer and passed away the day after the presentation.

Following her father’s passing, Gibson made it her mission to see historical institutions give her father the public credit he

was denied in the 1940s and still to this day. A Google search of George Kistiakowsky, a famous Ukrainian-American chemist, will reveal his portrait, taken by Gibson’s father, but with no credit attached. She donated his priceless archive to the Los Alamos History Museum.

On Dec. 26, 2023, what would have been her father’s 100th birthday, Gibson traveled to New Mexico, rented a room in the La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe and curated her own independent exhibition of more than 100 photos, complete with captions and historical references.

An archivist from the Norris Bradbury Science Museum attended the pop-up, admitted to never hearing of this famous photographer and immediately requested to host an official exhibition. By 2024-25, both the Bradbury Museum and the Los Alamos Historical Society finally mounted formal exhibitions showcasing her father’s name.

Gibson continues to carry history forward. She currently is preparing a presentation for the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham, where she will showcase a 30-minute multimedia video her father created for a 1970 Manhattan Project reunion. The presentation features hundreds of his original slides, authentic audio from the secret town’s radio station and his own voice narrating what life was like behind security gates.

Looking back at the decades-long journey to preserve her dad’s hidden history, Gibson offered a final piece of hard-won wisdom about what truly matters.

“The book speaks for itself,” she said. “If I did it again, I would stop and appreciate my parents more. Lives are busy and, as you get old, you have a different place in life. I would spend more time with them, but I am grateful for all the hours I did get to spend with them.”

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Infrastructure
chutzpah wins state loan

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Municipal representatives credit the citizenry with setting up the city to receive close to \$20 million in state funds for lead water line replacements. Park officials said it had to be noticed in state government that the city was a candidate to spend the money prudently. They credit a buildup of goodwill to chipping away at lead line replacement while upgrading water mains, voter pas-

sage of an infrastructure millage, a water and sewer rate increase and a bond to modernize water meters. Most exceptional, donations from residents to construct a flood control system proved the city’s commitment to water system improvements and the where-withal to see them through. “I imagine empirical factors were critical,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “But when all things

See STATE, page 10A

MILLAGE:

Continued from page 3A

rently paying 0.81 mills for the 2007 bond debt services,” Sizeland said. “That bond financed important citywide initiatives, including diseased tree removal and strategic property acquisitions to help stabilize neighborhoods and protect property values.” Councilman Marty McMillan convinced fellow officials to omit the word “increase,” when mentioning the millage proposal in ballot language. Sizeland said the 0.65 mill recreation tax would generate around

\$562,000 in annual revenue starting with the summer of 2027. The seven-year total would be \$3,934,000. “For a home valued at \$475,000, the cost per year (of) the recreation millage is \$308.75, which is \$79.94 less (than the bond),” Sizeland said. “If this millage does not pass, we would have to look at more services to cut.” The seven-year millage is in response to a five-year parks and recreation master plan. Members of the recreation commission in partnership with OHM oversaw an evaluation of system facilities and a ranking of recommended

improvements based partly on resident preferences obtained during public hearings and surveys. Windmill’s pool topped lists of needed maintenance and public interest. Pool needs include drain lines, mechanical equipment and deck repair. Other needs are: ♦ a new roof and environmental-control equipment for the Lavins Activity Center, ♦ windows and better environmental equipment for the Tompkins Center, ♦ a new roof for the Patterson maintenance garage and

♦ replacement of almost everything on the Patterson boardwalk. “Without a dedicated revenue source, these significant park investments must compete each year with other general fund priorities, including public safety, infrastructure, public buildings and other essential municipal services,” Sizeland said. A dedicated millage meets the goal of stable funding. “Funds could only be used for their authorized purpose and the city would provide public reporting on revenues collected, projects completed and expenditures made,” Sizeland said.

LEAD:

Continued from page 1A

health and make meaningful improvements to our infrastructure while reducing the financial burden on our residents,” Hodges said. “The way this loan is structured, we’re going to be able to consolidate a bunch of projects to make it more efficient than otherwise,” said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee. As Sizeland read terms of the loan, the good news kept on coming. Some \$1,985,500 of the award is a grant. “It’s like free money,” Sizeland said. “There’s no payback for that portion.” The award is part of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund administered by the Department of Environment, Great

Lakes and Energy (EGLE). “Funds must be used for lead service line replacement work and associated activities,” according to EGLE’s intended use plan. Replacements must be completed within three years. Payback of the loan can be spread over 20, 30 or 40 years. “As of right now, I don’t see any downside,” Wiener said. “Most likely we’d select a 20-year term.” Qualifying for the loan means Park officials can shift into overdrive their incremental program of lead line replacement. Service lines have been swapped in recent years at a pace of up to 100 per year. Work often is coordinated with installing larger water mains. Service lines link water mains to individual dwellings or comparable structures. “We have about 2,000

lead services lines left to do,” Sizeland said. “They cost about \$10,000 a pop. So, replacing all of them in three years would be about 650 lead service lines per year.” Although the Park was the only Grosse Pointe to qualify for the funding — the City and Woods did not — the state altered the lead service line replacement program this year in a way that raised the prospects of better-financed applicants. “Dollars have been awarded to non-disadvantaged applicants on the project priority list in priority order until funds were exhausted,” according to the EGLE document. “Before, the state put all kinds of projects in one pot,” Wiener said. “Now, it’s spun off with a lead service portion. That was a huge boon.” The award also is timely in a contracting

sense. Recent bids for municipal projects, such as water meter replacements, water main installation and road construction, have come in under expectations.

“The fact that we can pull forward during a favorable time of construction is going to yield some real savings,” Wiener said. “Because we’re going to do 17

years’ worth of work in three years, that’s going to give us a lot more leverage in bidding. That’s going to make us a lot more efficient with taxpayers, too.”

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Annual sidewalk sale next weekend

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The annual Streetside Sale-eboration in The Village kicks off this year with a preview night Friday, July 24, featuring live music by The Highballs, who take the stage at 7 p.m.

“Some of the businesses will be coming out on Friday with just a sneak peek of what they’re going to have on Saturday or Sunday,” said Cindy Willcock, executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe.

The full sidewalk sale takes place 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 25, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 26, on Kercheval between Cadieux and Neff.

Small businesses in The Village will offer sales and specials, alongside grab-and-go options from local restaurants, unique vendors and fun activities.

“It’s a great time to visit your favorite shops for some cool deals, but it’s also a great time to check out other businesses that you may not shop at all the time,” Willcock said. “We’ve got some really interesting vendors this year that offer things that are different than you can traditionally find down here (in The Village).”

— Laurel Kraus

Participating businesses

*Those with an asterisk are participating inside their stores.

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Bakehouse 46	Nothing Bundt Cakes*
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Dawood Boutique	Pointelle*
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Priority wastes a chance

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Administrators had to toss a few lariats to do it, but they eventually lassoed enough waste hauling companies to achieve competitive bidding on a new collection contract.

An ad hoc committee set up to evaluate bidders chose a new carrier, Express Waste Services, to replace the city’s current contractor, Priority Waste. Priority’s contract expires at the end of September.

Council members agreed with the committee July 13, despite the winning bidder submitting a higher price.

Express’ terms to collect rubbish, yard waste and recycling cost \$17.60 per month. Priority wanted \$15.50 per month, a nearly \$1 increase from its current fee of \$14.67 per period.

Municipalities aren’t obligated to accept low bids. Other considerations can surpass price, such as value.

In this case, Priority saddled itself with numerous customer complaints about service quality and reliability, especially after the rough takeover in 2024 of a surprisingly uncooperative predecessor and

claims of employee sabotage.

“With concerns regarding Priority Waste’s inconsistent level of service to city residents, the ad hoc committee recommends the council approve the proposal submitted by Express Waste Services,” City Manager Nick Sizeland wrote in a memo to elected officials.

The new contract is for three years. Included are options for two more years, each at a 1 percent rate increase. New totes also are part of the deal.

Express Vice President of Municipal Sales Dan Garman peppered his offer with a couple of perks:

◆ “Express will provide unlimited bulk waste collections. Residents do not even have to call. All residents need to do is place bulk waste out on their normal day of collection and keep it separate from all other products.”

◆ “Express will provide an opportunity for all residents to upgrade to backdoor services for an additional \$25 per month. This would be a free service to residents that are handicapped and have no one in the household available to help them.”

Park officials began seeking bids to replace

Priority last April.

“Upon first bid opening, the city received one formal bid and a no bid,” Sizeland said. “The city determined this was not a competitive bid and reissued an addendum and received two submissions, which constituted a competitive bidding process.”

St. Clair Shores officials this month replaced Priority with Express.

“The city heard the concerns expressed by residents regarding waste collection services and took those concerns seriously,” St. Clair Shores Mayor Kip Walby said in a news release.

Serving on the Park ad hoc committee were Sizeland, Public Works Director Tom Jenny, Finance Director Ethan Haan, Mayor Pro Tem Brent Dreaver and Councilman Tim Kolar.

Priority, meanwhile, has been shaken up inside and out. It was acquired this year by a larger company that replaced top management and announced a \$190 million capital improvement plan.

All of that was too little, too late for Kolar.

“Had (the new CEO) been here two years ago, we might not be having this discussion right now,” Kolar said.

STATE:

Continued from page 9A

are equal, proven ability to perform and resident investment both contribute favorably to the scoring. Agencies prefer to invest in proven parties.”

“The state has to approve all of our permits for water mains, so they saw the Park is replacing lead service lines,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “The state could see we were really making an attempt. I believe that was part of why we qualified.”

Park officials remain

stunned upon learning last week the city received a \$1,985,500 grant and \$17,869,500 no-interest loan to replace lead water service lines and related water system improvements.

“Securing these highly competitive funds did not happen by chance,” Hodges said. “It is the result of years of diligent planning, strong performance and trusted partnerships.”

“There’s no two ways around it,” said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee.

“We are reaping the dividends of work we’ve been doing. We’re not doing one-offs. We’re doing long-term planning, capital planning, and making sure it’s structured and financed.”

He cited residents for supporting infrastructure improvements, including complying with the state’s unfunded mandate to replace lead lines. That and similar investments put the Park in a position of trust with regulators and, by extension, earned the city a higher score than otherwise on the loan grading scale.

City officials also underscored philanthropic support from the Cotton family and the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation for the extreme emergency relief valve, or EERV.

Portions of the valve were custom-made and installed two summers ago at Patterson Park to divert flood-threatening volumes of storm sewer flow directly into Lake St. Clair rather than backing into basements, as happened a few summers prior.

The Cotton family gave \$900,000 for the valve. Foundation members donated \$130,000.

“There’s no doubt in my mind that the Cottons’

and foundation’s support of the EERV directly supported this effort, too,” Wiener said of the loan award.

“This (donation) was for critical infrastructure that was absolutely needed to preserve our neighborhoods from catastrophic damage,” Sean Cotton said.

“Their effort helped us accelerate our timeline and be more aggressive on the lead service line than we would have otherwise been able to do,” Wiener said. “That goes into the calculations. When we applied for the grant in general, it was fairly unlikely we were going to get it. But because they spun off the

lead line portion of it, all our work fed into that. Scoring on the lead lines put us way higher than we would have been with just the general application.”

“There were many that fought against this project and I am happy to see it continuing to work out for the Park and our residents,” Cotton said.

“This was shortly after the flooding,” said Jay Kennedy, foundation member and president at the time of the donation. “We had done a lot of significant recreational infrastructure improvements, but I think the feeling at that time was that was the most important need at the time.”



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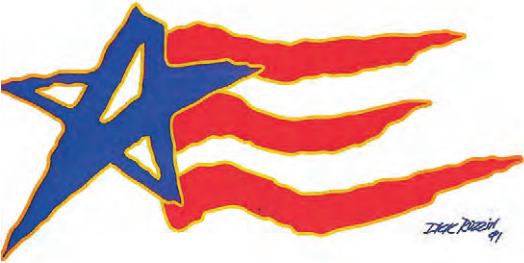
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This is my birthday gift to America. It took thirteen years for my grandfather to get to America from Lavadina, Italy, after leaving the devastation of World War I. In 1918, he left his home, his wife and five children to find a better place for them to live. Five years later, my grandmother received the first letter from him. He walked, searching through northern Europe and Russia, to Alaska, into Canada, to Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and finally, to Windsor. He would eventually stand on the shore of the Detroit River, with my father, and look across to America.

“That is where my family belongs. In America, the greatest country in the world.” Years later, I was with my father, an American World War II veteran from Italy. He was born and grew up in a big room in the end of a barn with a dirt floor. With tears in his eyes, he said to me, “Thank God your grandfather brought us here to America.”

Look around the Grosse Pointes. We live in a wonderful community, one with accomplished, caring and generous people, great and historic architecture, a landscape filled with beautiful flowering trees and a grand view of Lake St. Clair that sparkles and entertains us every single day. The Grosse Pointes have evolved and grown through the years with grace, wisdom and beauty. It is a wonderful place to live, populated with wonderful and free people.

We are blessed to be governed in a great Republic. America is an experiment that moves forward through time, ever improving in spite of its flaws. Freedom combined with Free Capitalism has resulted in unparalleled achievements to the benefit of all Americans. Freedom, Democracy and Free Capitalism are at the foundation of our historic cultural and economic success. Both systems are idealistic and beneficial to all Americans, yet they must be executed by people and there often lies our weakness. This gift to America addresses our freedom and those who helped sustain it. God bless you and God bless America.



THE FLAMING STAR, designed for the America’s Cup.

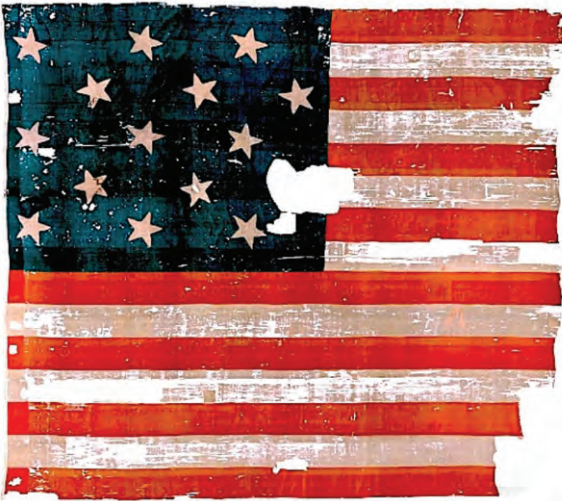
AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

Reading this account will show you how hard it was to earn the freedoms Americans have today. Freedom opened our hearts and our minds. It led to many spectacular and historic achievements throughout our history. The miracle of flight, the literal breaking of the bonds of earth, extending even to the moon and far beyond into space. Great achievements in the arts, sciences, medical and industrial sectors. Unparalleled economic opportunities and successes for all American citizens and the rising up of a great and caring Christian civilization that has brought the world along with it, like no other in history. Americans have freed millions from tyranny and oppression. Included in that list is an America that in a great internal struggle, costing hundreds of thousands of American lives, helped break the cycle of slavery. Slavery was here long before we became the United States of America.

America has a defiant and patriotic spirit that has been demonstrated many times over. With excerpts from “The Star-Spangled Banner” and a single revealing quote from Dr. Larry Arnn, President of Hillsdale College, you will see what “American Exceptionalism” is and how four brave American soldiers, in giving their lives, helped to change the course of our great nation’s history.

“OH SAY, CAN YOU SEE BY THE DAWN’S EARLY LIGHT... NOW IT CATCHES THE GLEAM OF THE MORNING’S FIRST BEAM, IN FULL GLORY REFLECTED NOW SHINES IN THE STREAM”

In 2013, I traveled to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. I saw the recently restored American flag that flew proudly over Fort McHenry at the end of the battle in the Baltimore, Maryland harbor on Sept. 13 and 14, 1814. With two major port cities in ruins, the newly joined 18 American states would be severely hampered in their efforts to defend our new nation. British troops circled behind the city of Baltimore to attack it. That effort failed, as did the attack on Fort McHenry.



THE FLAG, flown over Fort McHenry.

The flag is written about in our National Anthem. No other country on earth has an anthem like ours, a story of fighting against tyranny and winning. The “winning” part of the story is wonderful and inspiring.

In 2016, I traveled to Fort McHenry, the site of the start of the War of 1812, between America and the English Empire, the most powerful nation on earth. The new United States had only 22 ships and the British Navy had over 80, just off of our Eastern Seaboard. British troops outnumbered ours by far and the dark clouds of war formed solidly over a new and growing America. Our freedoms were at great risk.

“PRAISE THE POWER THAT HATH MADE AND PRESERVED US A NATION! THEN CONQUER WE MUST, WHEN OUR CAUSE IT IS JUST. AND THIS BE OUR MOTTO: “IN GOD IS OUR TRUST.”

Four American soldiers defending Fort McHenry were killed as they stepped up to keep our flag from falling. The horrible way they died is remarkable. It shows the depth of passion for freedom of those in the American States at that point in time.

In Washington I saw a copy of the handwritten story of the battle by Francis Scott Key. His written account would become the American National Anthem. It was what he saw: the story of a new nation that was engaging in a fight to the death. Yes ... a fight to the death! If Americans had not been successful in that war against England, our country would not be what it is today – the freest, most generous and accomplished nation in history. That story, set to music, would become known as “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

‘TIS THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER! OH, LONG MAY IT WAVE O’ER THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE!

The British had come to destroy the fort, to break the will of the American people. The flag was their target. Nearing the end of the battle, the Commander of Fort McHenry had the American storm flag taken down and his larger personal flag raised high into the sky, to show the British at sea that Fort McHenry would never, never surrender!

Soldiers, sailors and marines from the British ships were spreading fear and destruction up and down our Eastern Coast, burning whole towns and villages, homes, farms and crops. The British bombs hit the flag as the patched holes, like bandaged wounds, clearly show. Our soldiers, and our flag, were hit and hit ...

“AND THE ROCKET’S RED GLARE, THE BOMBS BURSTING IN AIR, GAVE PROOF THROUGH THE NIGHT THAT OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE”!

The small force of American soldiers at the fort were able to create a stand-off against the powerful British Navy. *The people of a young America yearned to keep their freedom!*

“Freedom or Death” was heard across the American colonies! What was clearly remembered were the colonials, farmers and fisherman who fought against professional English soldiers. They had little chance to keep their freedom, often in the bitter cold, without food and munitions. Some of our soldiers, without boots, had their hands and feet wrapped in rags as they marched through the freezing night to do battle, leaving bloody footprints in the snow. How terribly, terribly desperate they must have been, but they fought on! With help from God and the country of France they did win! They won our freedom, with their terrible suffering and their blood.

Hundreds of flashes of light and blue smoke were seen from the cannons on the British ships throughout the night. Our flag was hit! But it did not fall!

As the early morning light lit the harbor, the larger flag was raised on the battered staff. It too was shot through! It could be seen by the departing English Navy high in the air, its clear red, white and blue reflected in the glassy tide, as Francis Scott Key saw and wrote: “The flag was still there!”

“OH, THUS BE IT EVER, WHEN FREE MEN SHALL STAND, BETWEEN THEIR LOVED HOMES AND THE WARS DESOLATION”!

Dawn ... the British ships turned away, defeated. Four brave American soldiers had been horribly shattered, brutally killed, by the exploding British cannon shots that night. More were terribly wounded having stepped forward, into the exploding gunfire, to keep our flag from falling!

That enemy, the powerful island country of Great Britain, has become one of America’s greatest and most important allies. We in America were not “given” our freedom as many Englishmen have been taught for years.

No!

The American people took it!

They took their freedom! They created a clearly stated Declaration of Independence and a Constitution, a brilliant plan to protect and keep that freedom forever. It is the longest-surviving document of its kind in human history and no other nation on earth has ever taken its freedom and kept it, before or since.

As President Larry Arnn of Hillsdale College writes: “Under the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution provides for a government operating under the authority of the governed. This achievement is unprecedented.”

The historic act, the taking of our own freedom, at the greatest of our own peril, is truly,

American Exceptionalism.

“AND THE STAR SPANGLED-BANNER IN TRIUMPH DOTH WAVE O’ER THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE”.

Yes, “Under the authority of the governed!” Given by, “We The People!”

God Bless and save our Exceptional America. Celebrate our country! Display and wave our beautiful red, white and blue American flag!

Americans must stay free, so millions of others on this earth will see that they can be free too!

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Social district hours extended

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — When a plan works, do it more.

When a plan works better than planned, do it more often.

The logic behind expanding social district operations in the Park is simple. “The district has been a success,” said Cindy Paparelli, assistant city manager, in a report to city council July 13.

“We haven’t had any concerns from public safety,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

Paparelli followed up with a common-sense suggestion: “It may be beneficial to consider expanding the duration and times of operation.”

Council members agreed. On the sixth anniversary of their predecessors unanimously establishing the social district in 2020, current solons extended the district’s hours of operations.

Changes altered start-time hours only and are in place for a six-month trial period.

Instead of social district rules kicking in at 5 p.m. daily, they now start at noon Thursdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Ending hours stay the same: 10 p.m. Thursday and Sunday and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

- New hours, therefore, are:
- ◆ noon to 10 p.m. Thursday,
 - ◆ noon to 11 p.m. Friday,
 - ◆ 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and
 - ◆ 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Social district regulations let businesses serve alcoholic beverages to customers on the hoof. Patrons can take their drinks to an outdoor common area designated by the city and approved by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

“You’re allowed to walk with a drink in a plastic cup with the name of the business” from which it was purchased, Sizeland said. “You cannot enter another business” with a drink bought elsewhere.

Council members were ready to open the district at noon weekends until Councilman Marty McMillan made a case for starting two hours earlier at 10 a.m.

He said earlier hours may benefit shoppers at the Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays in a parking lot off Kercheval, by giving them more time to order Bloody Marys at nearby pubs.

“Let’s try it,” Councilman Max Wiener said.

“It’s important for consumers to remember that these to-go alcoholic drinks must be consumed only within the designated common areas, not throughout the entire district,” according to instructions on the municipal website, grossepointepark.org.

Social district boundaries are Kercheval from the Alter-Wayburn alley to Nottingham and on Charlevoix from the same alley to the west side of Nottingham Street.

Within those boundaries are two common areas in which alcohol may be consumed:

- ◆ on Kercheval from the east side of Wayburn to the halfway point between Beaconsfield and Nottingham and
- ◆ on the north side of Charlevoix from the Detroit boundary to Beaconsfield and the south side of Charlevoix from Beaconsfield to Lakepointe.

“Qualified licensees whose licensed premises are contiguous to the common areas and have been approved for and issued a social district permit may sell alcoholic liquor on their licensed premises to customers who may then consume the liquor within the commons areas of the district,” Paparelli wrote in a memo to council.

“The consumption of alcoholic liquor in the commons area may only occur during the legal hours of the sale of alcoholic liquor of the social district permittee,” according to the rules.

The farmers market is off limits to alcohol consumption. It’s outside the Kercheval social district.

After 6 in GPP

The first After 6 on Kercheval of 2026 took place Saturday, June 27. With an evening of perfect weather, this was one of the most well-attended After 6 events to date. The event included a carnival ride for kids, a lumberjack show, two bands, booths and lots of food choices.



The carnival ride, the Hurricane. It didn’t spin around fast or go too high, which was perfect because the kids had a blast.



Dan McDonough, owner of Jack Pine Lumberjack Show, explains the log rolling competition as two lumberjacks start the event. Lumberjacks Will Chamberlain and Kyle Settle each attempted to make the other one fall; however, in this case, they both went down.

Lumberjacks from the Jack Pine Lumberjack Show of Mackinaw City entertained by ax throwing, sawing logs and making discs from logs. One of them attempted to make a bunny from a stump using a chainsaw, but it kept getting sawed smaller and smaller, so he ended up making a pint-sized chair and gave it to Benny Valgoi, who immediately sat on it to watch the rest of the show.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Grosse Pointe Parent Advisory Committee Communications Chair Andrea Pietrowsky, Vice President Dima Hausser and President Jill Wurm answered questions about the organization. It is a parent-led group dedicated to better serve students with special needs and their families in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Families can get more information by emailing grossepointepac@gmail.com



Kids dance to the music of the band Atomic Radio.



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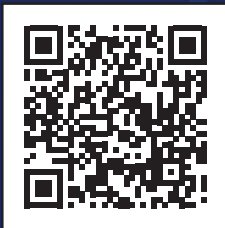
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Posterity awarded state grant to expand services

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Posterity Art & Framing Gallery — a custom frame shop and community-focused art gallery on Kercheval in The Village — recently was awarded a \$16,104 Match on Main grant through the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

The grant was part of \$1.5 million awarded to 69 small businesses throughout the state to encourage resiliency and strengthen downtown districts.

“Receiving the news that Posterity Gallery was awarded the Match on Main grant was incredible,” owner Michelle Boggess-Nunley said in a release. “This support will allow us to reinvest directly into our local arts community by creating new services for artists, updating essential equipment and making meaningful progress on offerings our community has been asking for,

such as fine art photography, expanded printing services and artist supplies.

“I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to grow, excited for what comes next and proud to be a small part of what makes The Village so special.”

Boggess-Nunley’s expansion plans and use of the funding hinge on offering more resources to local artists. She intends to offer fine art photography services to artists, as well as build out the back of Posterity to expand its art supply retail offerings.

On the customer side, Posterity also will expand its museum-grade custom framing options with updated equipment, in addition to increasing its range of photography services.

“We were going to make a lot of these upgrades anyway, so to have a little bit of help is going to allow us to grow



COURTESY PHOTO

Michelle Boggess-Nunley, owner of Posterity Art & Framing Gallery.

faster than I had originally anticipated,” Boggess-Nunley said. “As a business owner, I had a five-year plan and a 10-year plan, and it’s really going to help us accelerate a couple of

years ahead of where I thought I was going to be.”

Posterity was selected for the Match on Main grant from among 144 applicants representing 83 communities, which is

the highest participation rate in the program’s history.

“It is no surprise to me that Michelle Boggess-Nunley and Posterity were recipients of this grant,” Mayor Sheila

Tomkowiak said. “Michelle and her team have done an excellent job maintaining and growing the gallery and have made meaningful contributions to The Village and to the larger community. We are grateful for all of her efforts and are pleased that she is now in a position to continue to expand the business.”

Last summer, Chez Lou Lou Salon in The Village was awarded a \$22,600 Match on Main grant to expand its private skincare and hair-care line, as well as its Japanese scalp massage service with upgraded equipment.

“The Match on Main program is about more than funding,” said Cindy Willcock, executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe. “It’s about creating real opportunities for small businesses to grow in place.”

— Laurel Kraus

Farms estate planning firm joins Plunkett Cooney

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Partnering

with Plunkett Cooney to absorb her former law practice, Hartmann & Nihem, has been a blessing for Nancy

Nihem, after her best friend and business partner, Amy Hartmann, passed away suddenly last May at 64 years old.

The estate planning and trust administration firm initially opened on The Hill in 2018, before joining the Plunkett Cooney family earlier this year.

“I was looking for a place for my clients,” said Nihem, who found herself running the firm alone. “We became very well-established in the community and I was concerned about making sure we could continue to service our clients and also try to partner with a firm that I thought had the same philosophy and approach to handling estate planning that Amy and I had.”

The philosophies incorporate maintaining community focus, passion for serving clients’ needs, putting the client first and taking the time to understand that each client’s circumstance is unique.

“Our approach to practicing law is servicing our clients and providing a quality product to our clients that they fully understand,” Nihem said. “This is one of the most important decisions that people make. They’ve worked their whole lifetime to accumulate net worth and making sure that’s properly transferred on to the next generation or whom ever they choose as their beneficiaries is critical. Making sure that the vehicle is in place to make that happen and to make sure that they understand and that their successor trustees understand.”

Joining Plunkett Cooney as a senior attorney in the firm’s Trusts and Estates Practice Group and as managing attorney of the location at 63 Kercheval — the same location where she previously practiced — also expanded Nihem’s network and the resources she’s able to offer to clients.



Nancy Nihem

firm that she would be so pleased with. She was one of the kindest people you’d ever meet and that passion for taking care of people is what we shared.”

With 35 years in the field, Nihem has substantial experience drafting wills, trusts and powers of attorney for both financial and health care decision-making, as well as serving as a successor trustee and advising personal representatives, trustees, fiduciaries and beneficiaries in both complex and uncontested estate and trust administration matters.

“I call it ‘happy law,’” she said. “It’s because I think you’re really serving people. I got into the law primarily because I do like to take care of people. I like to help people solve their problems, make sure that families stay intact and just serve their needs — and that’s why I do it.”

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Give someone a whole new “leash” on life

By Grosse Pointe News Staff

Adopt don't shop – is a mantra utilized by many organizations devoted to finding loving homes for shelter animals. With thousands of dogs, cats and other companion animals residing in shelters or being fostered until they can find their forever homes, rescue organizations urge the pet-loving public to adopt rather than purchase dogs from private breeders.

It's important to be honest with the rescue group regarding, not only what you're looking for in a dog, such as disposition, energy level, age, and size, but to describe the overall household dynamic. This way the rescue can match your needs with the dogs they have available to ensure the best opportunity the placed pet will remain in your home.”

Here are some other tips to consider if you're thinking of adopting a pet.

- Think about fostering first**
Fostering offers a way to gauge how life can change with a pet in the household. If you fall in love with the animal, you can take the next step to adopt.
- Expect to be vetted**
Rescue groups generally do some type of adopter check, which includes an application questionnaire, and may want to visit your home to be sure that it is safe and comfortable for the pet.
- Expect an adoption fee**
This helps defray the cost of sheltering animals.
- Be patient and open-minded**
Rescued animals often have been jostled around a bit, moving from place to place. Expect a transition period for the nervous pet to settle down before judging his or her true personality.



Adopt Pet

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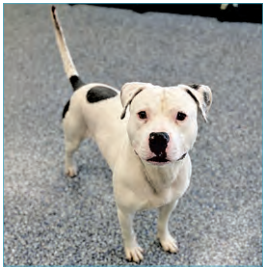
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Cotton not seeking BoE re-election

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Trustee Sean Cotton said he will not file to run for re-election on the Nov. 3 ballot.

As the Grosse Pointe News reported earlier this month, three people have filed nominating petitions so far for three open seats. There were no new candidates as of press time.

Running are Ginny Jeup, Walt Fitzpatrick and Mariel Krupansky.

Cotton, who also owns

the Grosse Pointe News, said he believes he has accomplished what he set out to do when he decided to run four years ago.

“As of July 2026, we are back in a solid financial position, which was the reason I ran for the board in the first place,” he said in a statement. “We pulled ourselves out of the financial death spiral, improved our credit rating and secured the financing needed to keep every building open and operational, with the ability to even reopen Trombly as an elementary school.”

Cotton was elected to a four-year term in

November 2022. He served as board treasurer in 2023 and president in 2024.

“Looking back on these four years, beginning in July 2022 when I first decided to run for the board, we accomplished everything that was needed to preserve our walkable, bikeable community school system,” he continued. “Our community schools are exactly what families are looking for when raising their children: elementary schools they can walk and bike to, where communities are built. The same is true of each of our

middle schools and high schools.”

It was during Cotton’s time as president the district hired Superintendent Andrea Tuttle, who is retiring from the district effective Aug. 31.

“It was when the board hired Dr. Andrea Tuttle in early 2024 that we began making real progress,” Cotton said. “That progress was reflected in the outstanding budgets she assembled, culminating in the budget she delivered on June 9. Each year, she put together budgets that preserved all academic offerings for our students, along with extracurricular activities, the arts and athletics.

“My hope is that this administration can maintain the progress we have made and continue the district’s strong financial trajectory,” he added. “Even without Dr. Tuttle, they are well-positioned

for success. I do believe that will be difficult, however, because I strongly believe the current majority of trustees on the board are incapable of sound governance.

“I believe too many of the current trustees lack the judgment, common sense and financial understanding necessary to govern a district with a budget of this size and complexity,” he added. “With only a few exceptions, I no longer believe my time is best spent trying to persuade trustees who have little interest in sound financial stewardship or thoughtful governance.”

Cotton also said serving on the board has been “a great honor” and that he might reconsider running again in 2028.

Jeup also was elected to her first term in 2022. Fitzpatrick spent 30 years with the district as a

teacher and principal. Krupansky 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 registered 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.

LISTEN:

Continued from page 1A

the specific metric of five engagement opportunities under our first-year objectives.”

The strategic plan, passed in April, mapped out a quarterly schedule to achieve first-year goals in five key areas:

- ◆ academics and programs,
- ◆ culture,
- ◆ personnel,
- ◆ communications and
- ◆ operations.

The process started with an online survey asking what people thought could make the district better, plus listening sessions with a number of groups including administrators, teachers, students and board members. Some 55 community members representing a variety of groups then attended an eight-hour workshop in February.

The strategic plan also includes:

Mission statement

“Our mission is to empower all students to reach their full potential through exemplary instruction, innovative experiences and collaborative

community engagement.”

Vision statement

“The premier educational community where we innovate, learn, grow and thrive together.”

Belief statements

- ◆ Each student deserves an exceptional, innovative education that unlocks their full potential.
- ◆ A culture of unity grounded in respect, belonging and shared responsibility.
- ◆ Providing a wide range of opportunities for students to explore their interests and build self-confidence.
- ◆ Empowering every student to contribute positively to an ever-changing world.

If community members have particular topics they would like to discuss, email info@gpschools.org and the district will add those to the topics already scheduled. Community members have reached out for more information on intentional use of technology, the budget, district test scores and rankings and special education.

Seating will be provided for the outdoor sessions, although attendees are welcome to bring a lawn chair.

PRIDE OF THE POINTES

Thomas Buhl and **Jack Wiegand** of Grosse Pointe Park, and **Addison O’Keefe** and **Chase Mazey** of Grosse Pointe Farms were named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester at Miami University.

◆◆◆

Eula McKee of Grosse Pointe Farms and **Thomas Buhl** of Grosse Pointe Park recently graduated from Miami University.

◆◆◆

Lilly Cleland, James Dailey, Ian Davis and **Ryan Everham** of Grosse Pointe Farms; **Eleanor Ryan** of Grosse Pointe Park and **William Seymour** of Grosse Pointe Shores were named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester at Kalamazoo College.

◆◆◆

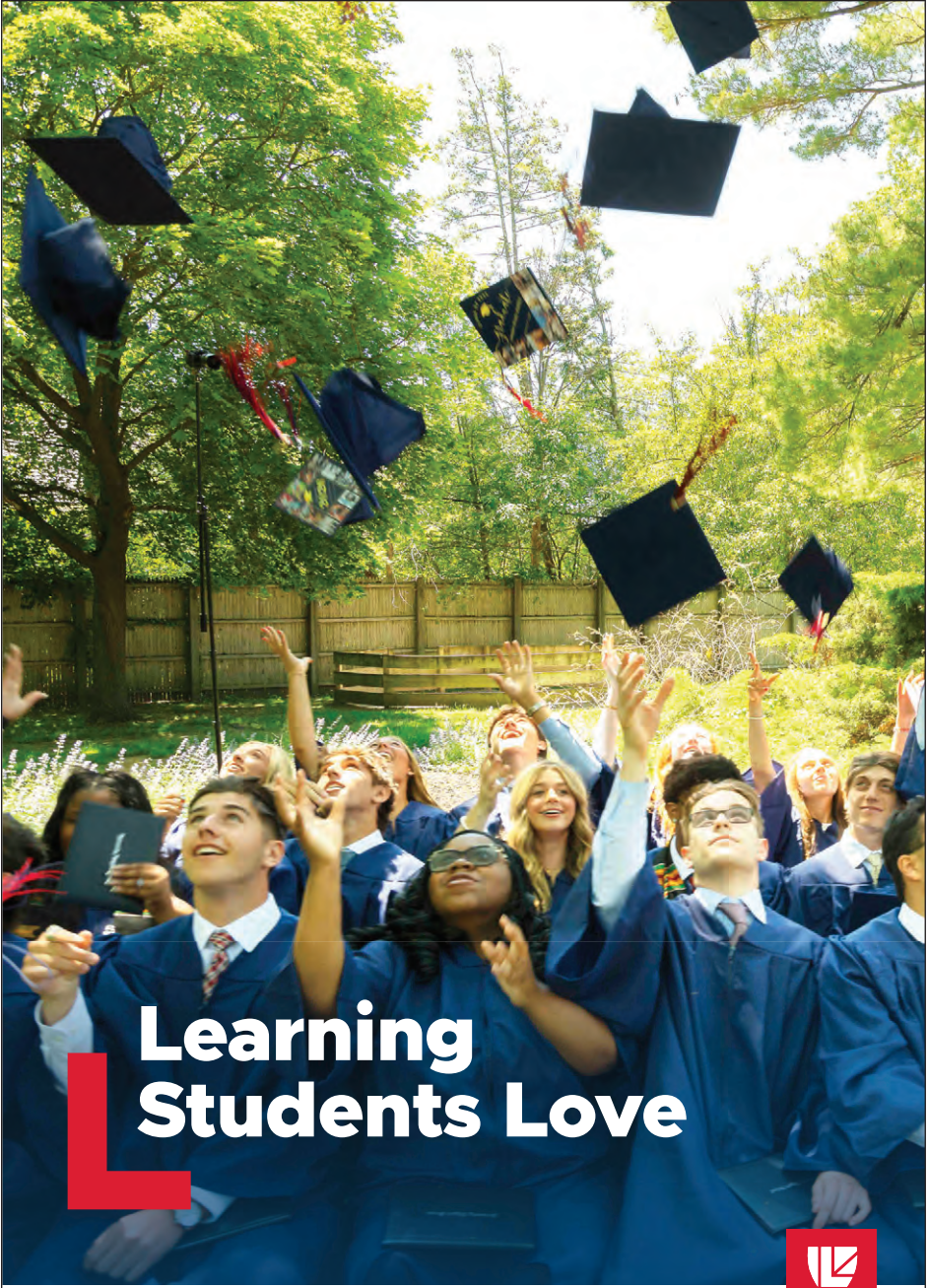
Katie VandeWyngearde of Grosse Pointe Park was named to Miami University’s spring 2026 President’s List.

◆◆◆

Curtis Cameron of Grosse Pointe Woods recently graduated from the University of Mississippi College of Liberal Arts with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He majored in biological science.

◆◆◆

Katherine Potapenko of the City of Grosse Pointe recently graduated summa cum laude with a degree in educational studies from Western Governors University.



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University Liggett School

CASE:

Continued from page 5A

students or staff.

“Upon learning of the charges, the district immediately took action

to ensure the individual is no longer serving in any capacity within our athletic program,” it continued. “We are cooperating fully with law enforcement and will continue to do so

throughout the investigation.”

Warda, who became South’s coach in the fall of 2025, remains free on bond on the condition he has no contact with the complainant.

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Water meter swap on track

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — In the rare case the Erie Lackawanna morning commuter train ran tardy on the Gladstone line, it was met at stations by miffed Manhattan executives making a show of checking their wrist and pocket watches.

No such grounds for admonition exist regarding the Park keeping to its timeline for water meter installations, according to conductors of the process.

“We have over 700 people signed up already to have their meters changed out,” said Tom Jenny, head of public works, during this month’s meeting of the infrastructure committee.

All water meters in the city are due to be exchanged for new ones. Many old meters are either worn out, on the way to wearing out or running slowly and not measuring flow data accurately.

Slow readings contribute to an overall 20 percent rate of untallied water usage and corresponding loss in municipal water revenue per year, according to administrators.

Although underbilled usage represents a windfall for customers with slow meters, it burdens everyone else to make up the shortfalls.

“We’re changing meters to measure actual, physical water losses and (pipe) breaks to make sure we’re actually capturing usage and making sure users are paying for what they use, not more, not less,” said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee.

There’s no separate

charge to replace old meters. Installation costs are already built into water bills.

The sign-up list for swap-outs is a work in progress. Municipal contractor VEPO Solutions distributed sign-up letters to around 1,500 households. Company employees will schedule and perform the installations.

Yet the response so far encouraged Jenny to consider adding to the installation team.

“I was thinking of bringing on another gentleman to put meters in,” Jenny said. “There’d be three people from the contractor doing the

work.”

He forecast the current round of installations to be finished by the end of the year.

New meters measure water flow electronically. Customers can monitor usage in real time both on site and remotely.

“With the data suite (of software) we have now, we’re in the position to track how much we’re reducing water losses and how more efficient is our flow,” Wiener said.

Reducing losses by replacing broken pipes, tightening connections and accurately measuring flow are ways to counter water price increases by the city’s water supplier, the regional Great Lakes Water Authority.

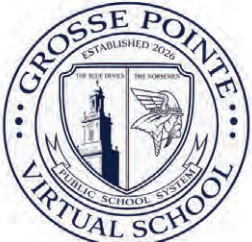
“At the end of the day, if

we want to insulate ourselves from rate increases, it’s all about controlling what we can in our own city,” Wiener said. “We’ve been talking with Finance Director (Ethan) Haan, (Operations Manager and Pump Station Electrician) Mike Kraus and City Manager Nick Sizeland about once we have these meters in, how do we get the most out of them? How can we realize new efficiencies of water meters, figuring out how effective our infrastructure work has been?”

The city’s new artificial intelligence software is expected to help measure water usage, calculate

‘We’re changing meters to measure actual, physical water losses and (pipe) breaks to make sure ... users are paying for what they use.’

MAX WIENER
Grosse Pointe Park City Councilman



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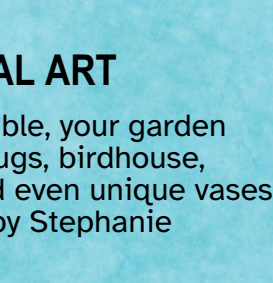
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. CLARE OF MONTEFALCO

St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church is located at Mack and Whittier in Grosse Pointe Park.

Celebrating a century

St. Clare parishioners reflect on church’s past

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

An air of celebration surrounds St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church — the iconic house of worship at Mack and Whittier in Grosse Pointe Park — as it hits the century mark.

Earlier this year, the Rev. Andrew Kowalczyk, reflecting on 100 years of steadfastly serving the community, marveled just thinking of all the lives that have been touched through St. Clare.

“We as a Catholic community in this neighborhood have gone through good and not so good times ... and never stopped,” he said.

Looking back

Though established in 1926, the roots of St. Clare actually extend back to 1923, with Louis Rabaut, the Hon. P.J.M. Hally, E.J. Hickey and B.A. Seymour — four laymen who approached Bishop Michael Gallagher to request the establishment of a parish in Grosse Pointe Park.

Once approved, the Order of Augustinians agreed to run the parish and the Rev. James A. McDonald was chosen as St. Clare’s first pastor. Its first organizational meeting took place Feb. 26, 1926, at the home of James Whitty.

As parishioner support grew, pledges to support



Left, St. Clare parishioners fill council chambers in 1963, when they requested a permit for a new school building, as well as the closure of a portion of Audubon. Right, Cardinal Edward Mooney lays the cornerstone of the new church.

the church grew with it, including a drive for funds that brought in more than \$45,000. McDonald began administering sacraments, including St. Clare’s first baptism, that of Clare Henk on May 5, 1926, in the Henks’ home on Grayton.

On Oct. 3, 1926, McDonald celebrated St. Clare’s first Sunday Mass at the Colony Theater, at Mack and Balfour. The day’s three worship times drew more than 500 parishioners. Weekday Mass took place in a duplex on Bedford in Detroit.

“The first families were also busy acquiring property for the new parish,” reads a history of the church in celebration of its 50th anniversary in 1976. “After purchasing the land at Charlevoix and Whittier avenues,

they made plans for a school building of nine rooms, with an auditorium on the main floor to be used as a chapel. Work began on the school on October 31, 1926. In the months following, the organizational committee agreed to raise \$100,000 for the

new parish and then \$165,000 for the erection of a new school building.”

St. Clare School opened in September 1927, and was run by the Dominican Sisters. Sister Philomena O’Rourke served as its first principal. Initially, 300 children

were enrolled in the school, but by the following June, attendance was up to 420.

By 1929, a rectory to accommodate three priests was built, four classrooms were added to the school and a convent was built for the sisters. The Rev. John L.

Regnery arrived as St. Clare’s second pastor. Two years later, the Rev. John Barthouski became its third pastor. He served seven years before the Rev. Philip Colgan was appointed the church’s fourth pastor, a position he held for 29 years.

The first class to complete all eight grades at St. Clare School graduated in 1936. A year later, Marilee Williams joined the congregation.

“I’ve been a member since 1937, when I was baptized,” said Williams, who prefers to be called “Grandma CheeChee.” “I have been there ever since, except for a short period we were assigned to Lansing.”

Williams’ husband worked for General Motors, which took them to Lansing for eight



This 1936 photo of the eighth-grade graduates features the first class to complete first through eighth grade at St. Clare School.

See ST. CLARE, page 5B

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Full Circle moving full steam ahead

Resale shop gaining traction, new HQ getting closer to finish line

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Full Circle Foundation team wasn't sure what to expect when it uprooted its Upscale Resale Shop from its long-time home on Mack Avenue into a newly refurbished — and much larger — site on Jefferson. But since it opened last October, its customer base and donations have greatly increased.

"We started off strong and we're so excited that it's remained that way," said Evie Ansell, retail manager. "Previous customers followed us here and we got a lot of new customers. Our new location is much more visible. ... It's easy to pull in, park for free and walk inside."

Added Director of Operations Stephanie DiVirgil, "So many people come and are amazed at our inventory and prices, but it's also a fun place to be. As an employee, I love to come in on Saturday. It's a fun day."

"So many of our regulars followed us here and so many people come in off the street," she added. "It's rare to see people leave the building without a bag in their hand."

During the school year, the shop is largely run by members of Full Circle's Team 26 program, for young adults with special



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Left, Cathleen Coppola helps her daughter, Amelia, try on a dress to see if it fits. Above, Patty DiVirgil holds her jeweler's loupe to examine a piece of jewelry while Julia Ansell holds a pair of earrings DiVirgil will look at next.

needs who have exited the Grosse Pointe Public School System. The program helps them acquire skills that encourage and enable independence, as well as meaningful community engagement. Their work in the resale shop is one of the ways to achieve those goals.

"Team 26 adults work here," DiVirgil said. "They take time off to enjoy the summer, but in August it starts up again and the group will work in the

store. This is a job site for them."

Ansell thanked the steady stream of volunteers who help operate the store, especially when Team 26 participants take a break during summer.

Workers make sure inventory is organized in a meaningful way, Ansell said, so it's easy for customers to find what they're looking for.

"We have everything from high-end designers to The Gap or Old Navy," Ansell added.

"People love all of it. People come in just for high-end brands; they know where to look."

"... We don't just put out inventory and that's it for the spring," she continued. "We're constantly moving our inventory. It's never the same; it's always different because each piece is differ-

ent."

Different and unique, DiVirgil added.

"Grosse Pointers buy very nice things and very unique things," DiVirgil said. "It's fun when receiving donations; the range is so broad. Even things that are something the average person would never think of wearing, we have the customer who wants it."

The same can be said about the shop's jewelry selection, which ranges from designer to costume pieces. Each donation is scrutinized by Patty DiVirgil, who researches every jewelry item to price it accordingly.

Ansell said donations of clothing, jewelry, shoes and accessories are accepted during business hours in the blue bin toward the back of the parking lot, which is expected to be resurfaced.

"We knew we could show more, but we didn't know what would happen," Ansell said, reflecting on the store's fall opening. "It's all been positive, well-received. The people who shop here are

so nice.

"And let's not forget, all the money goes back to the foundation, which helps young adults," she added. "It makes you feel better to know it's not just money you're blowing. You're giving it to a non-profit. That's been the most important piece of the success of the store and we're so grateful to the Van Elslanders for the space they provided us."

Across the lot

The resale shop is one of two buildings on the Full Circle Foundation — A.A. Van Elslander Campus, which sits at 15414 and 15401 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park. The buildings were purchased in late 2024, thanks to a \$4 million grant from the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation.

Just before opening Upscale Resale in fall 2025, Full Circle received another massive donation from Grosse Pointe Shores residents Jim and Patti Anderson that helped kick off renovations at the second building.

Now hiring

The Full Circle Foundation is looking to add two new go-getters to its team.

Due to the dramatic increase of donations to its Upscale Resale Shop, Full Circle is looking for a donation intake specialist, who will welcome and assist donors with incoming donations.

Other duties include sorting, inspecting and processing donated merchandise; evaluating items for quality, cleanliness, brand value and resale potential; pricing merchandise; identifying sought-after brands and unique finds; and maintaining an organized intake area, among other duties.

"They'd be in charge of receiving all donated items, sorting them and deciding what's in season to put on the floor and what's off season for the basement," said Stephanie DiVirgil, director of operations. "The number of donations has increased so much and the quality of donations is amazing."

Full Circle also plans to hire a Team 26 job coach, whose responsibilities vary. The position includes overseeing individuals working within Full Circle's various programs and micro-enterprises; providing one-on-one and/or group job and life skills, as well as enrichment activities; and maximizing the participation and independence of individuals, among other duties.

Both are part-time opportunities.

To apply, send a resume to fullcirclefoundationgp@gmail.com.

"This will be our James and Patricia Anderson Innovation Center, thanks to a generous \$3 million donation toward the renovation of that building," DiVirgil said, noting construction began last November. "Hopefully it will be mostly complete in mid- to late August. It's a really big project."

The building formerly housed Henry Ford Ophthalmology.

"There were 30 tiny exam rooms, so we knocked down a lot of walls to create bigger spaces," DiVirgil said.

Once completed, the

See AHEAD, page 6B

AREA ACTIVITIES

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.

◆ 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.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 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.

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

◆ 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.

Ford House

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

◆ Food Tales: "Stone Soup," 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 23.

◆ Dog Days of Summer, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 27. Admission is free for Friends; cost for the public is \$10 for adults, \$5 for

ages 3 to 17.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 22, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Dr. Nathan Blackwell of Clairepointe Family Chiropractic in Grosse Pointe Farms speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Harper Woods Library

The Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper,

hosts A Novel Evening at the Library, 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 17, at 19601 Harper, Harper Woods. Tickets are \$40, and include food, drinks, live jazz and more. Proceeds benefit the Friends' efforts to support the library.

Harper Woods, hosts Gentle Evening Yoga from 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays, July 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. Tickets are \$40, and include food, drinks, live jazz and more. Proceeds benefit the Friends' efforts to support the library.

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OBITUARIES

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

Kathleen Ann Steiner

Kathleen Ann Steiner, 64, died unexpectedly Thursday, June 18, 2026. Kathleen leaves behind a family who adored her and countless friends whose lives she brightened. Her greatest happiness was life’s simplest moments and being with the people she loved. Kathleen was born June 4, 1962, to James and Delphine (nee Orlowski) Counsman, both now deceased. She was the fourth of six children.

Kathleen’s joy was her family. She is survived by her devoted husband and best friend of 40 years, Eric Steiner; sons, Michael (Lauren Pappert), Ethan and Maxwell (Amanda); treasured grandchildren, Olive Steiner-Pappert, Mason Steiner, Leslie Steiner and Holly Steiner; siblings, Barbara Hile (Earl), Suzanne Keep (Paul), Carolyn Counsman, Richard Counsman and Michael Counsman; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members and dear friends. Being “Gramma” was one of her greatest blessings. There was nothing she loved more than spending time with her grandchildren.

Kathleen spent most of her life in Grosse Pointe Woods before moving to Sarasota, Fla., in 2021. She always looked forward to her annual trips to her “happy place,” Mackinac Island. Kathleen’s kindness, generous spirit and unwavering love for those around her will continue to live on in the hearts of everyone who knew her.

Her family finds comfort in the memories she

leaves behind, including songs by Bruce Springsteen or “Mr. Brightside” by The Killers, visits to Mackinac Island or feeling the warmth of the sun. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to Leader Dogs for the Blind, 1039 S. Rochester, Rochester Hills, MI 48307, give.leaderdog.org/for/ldb/info/website. Kathleen took great pride in helping train future service dogs.

Margaret Brophy

Margaret “Meg” Brophy passed away Tuesday, June 23, 2026. She leaves behind a legacy of devotion, compassion, strength and generosity. Meg was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend whose life was defined by the deep love she had for her family and the many ways she gave of herself to others. Meg is survived by her loving husband, John Gehrke; son, Hans Gehrke (Nick); and daughter, Sarah Valdez (Emilio). She was a proud and loving grandmother to Dylan Gehrke, Anthony Bisesi and Ethan Sproles. She also is survived by her sisters, Kathleen Whitman (Ron), Mary Ray Brophy and Hope Lesperance (Mark); brother, Dan Brophy (Lori); sister-in-law, Sue Haggarty (George); brother-in-law, Bill Gehrke; and many cherished nieces and nephews who will remember her love, kindness and gingerbread houses. Meg was predeceased by her parents, Hope and James Brophy; sister-in-

law, Joan Gehrke; and beloved grandson, Dylan Gehrke, whose memory remained forever close to her heart. Throughout her life, Meg built a successful career and was admired for both her professionalism and dedication. She worked for Young & Rubicam and later for Ford Motor Co., where she was respected for her intelligence, work ethic and creative ideas. She brought that same determination and heart into every part of her life, whether in her career, friendships or role within her family. One of the most meaningful parts of Meg’s life was the creation of the Dylan Wish Memorial, founded in honor of her grandson, Dylan. Through this memorial, Meg helped raise awareness and support efforts to find a cure for JMML, a rare form of juvenile leukemia. This work reflected who she was at her core — someone who turned heartbreak into action and grief into a mission to help other families facing unimaginable loss. Her love for Dylan and her commitment to honoring his life will remain one of her lasting gifts to the world. Meg will be remembered by all who knew her for her strength, devotion to those she loved and ability to make people feel cared for and supported. She was the kind of person who showed up for her family, celebrated their joys, carried them through their sorrows and loved them fiercely through it all. Her memory will live on in the family she treasured, the many lives she touched and the work she did to honor Dylan’s life. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Monday,



Kathleen Ann Steiner



Margaret Brophy



Florence Rachel Mourad

July 20, at Sparks-Griffin Funeral Home, 111 E. Flint, Lake Orion. Her family will begin to receive guests at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Dylan Wish Memorial to continue the fight against JMML and honor the legacy she worked so hard to build, bit.ly/4vZUd0o.

Florence Rachel Mourad

Florence Rachel Mourad, 88, passed away peacefully Wednesday, July 1, 2026, surrounded by her children and grandchildren at home in Grosse Pointe. Florence was born Oct. 24, 1937, in Detroit, the fifth of six children to Philip and Adele Shammass, both now deceased. She graduated from Denby High School and worked in her father’s wholesale grocer company, S&G, in Detroit, which he founded in 1924. She married Raymond “Ray” N. Mourad Jan. 24, 1961, at St. George of Troy Antiochian Orthodox Church. Florence dedicated her life to her family. She was a loving and supportive wife to her husband in all his endeavors. In fact, she spotted Raymond at the age of 10, announced to her mother, “I’m going to marry that boy,” and followed through with her promise. Ray and Flo went on to have three children, Diane, Michelle and Norman. She continued to work for her family business in sales, as she won everyone over with her beaming smile

and bright spirit. Throughout her life, Florence was a faithful servant. Charity always began in the home as she was very caring and loving to everyone who needed her. She was a gracious hostess and continually entertained family and friends with home made Mediterranean cuisine. She loved her 3 p.m. coffee and always allowed herself dessert. She also enjoyed playing bridge with her friends and volunteered at the Fontbonne Gift Shop at Henry Ford St. John Hospital. Mothering was Florence’s passion. She couldn’t tell people she loved them enough and always stood in the doorway to wave and bless them goodbye. She was lovely, refined, kind and beautiful inside and out. Her faith guided her and she always felt grateful and humbled for her abundant blessings. Her 11 grandchildren and two “great-grands” were her joy and, in recent years, her dear friend, Phil Graves, brought her happiness. Florence is survived by her children, Diane Leoni (Michael), Michelle Giorgio (Michael) and Norman Mourad (MaryAnn); sister, Violet Mahfood; brothers, Robert Shammass and Richard Shammass (Kathy); grandchildren, Angela Giorgio, Frank Giorgio (Allie), Trina Baldwin (Daniel), Dominic Leoni, John Leoni (Julia), Olivia Leoni, Nicholas Leoni, Rachel Mourad, Christopher Mourad, Matthew Mourad and Alissa Mourad; and

great-grandsons, Frank and Michael Giorgio. Florence was predeceased by her parents, Philip and Adele Shammass; husband, Raymond Mourad; sister, Janet Lakis (George); brother, George Shammass (Mary); sister-in-law, Elizabeth Shammass; brothers-in-law, Adeeb Mahfood and Robert Mourad; niece, Nicole Shammass; nephew, Thomas Mourad; and great-nephew, Michael Simone. Florence will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 21, until a 10:30 a.m. funeral service at St. George of Troy Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2160 E. Maple, Troy. Memorial donations may be made to St. George of Troy Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2160 E. Maple, Troy, MI 48083, stgeorgeoftroy.churchcenter.com/giving; or the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, solanuscasey.org/help-us-serve/donate/.

MEMORIAL

Todd Alan Brooks

Todd Alan Brooks, 74, passed away Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026. A gathering will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, with a memorial at 12:30 p.m., at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. His full obituary was published in the Feb. 12, 2026, Grosse Pointe News.

Chamber’s Barroso graduates from national leadership training program

Abigail Barroso, director of engagement with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, recently graduated from the Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and received the recognition of IOM.

IOM graduate recognition signifies that Barroso completed 96

credit hours of course instruction in nonprofit management. “Attending the Institute for Organization Management program is something that Jenny (Boettcher, chamber president) raved about from the time I was interviewing for my job with the chamber in 2022,” Barroso said. “Experiencing Institute and connecting with a global network of cham-

ber and nonprofit leaders is a great honor. It’s refreshing to have people I can connect with who understand what it’s like working in similar roles with many players and types of businesses, and to have a cohort I can share best practices with will help chamber programming in the future.” “Institute graduates are recognized across the country as leaders in

the chamber and association industry,” said Boettcher, who earned her IOM in 2012, “and Abigail’s accomplishment reinforces the professionalism, momentum and forward-looking leadership within the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. “Abigail’s graduation from the U.S. Chamber’s Institute for Organization Management is a tremendous milestone for her and a proud moment for our chamber,” she continued. “The IOM designation reflects her dedication to professional excellence and her commitment to strengthening the way we serve our business community. We are grateful for the energy, expertise and leadership she brings to our organization every day and we are excited to see the impact her expanded knowledge will have on our members and our mission.”



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Pammie Jimmar, IOM, president of the Athens Limestone Chamber of Commerce in Athens, Ala.; Abigail Barroso; and Paige Hutto, IOM, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama.

Since 1921, the program has educated tens of thousands of associations, chambers and other nonprofit leaders on how to build stronger organizations, better serve their members and become strong business advocates. Its curriculum consists of four week-long sessions at four different university locations throughout the

country. Through a combination of required courses and electives in areas such as leadership, advocacy, marketing, finance and membership, participants can enhance their organizational management skills and add new fuel to their organizations, making them run more efficiently and effectively.

— Jody McVeigh

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ST. CLARE:

Continued from page 1B

years, but they were quick to return to her beloved community.

“I’ve lived in Grosse Pointe all my life,” she said. “I was born on Kensington, just behind Verheyden (Funeral Home). My journey to St. Clare was pretty easy. I used to walk across the field to get there; now it’s a parking lot.

“... Charlie Verheyden was very kind to St. Clare and my family,” she added. “He would go out of his way for us. Charlie Verheyden was very sensitive with us. He knew he was changing the landscape.”

The funeral home “changed the landscape” in 1941, around the time St. Clare purchased property south of Mack between Audubon and Whittier. Construction began in 1951; Cardinal Edward Mooney laid the cornerstone. The church building was formally dedicated May 10, 1953. In June that year, the first infant baptized in the new building was Mary Kathryn Diehl, niece and granddaughter of the church’s designers.

Another four classrooms were added to the school by the end of 1952.

“My dad used to tell me stories about more than 60 kids in classrooms, with three or four classrooms for each grade, which is incomprehensible to me,” said Megan Price, a lifelong member of St. Clare and a 1994 graduate of its school. Her father graduated in 1964, and her grandfather graduated in the ’40s. “When I was there, each grade was capped at 60, and there was no more than 30 in a classroom. Most of the grades were full.”

In 1963, enrollment surpassed 1,180 students. The parish approached Grosse Pointe Park City Council seeking a permit to build a new school building, as well as requesting the closure of the 1400 block of Audubon, from Cadieux to Mack.

The same year, longtime Grosse Pointer Rose Regner joined the parish. What she found in 1963 filled her with enough joy to remain a faithful parishioner ever since.

“My children attended the school,” she said. “I brought up two wonderful children, a son and a daughter. I have nice memories of the faculty and the priest. ... I was there every day while my children were at school.”

A lifelong Catholic, Regner said she was active in the Ladies’ Altar Society.

“I gave it my all and I loved it,” she said. “I enjoyed daily Masses,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. CLARE OF MONTEFALCO

St. Clare’s football team was the Southeast Division champion in 1954.

too.”

The Rev. John E. McLaughlin arrived in 1967, shortly after the launch of Vatican II reforms, which allowed priests to face the congregation rather than the altar, as well as permitted Mass to be delivered in a church community’s native language rather than Latin. Under McLaughlin, the athletic commission was formed and the parish’s first dinner dance and picnic were created.

In the ensuing years, the congregation thrived with social and fundraising activities. Volunteers helped boost the church’s ministries, the church’s first prayer group formed and a minister of music, Gerald Furi, added a new dimension to the celebration of Mass.

McLaughlin was succeeded by the Rev. Francis McDonnell and under his leadership, the first 28 Eucharistic ministers were invested and began to distribute Communion.

At the time of its 50th anniversary in 1976, St. Clare parish consisted of 2,500 families.

“I attended Mass daily when I was able,” Regner said, touting the congregation’s camaraderie. “We’d have breakfast in the morning. There would be a whole table of parishioners after Mass at Harvard Restaurant.”

More recent years

While the church experienced booming growth in its earlier years, its numbers eventually began to decline. In 1996, the convent closed and was demolished. The church now serves around 850 families.

“When I was in high school, I was on the parish council,” said Price, who was a member of the youth group’s leadership team. “Having a voice at a young age made me have more ownership of the church and school. I was representing the voice of the rest of the youth group.”

Price, and other parishioners, have watched a steady decline not only in student enrollment, but in Mass attendance. Much of the decline has been attributed to the changing demographics of the community, among other factors.

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

For a handful of years, Price was among those who left St. Clare.

“I didn’t appreciate and agree with the decisions made by the last Augustinian priest,” she said. “A lot of people felt that way.

“... When Father Andrew came to St. Clare, my sister called me,” she continued. “She was still a member. She said, ‘You have to come back to St. Clare. This priest is awesome.’ He understands that people have lives and commitments. We came back in 2015 and haven’t left since.”

The departure of the Augustinian Order in 2012 was a time of uncertainty at St. Clare.

“We lost the Augustinians, because they couldn’t handle the parish anymore,” Williams said. “I thought for sure we’d close, but then the Michaelites came. Their first parish in North America was St. Clare.”

With their arrival came Kowalczyk, who has breathed new life into the parish.

“I’ve seen a lot of changes, but this has been the most beautiful time with Father Andrew,” Regner said. “He has so much love. There’s something about that priest.”

“He continued to build and draw parishioners to the parish,” Williams said, “and revived it from start to finish. There are many ministries and many opportunities for Mass. He not only brought them full speed ahead, he increased them and made them even more special.

“... Parishioner involvement was not encouraged in the past, but Father Andrew changed that,” she added, noting she has served as a lector and Stephen Minister. “He was all about us helping. Anyone in the parish was encouraged to step up.”

While much of Price’s involvement the last 12 years has been with the school, now that her son is entering eighth grade, she said she’ll get more involved with the church.

“I saw the decline,” she said, “but I’m also seeing a rebound. Other parishioners are noticing it, too. I’m not sure if it’s because Pope Leo is from the U.S., but we’re seeing a resurgence of the Catholic faith. I’m seeing it at Mass every Sunday. Young families are coming out in full force. It’s exciting to see.”

“Father Andrew and the Michaelites brought a renewed spirit back into the parish,” Williams added. “We’ve got young people, young families who are making it more vibrant. ... It’s wonderful

to see those pews getting filled more and more since he’s been there. He’s quite a priest. I can’t sing his praises enough.”

Williams attended grade school at St. Clare, where she also sent her children.

“My daughter raised her whole family there; my son did, too,” she said. “My daughter is still with the parish. They haven’t strayed from their faith.”

Price sent her children to the school, a decision she made after her daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 4.

“We were overwhelmed by everything that would go into caring for her,” Price said. “We knew she would be cared for at the school. ... At St. Clare, the class sizes were so small it was a no-brainer. Even though there’s no nurse on staff, even though she was the first diabetic student in a number of years ... it’s not that we trusted that they’d know how to take care of her, but we trusted that we knew they would. We knew they’d do what needs to be done without having to ask.”

Small class sizes were just part of the appeal, Price said.

“The group of kids in my daughter’s grade were awesome,” she said. “From a young age, these kids understood not that she was different, but that she needed different things to survive. And the test scores support everything from an academic perspective; that was never a concern. They’re getting what they need academically, socially and religiously.”

Other more recent points of pride for St. Clare include the formation of Project Hope in 2014. The Project Hope 5K and Pray event benefits a person or family in need.

Since 2015, St. Clare, in partnership with Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home, has hosted a funeral Mass for unclaimed bodies, one of the Corporal Works of Mercy of the Catholic Church.

St. Clare weathered the storm of the pandemic, implementing distance learning in 2020, and earning a 2022 Resilience in Business Award from the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce.

It also weathered a literal storm, coming back from flood damage to its lower level in 2021.

A recap of St. Clare’s history would be remiss if it didn’t include mention of Cardinal Robert Prevost, who was ordained a transitional deacon Sept. 10, 1981, at St. Clare. Last year, he was elected pope, taking the name Leo XIV.

St. Clare will honor Pope Leo XIV’s ordination anniversary with a weekend celebration Sept. 12 and 13.

Further celebrations are planned for St. Clare’s official centennial anniversary, including Mass with Archbishop Edward Weisenburger at 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, followed by an anniversary dinner at The War Memorial at 5 p.m.

Regner said she’s looking forward to celebrating the centennial this fall. She’s excited to celebrate the church that has brought so much joy into her life.

“St. Clare is so special,” she said. “Every time I think about the church, I just feel so happy.”

“We’re surrounded by great people at St. Clare,” Price added. “The presence of young people in Mass is a good thing. They’re still learning to sit and behave, but you have to give them and their parents grace, because they’re there. They’re showing up.”

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

“This is to commemorate, celebrate, remember and be grateful, but also look to the future, to the new generations who are coming, the younger couples with their children,” Kowalczyk said. “We hope for the next years to come, this parish and this community will thrive and be strong. That’s what this celebration has in mind. We want to celebrate, rejoice and hope to bring a rejuvenation of faith.”



The present-day building.

An unknown future

While St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church celebrates a century of life, it also feels the weight of uncertainty as the Archdiocese of Detroit is proposing a restructuring program, aimed at addressing declining attendance and other issues.

The archdiocese embarked on a two-year plan in 2025, with the goal of restructuring parishes and buildings. In a letter to the Catholic Church, Archbishop Edward Weisenburger stated, “Many of our churches were built during a time of tremendous growth, when more than 1.5 million Catholics called this Archdiocese home. Today, our Catholic census is closer to 900,000, with a smaller number regularly attending Mass. We have been struggling to maintain buildings, ministries, and structures that were designed for a much larger Church.”

Consolidation efforts will group churches into “pastorates” that will share a single pastor, which likely will lead to some churches merging or closing. St. Clare is among those under consideration.

“What the Archdiocese is doing is unsettling for 100 percent of the parish,” said Marilee Williams, a member since 1937. “I’m upset with the fact it’s happening. I understand there has to be downsizing, but ... I don’t know what will happen if St. Clare closes.

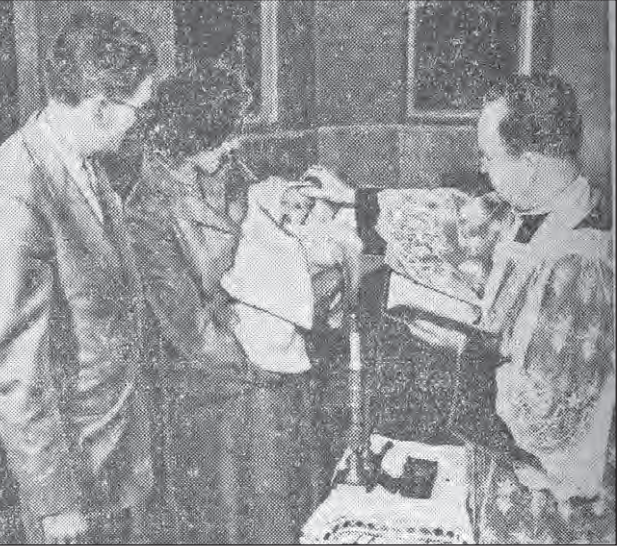
“It’s my faith,” she added. “My faith has always been a part of my life. I will pray for our parish that we survive this reorganization we’re going through in the Archdiocese, because our parish has been growing. That’s because of Father Andrew. ... Father Andrew made it what it is today: a vibrant, Catholic, orthodox church.”

“It puts every Catholic in an awkward situation,” said Megan Price, also a lifelong member. “From a young age, I had ownership of the church because I was involved. I influenced decisions being made. I was 15, 16, on the parish council. It’s hard to imagine St. Clare not being an active parish.

“At the same time, we’re focusing on how we can be a steward of the Catholic faith in the surrounding community,” she added. “The priest shortage is real; I get that. All we can do is make sure our voices are heard, praying and listening to the Holy Spirit to be guided by what is best for us as a Catholic community. It’s a challenging time we’re in as a church, as a whole. Our numbers are growing, but our priest numbers are dwindling.

“... Restructuring is going to be a challenge, but in the meantime, we’ll celebrate what we have.”

“I feel happy about St. Clare, but sad about the restructuring,” longtime member Rose Regner added. “... We have a lovely relationship; we care about each other here.”



The first infant baptized in the new church was Mary Kathryn Diehl, granddaughter and niece of the church’s designers, George F. and Gerald G. Diehl.

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6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Solomon Spangler, Pastor
Making New Disciples- Building Stronger Ones

Continued from page 3B

Also included are four classrooms, which initially



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

"If there's an event onsite, the caterer can leave food or prepare food here," DiVirgil

"It was an unfinished space intended to be a surgical suite.



The lower-level stage will host the choir and other acts.

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36 MO	36 MO	36 MO	36 MO

\$2,329 due at signing | 7,500 miles per year

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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

From left, Karl Koto, Ford House director of landscapes and project executive; Sen. Kevin Hertel; Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel; Kevin Drotos, Ford House landscapes and natural areas manager and project manager; Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller; and Ford House President and CEO Mark Heppner. In front of them is Moss, Ford House “director of wildlife management.”

Ford House marks shoreline restoration

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Around 300 people attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Ford House Tuesday, July 7, marking a two-year restoration project along one mile of Lake St. Clair shoreline.

“This is a living testament to our community’s association with the water,” said Mark Heppner, Ford House president and CEO. “The Ford family knew how special this land was.”

State Sen. Kevin

Hertel, D-St. Clair Shores, who helped secure funding for the project, said he used to fish by Ford Cove with his dad and now brings his two children there to fish.

“The entire shoreline of Lake St. Clair generates \$1.6 billion in economic activity for our area,” he said. “We need to preserve that.”

The restoration was funded by a \$7 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Office of Habitat

Conservation. This program provides funding to local partners like Ford House to restore habitat for fisheries and communities.

Additionally, the initial feasibility study was funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This project will provide important habitat for Great Lakes fish while expanding recreational, educational and accessibility opportunities for visitors.

“It’s no coincidence that Ford House has once again exceeded

expectations,” said Candice Miller, Macomb County public works commissioner. “This project will be a model for federal funding and local partnerships nationwide.”

In Ford Cove, felled trees and other natural materials have been placed to give young fish cover and shelter, creating a nursery habitat along a stretch of shoreline that had eroded over decades. The restoration also adds more than 50,000 native perennials and 500 trees and shrubs, with tens of

thousands more perennials and hundreds more trees and shrubs to be planted later this year.

About 99.9 percent of Michigan’s Lake St. Clair shoreline is hardened with concrete and rock, according to NOAA, which strips away the shallow, vegetated zones where fish spawn and young fish grow. Across the lake in Canada, where natural shoreline remains common, a binational survey conducted with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources found fish catch rates roughly

10 times higher. The difference is a measure of what hardened shoreline costs and what restoration can return.

On Bird Island, a new boardwalk has been designed to carry visitors across restored wetlands and vernal pools. In addition to the project itself, Ford House staff also created a new natural interactive zone called Benson’s Backyard, a nature-based play area for children and adults. Improved accessibility

See RESTORE, page 11B



From left, Candice Miller, Macomb County public works commissioner, talks about the restoration project; Kevin Drotos, Ford House landscapes and natural areas manager and project manager, talks about the shoreline restoration project; and Sen. Kevin Hertel talks about protecting Lake St. Clair and everything it provides for this region, stating that it is a team effort.



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Dr. Lisa Manz-Dulac opened Eastside Dermatology on July 1, 1996. She has composed a team that not only strives for excellent patient care but gives back to the community as well. Eastside Dermatology has been involved in many Grosse Pointe and Anchor Bay community functions, including Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Dogs and Spheres events, Fun Runs, Racing for Kids, and presenting skin care education to schools, groups and clubs. Eastside Dermatology is thankful for the community support over the past 30 years, and it has been an honor and a pleasure to be the practice that so many of you have chosen for your skin care needs. Eastside Dermatology looks forward to continuing to provide excellent care to you and your family for many more years to come.



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Dr. Cassleman puts the focus on 'longevity care'

After more than a decade practicing internal medicine, Dr. Sean Cassleman is building a different kind of practice around a different kind of question: It's not, "How do we treat disease?" but "How do we make the next decades of your life your best ones?"

"Longevity care is where we make our greatest impact," Cassleman said. "We look ahead — 10, 20, 30 years — set real health goals and then close the gap between where a patient's trajectory is today and where they want to be."

Mission Metabolic Health conducts comprehensive strength and mobility assessments, VO2 max testing, in-depth family history review and advanced laboratory work to identify risks before they become diagnoses. Proactive screening and evidence-based prevention are built into every patient relationship, not treated as afterthoughts.

A portrait of a young man with curly brown hair, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a white button-down shirt under a dark blue blazer. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a large abstract painting on the left and a window on the right.

Dr. Sean Cassleman

osteoporosis exercise, weight loss and diabetes reversal, combining exercise and dietary coaching to address the root causes of metabolic disease.

What makes this possible is the practice's small, selective patient panel. Appointments are long enough to matter.

"This is care that simply cannot be delivered in a 10-minute visit," Cassleman said.

Mission Metabolic Health operates on a membership model, but also works with patients' insurers.

attended Grosse Pointe Public Schools and University of Detroit Jesuit High School, and now lives in Grosse Pointe Park. He earned his medical degree at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and is board-certified in internal medicine with advanced training in obesity medicine.

To learn more or inquire about membership or book a free initial consult, visit missionmetabolichealth.com, email info@missionmetabolichealth.com or call (586) 498-3610.

Mission Metabolic Health at 21444 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores.

Achieve radiant skin this summer with Ferrara Dermatology

While a whole host of procedures are available to clients at The Skin & Laser Center at Ferrara Dermatology, summer is a great time to try microneedling.

The versatile treatment led by Dr. Richard Ferrara and Dr. Katie Caretti, board-certified dermatologists, can improve the appearance of acne, surgical or traumatic scars, reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, improve skin texture and decrease pore appearance.

It also is not hindered, as some laser procedures are, by sun sensitivity or risk of pigmentation issues.

“Microneedling is one of these procedures that we can safely administer in the summer months,” Caretti said, adding it works by creating very controlled micro-injuries in the skin, which trigger the body’s wound healing response and stimulate new collagen.

The Skin & Laser Center recently brought on board SkinPen, which is the first microneedling device to be cleared by the FDA.

“It has this proprietary feature called active retraction technology,” Ferrara explained, “so this is just the way the needles are designed to retract after it comes in contact with the skin. As a result, this improves patient comfort, reduces the risk of unnecessary trauma, provides more consistent treatment depths and supports more active recovery.”

The team approaches all procedures with the goal of consistently improving outcomes and implementing new approaches for the best possible



Dr. Richard Ferrara



Dr. Katie Caretti

results.

When it comes to microneedling, the aestheticians can apply Ariessence — a topical treatment considered a post-procedure enhancement.

“It’s a platelet-derived growth factor that’s been formulated into a topical form,” Caretti said, “and platelet-derived growth factor is actually part of the body’s normal growth factor that’s involved in wound repair.”

When applied to the skin post-procedure, Ariessence reduces post-treatment redness, improves recovery time and promotes improved collagen stimulation in the skin. It also leads to greater improvements in fine lines, skin texture, pore appearance and overall radiance in skin.

“There are actually randomized controlled studies that showed that this platelet-derived growth factor, when applied after microneedling, improved the aesthetic outcomes and patient satisfaction compared to when you just do the microneedling

alone,” Ferrara said. “So we’re really excited to introduce this product as well.”

Since 1960, Ferrara Dermatology and The Skin & Laser Center have offered comprehensive dermatologic care that covers both medical and aesthetic needs.

The clinic is located at 20045 & 20043 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods. For more information, call the Skin & Laser Center (313) 884-9100, Ferrara Dermatology (313) 884-5100, or visit ferraraderm.com.



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COURTESY PHOTO

Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital staff celebrate the clinic’s grand opening.

Heart and vascular clinic launched at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital

The new Grosse Pointe Heart and Vascular Clinic at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital opened June 22, ushering in a new era of cardiac care for the surrounding community.

Located within the medical office building adjacent to the hospital, the clinic is staffed by Corewell Health interventional and noninvasive cardiologists and provides convenient outpatient services without requiring patients to visit the hospital itself.

“I think it sends a really positive message to the community that Corewell Health is deeply invested in the future of cardiovascular care in Grosse Pointe,” said Jenna Brinks, vice president of heart and vascular services for Corewell Health East. “This strategic initiative

included a complete clinic renovation to ensure the long-term viability of cardiology services in Grosse Pointe. Our goal is to continue growing and expanding so patients can access the cardiac care they need, right here in their community.”

The comprehensive cardiology clinic offers a full spectrum of outpatient cardiac services, including general cardiology office visits; noninvasive cardiac testing such as echocardiograms; preventive cardiology services for hypertension, lipid management and weight management; treatment for rhythm disorders such as atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter; and diagnostic evaluations for chest pain and coronary artery disease.

“It’s the convenience factor and the trust factor,” said Dr. Basil Dudar, interventional cardiologist and chief of cardiology at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital. “For the Grosse Pointe community, it’s a trusted, local destination where residents can receive comprehensive cardiac care in one place. Testing can be completed either in the same building or at the hospital next door, eliminating the need to travel to Royal Oak, Troy or other larger facilities.”

The Grosse Pointe Heart and Vascular Clinic is located in the Corewell Health Care Center at 16815 E. Jefferson Ave., Suite 110.

To schedule an appointment, call (313) 640-7220.



Looking for a Physician?

The primary care physicians listed below are currently accepting new patients and have availability within 7 days.
* These clinics are adding new providers

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22646 East 9 Mile Rd.
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
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Sarah Koslakiewicz, MD
Monica Szmyd, MD

***Corewell Health Internal Medicine - 18325 E 10 Mile Rd**
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Oneil Doha, MD
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***Corewell Health Family Medicine - 30695 Little Mack**
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Laethem dealership hosting blood drive

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Vehicles need oil the way bodies need blood, so it's fitting Ray Laethem Buick GMC on Mack is hosting a blood drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, July 19.

It is being held to honor Gretchen Carron, a family friend who is battling leukemia.

"Her husband, Mike, has been my best friend since the first day of kindergarten at Star of the Sea," said Jeff Laethem, president and CEO. "He's always been such a help to our family."

Laethem's son, Charlie, and Carron's daughter, Lauren, have been planning the drive for the last several months.

"We've been talking to various groups and doing a lot of social media," Charlie Laethem said. "We'll move cars out of the way the day of so there will be plenty of parking."

Those wanting to donate can register at laethemgm.com/blood-drive-ray-laethem-buick-gmc.

Lauren Carron, a Grosse Pointe South High School graduate and current Michigan State University student, said her mother has received two rounds of chemotherapy thus far and a stem cell transplant.

"It's the most aggressive kind of chemo there is," she noted. "It decreases a person's platelets and hemoglobins, so getting blood is important."

She added it's not just cancer patients who need blood.

"People in serious accidents, undergoing surgery or fighting a chronic blood disease all need transfusions," Lauren Carron said.

Dr. Tammon Nash, a Pointer who oversees blood transfusions at the Karmanos Cancer Institute, said there is a constant need for blood.

"It has a shelf life (42 days), so there's a continuous need to appropriately treat patients," she said.

Nash added people donating blood for the first time need not be nervous.

"I'd suggest they educate themselves ahead of time, but it's a pretty stress-free process," she said. "Just keep in mind that the goal is to help people."

The American Red Cross suggests donors stay well hydrated in the days leading up to their appointment and eat iron-rich foods such as red meat, fish and spinach.

"You don't realize how important donating blood is until a loved one is dealing with something like this," Lauren Carron said. "It's safe, simple and can save lives."

Emergency shortage

The American Red Cross is declaring an emergency blood shortage as the blood supply fell nearly 25 percent in June. Blood donors are urgently needed now to help ensure patients receive lifesaving medical care without delay. The shortage is especially serious for types O positive and B negative blood.

A steep decline in blood donations since the end of May has created a growing gap between supply and patient need. Currently, Red Cross distributions to hospitals are nearly 3,500 units higher per week than expected at a time when hospitals often see higher demand for blood products during the height of trauma season.

On top of that, busy schedules and the seasonal loss of school blood drives are driving the decline, which could put patient care at risk if not reversed.

The most important way to help end the blood shortage is to book an appointment to give blood by using the Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling (800) 733-2767.

As a thank-you, all who give blood between now and Friday, July 31, will receive a Fandango movie ticket by email (up to \$15 ticket price and fees). Additional details can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/July.



COURTESY PHOTO

Is there a tree older than the United States growing in your yard?

By the Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative

As America celebrates its 250th birthday in 2026, the Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative is searching for some of the community's oldest living residents — not people, but trees.

Could a tree in your yard be older than the United States?

Recently, while documenting notable trees in the Grosse Pointes, members of the Tree Collaborative measured an extraordinary Eastern cottonwood in Grosse Pointe Park. Its trunk measures an astonishing 24 feet, 2 inches in circumference at breast height. Based on its size, species and growth characteristics, the tree is estimated to be at least 200 years old and will be evaluated by a Michigan expert this summer.

That means this magnificent tree may already have been a young sapling before many of Grosse Pointe's historic estates were established. It has likely witnessed horse-drawn carriages, the Civil War, the rise of the automobile and the transformation of farmland into the beautiful neighborhoods we know today. It reminds us that some of our largest trees

are living links to our community's history — and there may be even older specimens hidden throughout the Pointes.

We're looking for heritage trees

The Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative is launching a community search to identify and celebrate trees that are 200 years old or older as part of America's semiquincentennial celebration. Oaks, beeches, hickories, sycamores, cottonwoods and other long-lived species may qualify.

Even if your tree isn't quite 250 years old, we'd still love to learn about exceptional specimens that help tell the story of our community. Submit your notable trees, young and old, to gplearns.uls.org/trees

How to estimate your tree's age

You don't have to be an arborist to make a good estimate.

1. Measure the circumference of your tree at 4½ feet above the ground (called Diameter at Breast Height, or DBH).
2. Use an online tree age calculator to estimate its age based on species and trunk size.
3. Submit your tree to the Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative for consideration.

To estimate your tree's age, visit goodcalculators.com/tree-age-calculator/

Remember, these calculations provide an estimate. A tree's actual age varies depending on species, growing conditions and site history, but they are an excellent way to identify trees worthy of further study.

Help us celebrate our living history

Our oldest trees are more than beautiful landscape features. They cool our neighborhoods, clean our air, provide wildlife habitat, capture carbon and connect us with generations that came before us.

Do you know a tree that could be older than America?

We invite residents throughout the Grosse Pointes to measure their trees, estimate their ages and share their discoveries with the Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative. Together, we can identify and celebrate the living landmarks that have quietly watched over our community for generations.

Who knows? The oldest resident in the Pointes may not live in a house at all; it may have roots stretching back to the earliest days of our nation's history.

READ LOCAL

Caring begins with sharing what's happening in your hometown.



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Homegrown Excellence

Dr. Maria Thanasas returns home to care for the community that raised her

There is something special about receiving care from someone who truly understands your community, not just as a healthcare provider, but as a neighbor who grew up on the very same streets.

For Dr. Maria Thanasas of PGS Dentistry, practicing dentistry near Grosse Pointe and the surrounding communities isn't simply where her career began; it's where her story began.

Born and raised in Grosse Pointe, Dr. Thanasas is a proud graduate of University Liggett School. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Biology, Health & Society from the University of Michigan before completing her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. After years of rigorous education and clinical training, she made the decision to return home, bringing her knowledge, compassion and dedication back to the community that shaped her.

"Coming home to practice dentistry in the community where I grew up is something I don't take for granted," said Dr. Thanasas. "It's incredibly rewarding to care for the people and families who helped shape who I am."

That hometown connection is one of the defining characteristics of PGS Dentistry. Patients aren't simply names on a schedule; they're neighbors, former teachers, family friends and generations of local families who have entrusted the practice with their smiles.

"One of my favorite parts of practicing locally is seeing familiar faces, whether it's in the office or around town," she said. "It reminds me that I'm caring for my neighbors, and that's a responsibility I truly value."

At PGS Dentistry, that sense of community extends beyond providing exceptional dental care. The practice strives to create an environment where patients feel welcomed, heard and

treated like family. By combining advanced dental technology with personalized care, Dr. Thanasas and the PGS team are committed to helping patients of every age achieve healthy, confident smiles.

For Dr. Thanasas, service has always been an important part of life. She remains actively involved in the local community, including as a member of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. Outside the office, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, staying active and embracing new experiences, interests that reflect the same warmth and enthusiasm she brings to her patients every day.

Her joining PGS Dentistry also represents the continuation of a family legacy centered on caring for others.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to continue a family tradition of caring for others while giving back to the community that gave me so much," she said.

Today, with convenient locations in Harrison Township and St. Clair Shores, PGS Dentistry continues to serve families throughout the Grosse Pointe area and neighboring communities with a commitment to excellence, integrity and compassionate care.

For Dr. Thanasas, dentistry is about much more than treating teeth. It's about building lifelong relationships, earning trust one patient at a time and giving back to the place she has always called home.

As communities continue to grow and change, there is comfort in knowing that some things remain constant: caring for your neighbors, investing in relationships and providing healthcare with heart. For Dr. Maria Thanasas and the team at PGS Dentistry, those values are not just part of the practice, they are the foundation on which it was built.

To book an appointment with Dr. Maria Thanasas, visit PGSdentistry.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Maria Thanasas

RESTORE:

Continued from page 7B

was a goal of the project and guests now will see a universally accessible path running atop a new engineered berm running from the visitor center to the main residence.

"A project like this doesn't happen in a day

and we still have much work to do over the next year," said Kevin Drotos, landscapes and natural areas manager at Ford House. "Today, we're celebrating more than those involved. We're celebrating the beginning of a healthier shoreline, cleaner water and new opportunities for wildlife to thrive here on Lake St. Clair."



Above, Sen. Kevin Hertel, left, and Ford House President and CEO Mark Heppner hold the State of Michigan Special Tribute given to Ford House for the shoreline restoration project. Left, in his introductory address, Heppner talks about how the project is about restoring balance between nature and community. Right, self-proclaimed animal lover Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel stopped on his way into the event to pet Moss, Ford House's goose-chasing "director of wildlife management."



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Homegrown Excellence for PGS Dentistry

Meet Dr. Maria Thanasas

- Born and raised in **Grosse Pointe, Michigan**
- Earned a **B.S. in Biology, Health & Society** from **the University of Michigan**
- Graduated from the **Univeristy of Michigan School of Dentistry**
- Graduate of **The University Liggett School**
- Enjoys **family & friends, traveling, staying active, and trying new experiences**
- Active member of **Assumption Greek Orthodox Church**



pgsdentistry.com

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Belle Isle Art Fair returns Aug. 1–2

The award-winning Belle Isle Art Fair returns to Belle Isle from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, bringing together artists, immersive art installations, emerging talent, food trucks, family activities and hands-on creative experiences.

Set near the Belle Isle Casino and Scott Memorial Fountain, the fair is nationally known for attracting high-quality artists from across the region and beyond. Organizers noted the experience is about more than shopping for art. It is about bringing people together in a setting where creativity, nature and community meet.

“The setting is one of the things that makes this fair so special,” Show producer Mark Loeb said. “Visitors can enjoy the work of incredible artists while surrounded by the beauty of Belle Isle, the fountain and the casino. It creates an experience that feels relaxed, inspiring and very Detroit.”

This year’s fair will feature 140 juried artists, offering a variety of work including painting, photography, jewelry, ceramics, glass, fiber, sculpture, mixed media and more. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the artists, learn about their creative process and purchase original work



Stained glass by St. Clair Shores artist Sue Majewski will be available.

directly from the makers.

The event also will include the Heritage Tent, which highlights some of the area’s beloved artists who, because of age or health, may be less able to produce and staff a full booth on their own.

“This is where we highlight some of the area’s best artists in a more relaxed way,” Loeb said. “It is important to us that these artists remain part of the fair and that visitors continue to experience

and appreciate their work.”

At the same time, the Belle Isle Art Fair continues to invest in the next generation of artists. This year’s event will feature approximately a dozen emerging artists, including teens and young adults working with Mint Artists Guild, along with seven area artists who are new to participating in art fairs.

“I love to purchase work before the artists become too popular,” Loeb said. “I still kick myself for missing out on artists like Judy Bowman and others who were first introduced at the Belle Isle Art Fair and have gone on to be nationally recognized.”

In addition to the artist booths, the fair will feature several large-scale and interactive art installations designed to invite exploration, participation and conversation.

Returning this year is artist San Hages with an inflatable sculpture measuring more than 40 feet around and 20 feet tall. The sculpture moves with the wind as a tribute to the

Scott Fountain and creates a striking visual centerpiece for the fair.

Continuing the circular theme, Boredom Fighters will bring the Instrument Garden, housed inside a 30-foot fabric dome. Inside, guests will be invited to lay down beats and help create music that later will be played on

WDET’s Essential Music.

Another featured installation, The Grand Dome, is a geodesic dome created from more than 100,000 discarded bottle caps. Designed by artist Adrienne Outlaw, the installation repurposes everyday waste into an eye-catching public art experience. The installa-

tion, which was popular at last year’s ArtPrize, is sponsored by Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, Michigan’s state recycling program.

EGLE and the Belle Isle Art Fair also have invited more than a dozen art and conservation groups to lead hands-on projects for children, families and adults throughout the weekend. The activities are designed to connect creativity with environmental awareness and give guests a chance to make, learn and engage.

“Art fairs are not just about looking at art,” Loeb said. “They are about participating, asking questions, discovering something new and seeing creativity in action. This year’s installations and hands-on projects give people of all ages a reason to explore.”

The fair also will feature a variety of food trucks and specialty treats. Guests also are welcome to bring a picnic and enjoy the park setting.

Admission to the art fair is free. A State Park Recreation Passport or daily park pass is required to enter Belle Isle. Guests without a recreation passport may purchase one upon entry.



EGLE presents The Grand Dome by Adrienne Outlaw.



GlazeMyMud by Lina Beydoun will be part of the fair.



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Gabby

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A little common courtesy goes a long way

Dear Gabby: My husband and I agreed to let the college-aged son of family friends stay with us for what was supposed to be a six-week internship. We were happy to help because we know how expensive temporary housing can be. The problem is that our guest has settled in a little too comfortably. He eats every meal at our house, helps himself to snacks, drinks and leftovers, and has never once offered to buy groceries, take us to dinner or even unload the dishwasher. He's a nice young man, but after five weeks I'm starting to cringe every time I see the cereal box empty or the refrigerator

door open. His parents are well-off and I suspect they assume we're delighted to host him. I'm afraid if I say something, I'll look petty. If I don't, I'll resent both him and his parents. What's the gracious way to handle this? — Fed Up In The Farms

Dear Fed Up In The Farms: Hospitality is a gift, not an all-inclusive resort package. Your frustration doesn't really sound like it's about the cereal. It's about the absence of acknowledgment. Most people can overlook a growing grocery bill when they feel appreci-

ated. It's much harder when generosity is assumed or taken advantage of. Before you blame the young man entirely, remember that some parents never teach their children the unwritten rules of being a guest. They don't learn that a guest should occasionally pick up a pizza, replace the milk, offer to help with chores or, at the very least, express sincere gratitude. The next time you're planning meals, try: "We're making tacos tonight. Would you mind picking up the ingredients on your way home?" His response will tell you everything you



need to know. And if he seems surprised, consider it an educational opportunity. After all, internships are supposed to teach young

people how the real world works, right? One more lesson won't hurt. — Gabby

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

The flight not taken

DEAR ANNIE: My mom and I have always been close. I'm 35 now, but we talk almost every day, even though she's in Virginia, where I grew up, and I moved to Washington state after college. We make an effort to see each other as much as possible, but of course, it's never enough. Recently, a work trip brought her to San Francisco, but I didn't find out until she was already boarding the plane. San Francisco is a

lot closer to me than Virginia is. I couldn't help but think that if the situation were reversed, I would have found a way to tack on a few days and see her. She didn't, though. She didn't even give me advance notice she was coming, which kind of feels intentional. My feelings are hurt. — Overlooked

DEAR OVERLOOKED: A short trip doesn't leave much room for spontaneity — extra flights, hotel

nights and days off work add up fast. None of that says she loves you less. Your hurt just tells you that you want more of her time than phone calls allow. Instead of stewing about this one trip, tell her directly. Maybe you can plan a visit for sometime in the fall. That's a better use of your disappointment than replaying what she didn't do.

DEAR ANNIE: My boyfriend loves going out — bars on Fridays, a

nice dinner on Saturdays and at least one weekend trip every month or two. We've always split the bill right down the middle, no matter what we order or where we go. The trouble is, he makes quite a bit more than I do, and he's just a bigger spender by nature. I'm trying to build up my savings, and lately I've started cringing at my credit card statement each month. At the same time, I love going out together. It's such a fun



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

part of our relationship, and I don't want to lose that over money. — Priced Out of Fun

DEAR PRICED OUT: Set a monthly number for going out that actually fits your budget and tell him what it is. He may offer to cover more once he sees the gap between your monthly

"fun" budgets. If he doesn't, you two can get just as close cooking dinner together or hosting friends at home as you can at a restaurant, for a fraction of the price.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.
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Mama Rosa's since 1959 and still going strong

There is no shortage of pizza or Italian in our area. I'm very picky about this category and in my opinion, the older the place, the better! Let's cut into a slice of restaurant history with one of the longest-operating restaurants in Grosse Pointe: Mama Rosa's Pizzeria. In 1959, the original Mama Rosa's was established on Mack and Grey, in Detroit. It was named after Rosina, the original owner's mother. In 1962, an 18-year-old Italian man named Tony Milana began working there as a delivery driver. By 1966, hard work and dedication paid off and Tony became the owner. In 1971, Tony relocated Mama Rosa's Pizzeria to its current location at 15134 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. Over the years, Mama Rosa's has been blessed with dedicated employees, including its main man in the kitchen, Gerrit Oostlander, who has been with them more than three

decades. Gerrit plays a vital role in creating the quality and flavor that have made Mama Rosa's a favorite for generations. Let's not forget the wonderful Amy Carlson, who was a freshman at Grosse Pointe South when she started working there. Thirty-six years later, Mama Rosa's is like her second home. She's the face of the dining room and the voice you hear during every carryout order called in. "I can honestly say they've been happy years," she said. "Customers are no longer customers; they're friends and many are like family." She shared with me some fun stories and delicious details about this legendary location. "Pizzeria" may be in the name, but the menu boasts everything from salads, subs and pasta dishes, such as spaghetti and meatballs and lasagna made with Tony's own special meat sauce. There also are popular Italian

Parmesan entrées like veal, chicken, eggplant, barbecue chicken, ribs and, obviously, pizzas. Mama Rosa's sources all of its products from local vendors they have been using for decades. While you can never go wrong starting with an antipasto, Tony would make himself a specific salad that he would only serve at his special Monday night dinners (keep reading). It was such a hit he had to add it to the menu. It's a simple combination of mixed greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, red onions, feta or mozzarella cheese and pepperoncini with house Italian dressing. Amy and I discussed the menu and she shared the favorites. "The pasta is out of this world," she said. "Tony's own special meat sauce is loaded with chunks of sausage and ground beef. When you add cheese, it's absolutely delicious." She noted that Mama's cheese bread is heavenly and dipping it into Tony's sauce is a must. Next up is chicken: whole, cut in half, barbecued or roasted. All of the sauces for various dishes are made in-house, includ-

ing two varieties of barbecue sauces, mouthwatering spaghetti sauce and salad dressings. They got the good ranch, too, FYI. Then there are the ribs: full slab or half, with two different styles of baby back ribs prepared differently. Mama's are pre-broiled then finished on the grill, making them extra tender. The sauce is baked on, giving it a rich, flavorful glaze. Tony's ribs are seasoned with a dry rub, have a chewy texture and are cooked fresh on the grill, with Tony's signature sauce served on the side. Tony definitely was a sauce guy with his meat sauce and barbecue sauce, but his secret pizza sauce, I'm told, is "the crown jewel of them all." It's pie time. Mama Rosa's pizza is one I was raised on. Two different sides of my family were friends with Tony. Anytime relatives were coming from across town, we'd gather "at Tony's." In my 20s, we'd run across the street from the Post East Bar to grab whatever boxes of pizza they were willing to make before closing. We'd even send a friend over to do the dirty



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

work and beg. Mama Rosa's pizza dough is made fresh daily. Hand tossed with countless toppings to choose from, it is the foundation of every great pizza they've served. Amy said pepperoni is still at the top and two other favorites are Mama's Meaty — pepperoni, ham, bacon, Italian sausage and hamburger — and The Big Mama, which has pepperoni, ham, bacon, Italian sausage, hamburger, mushroom, onion, green pepper and black olives. They're both offered round or square (Detroit-style) from small to large. Gluten-free crust currently is not an option, but Amy said "never say never." The in-house delivery zone extends from Old 8 Mile in the Woods, to Connor in Detroit, from the freeway to the waterfront. UberEats is offered for those who don't fall within the delivery thumbprint. Mama's is popular for catering as well, from pizzas to pastas and everything in between. Don't forget to order some amazing cinnamon breadsticks for dessert, too! Tony Milana was a humble man, generous to local Little League teams throughout the years and fully invested in the community that gave him so much. Since his passing in

December 2007, his two sons, Anthony and Sam, have carried on the Mama Rosa's tradition perfectly. This isn't just a restaurant; this is a place that makes everyone feel like they're home. Unfortunately, COVID took away the joys of dining in, which is limited now to personal family gatherings and special occasions. It's fascinating how every person who walks in to pick up their carryout shares a story with Amy when she greets them at the door. It shows how dedicated the community is to this family-owned establishment. The phone rings off the hook with carryout orders 4 to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 4 to 9 p.m. Sundays. Fun Fact: Monday nights were always special. Large groups of Tony's friends would gather to break bread. "Standing room only," he called it. Tony would serve up non-menu dishes like steaks, chops and his homemade specialties. But the star of the night was his signature ribs. Other guests would notice them and inquire, which is how they landed on the menu, just like his salad. "Never forget, Mama loves you and Mama makes it best."

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.



Mama Rosa's.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Mama's ribs, Tony's ribs and barbecue chicken.



Spaghetti and meatballs, The Big Mama round and Mama's Meaty square.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I notice every single piece of lint on my clothes — especially on sweaters — and immediately feel like the whole outfit is ruined. When I wear black leggings, knit sweaters or anything slightly worn in, I always feel like I need everything to look brand new to be put together. I did not think a fabric shaver would actually

make a difference. It seemed like one of those random Amazon gadgets that ends up in the junk drawer. However, I finally got myself one after my FAVORITE sweater of all time started pilling. I was honestly shocked at how easy it was. You just glide it over the fabric and it brings your clothes back to life. Pieces I was consid-



ering donating suddenly looked new again. It was weirdly satisfying and therapeutic, too, like refreshing my whole wardrobe. The only catch is you have to be super careful with delicate fabrics; however, once you get the hang of it, it is genuinely so easy and a game-changer for looking sleek. It also is small enough to

slide in your purse for a night out, in case any friends need an outfit re-touched in a pinch. If you're the designated "mom" friend who has a bottomless purse, this definitely should be your next add. I would rate this gadget a 4.8 out of 5. It makes your closet look expensive again with minimal effort. Find it here: tinyurl.com/3fcbvmx3

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.



4.8 Out Of 5



EAT WELL, FEEL WELL, LIVE WELL

Fresh Farms Market

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Summer roasted chicken and tomatoes

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Most Saturdays, I go to the farmers market and aimlessly walk by each stall hoping to get inspiration for a new recipe. Sometimes, I get nothing. But sometimes there is a fruit or vegetable that jumps out at me and screams to be bought. This past Saturday, I got nothing. Nothing until the very last stall we walked by. The vendor had endless tomatoes. He had every shape and color that his table would fit. So I bought a bunch of grape tomatoes with no plan.

Farm fresh tomatoes are best raw and juicy, cut thick with flaky salt sprinkled over the top. But this past weekend I felt like being creative. Simple but creative. Since I also picked up a round of sourdough bread, an idea began to brew. I decided to roast a chicken with croutons made from the sourdough loaf with lots of roasted tomatoes and herbs. For a salty kick, I added feta.

This recipe uses a whole chicken that I butterflied to reduce the cook time. It turned out better than I was expecting. The chicken was juicy and tender and gave off plenty of juice for the bread to soak in. I cooked this in two phases. For the first 45 minutes, I only roasted the chicken, garlic and tomatoes. Then I added bread cubes and feta cheese, tossed them around in the fat and juice and continued roasting until the tomatoes burst and caramelized and the top of the bread was crispy and browned. If I were to add the bread in the begin-

ning, it might burn. The tomatoes, herbs and garlic almost become a jammy sauce that is to die for.

Fresh Farms Market will happily butterfly a whole chicken for you. But if this seems overwhelming, you could swap out for bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs and drumsticks. It would be less cooking time and you could add the bread and feta in at the beginning. But you won't yield the delicious juice and fat from a whole chicken. And this combo is what makes the croutons so delicious.

Use whichever herbs you have on hand. I used thyme, basil and some sage because that's what's growing in the garden. Try using lavender or tarragon to perfume the meat as well.

The markets are beginning to yield the summer's best produce so don't miss out. Roasted chicken can be fabulous in the winter but it's also pretty darn good in the summer too.

- Cheers, Mombeau
- Roasted Chicken with Tomatoes and Croutons**
- 1 whole chicken, butterflied

2 lbs cherry tomatoes

4 cups sourdough bread, cut into 2 inch cubes

2 garlic heads, cut in half

½ cup fresh herbs

4 oz crumbled feta

4 tbsp olive oil
kosher salt and pepper

Preheat your oven to 375 degrees. Season both sides of the chicken liberally with salt and pepper. Lay the chicken skin side up onto a baking sheet. Arrange the whole tomatoes around the chicken along with the halved garlic heads. Pour a couple tablespoons of olive oil over the top and use your clean hands to coat everything in the oil. Season the tomatoes with some salt and pepper as well. Tuck the fresh herbs into the tomatoes and lay some over the top of the chicken. Place in the oven and cook for 45 minutes.

Shake the pan to loosen the tomatoes after about 20 minutes. After 45 minutes, take the sheet out of the oven and lay down the bread cubes all around. Toss them in any chicken and tomato juices that have accumulated. Drizzle over a bit more olive oil, if need be to moisten the bread. Sprinkle the feta over the bread and tomatoes. Place back in the oven for another 30 to 40 minutes or until the internal temperature of the chicken is 165 degrees. Take the sheet pan out of the oven and let it rest. The edges of the bread should be browned and crisp.

Carve the chicken either on a board or directly on the baking sheet. Let the bread soak up any chicken juices from the carving. Make sure to squeeze out the roasted garlic cloves. Serve and enjoy. Note: If you want to



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

use bone-in, skin-on thighs, add the bread and feta to the chicken at the start of cooking. Make sure the bread is moistened with olive oil. Cook for 45 minutes or until the chicken is cooked though.



Wine Talk

by Dan Berger

Ask questions

Restaurant pricing of wine has become ridiculous. Historically, restaurants saw the wine list as a profit center. Most owners knew they could charge prices based on outrageous markups, confident that most consumers, out for a good time, would pay the price, but when a bottle of wine costs the restaurant \$20 and patrons are expected to pay \$65 for it, something is amiss. The

least patrons can do is to validate that the wine they ordered is what they wanted.

Here are some tips: Check the vintage: With wine sales at their lowest level since the late 2000s, older wines are backing up in warehouses. I have noticed that some restaurants have taken the vintage date off their lists, hoping patrons will not

ask to validate the year. When a bottle is brought to the table, make certain the vintage is what you ordered. In most cases, white wines are best from 2023 and younger. Older vintages, especially for rosé wines, should be rejected. No one can be sure whether the wine was properly stored. Inexpensive red wines are generally OK back to about 2021. When ordering wine by the glass, ask to see the bottle. This may irritate some servers, but I have been intentionally misled often enough that I need to know if the glass I have been told about is what I end up getting.

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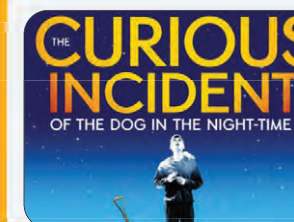
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...And we’ve got all the winners

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

The numbers are in for the 2026 Grosse Pointe News Fishing Classic, and from a record roster of entries we’ve got the winners for the final week of fishing – along with the announcement of our overall Grand Champions!

Leading the board for the week was Gus Stuckey, catching an incredible 33” muskie, earning him the top prize for the B/C age Divisions as well as the muskie category. For the 12-and-under A/C Divisions, Christian Phillips walked away with the honors for overall longest fish for his age group —and the top walleye for catching an impressive 20” fish.

Remaining Division A prizes went to Paul Ament for his 19.5” walleye and George Ellis II for his 18.2” largemouth bass. Onshore B Division saw Henry Hosey take the muskie award for a 30-incher, while Dean Werner won for bass with a 21” fish.

Alex Stahl took the bass category for boating Division C, with a 19” largemouth, while George Ellis II doubled up his wins by taking C’s pike category with a 16” fish. Andrew Phillips cleaned up three categories in Division D, taking the prize for a 20.5” bass, a 20” walleye and a 19” pike.

The Grand Champions were the two anglers who caught the overall longest fish over all species categories throughout the entire competition. It was decided to bestow two top awards this season, one for each age group. The 2026 grand prize winners are Skip Moody, 19, of Grosse Pointe Farms, for his 34.5” pike and Christian Phillips, 12, of Grosse Pointe Woods, for his 32” pike. Resounding congratulations to these two fine fishermen! Each will win a \$200 prize, courtesy of premier sponsor Charles Schwab Grosse Pointe, a \$100 Fishbones gift card, plus a brand new rod and reel combo courtesy of Lakeside Fishing.

We want to thank all of our sponsors, including those whose exciting donations made the weekly drawings possible: Fairway Packing Co.’s The Steak Shop, Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy, The Lobster Pot, Chocolate Bar Cafe, Wally’s Frozen Custard and JJ’s Custard Company. Thanks to Mr. Muskie for the complimentary tape measures.

- Mary Wilton - \$25 gift certificate for The Lobster Pot
- Louis Ellis - \$10 gift certificate for Chocolate Bar Cafe
- J.J. Leverenz- \$10 gift certificate for Chocolate Bar Cafe
- Flynn Zeldes - \$10 gift certificate for Wally’s Frozen Custard
- Teddy Whittingham - \$10 gift certificate for Wally’s Frozen Custard
- Graham Denny - \$10 gift certificate for JJ’s Custard
- Ava Leverenz - \$10 gift certificate for JJ’s Custard Company

Congratulations to everyone who won and participated. We hope to see you all next year for more fun!

Pictured at top: George Ellis II, above left, with his winning 18” largemouth bass, Alex Stahl, with his winning 19” largemouth bass, above center, and Paul Ament, above right, with his 19.5” winning walleye.



Luke Ament, 10, above, with his 14” smallmouth bass caught at Shores Park.

The market landscape has peaks and valleys. Don’t face them alone.

Grosse Pointe Branch
20879 Mack Ave
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
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schwab.com/GrossePointe

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CC10310046 (1124-WZ62) ADP124427B-00 (12/24) SCH15506 (03/26)

THIS WEEK’S FISHING TIP:
Catching perch and bass at the Pier near 9 Mile and at Blossom Heath. Also catching perch in deep water and handlining near the middle channel on the North Side of the Lighthouse. Happy fishing!

Lakeside Fishing Shop
25110 Jefferson Ave./10 Mile Rd.
St. Clair Shores • (586) 777-7003
Daily fishing report, call: (586) 777-7008

- This winners for the final prize drawing are:
- Neena Leverenz - \$100 gift card for Fishbones
 - Brooks Lowry - \$25 gift certificate for Lakeside Fishing
 - Henry Hosey - \$25 gift certificate for Lakeside Fishing
 - Jonathan Trombley - \$25 gift certificate for Whistle Stop
 - Alex Stahl - \$25 gift certificate for Fairway Packing Co.
 - Dean Werner - \$25 gift certificate for Fairway Packing Co.
 - Joe Miller - \$25 gift certificate for The Lobster Pot

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



Gus Stuckey, 14, of Grosse Pointe Park, was top winner for his age group for catching the beautiful 33” muskie, above. It was caught on Lake St. Clair. He also caught a 30” muskie. Well done, Gus!



Christian Phillips, 12, of Grosse Pointe Woods, won the overall longest fish this week for 12-and-under with this 20” walleye, above. He also takes top walleye.



Andrew Phillips, 16, of Grosse Pointe Woods, was a triple winner this week, scoring top honors in three of the four fish categories in Division D. He won with the 20” walleye, above, as well as a 20.5” smallmouth bass and a 19” pike. Great job!



Dean Werner, 18, of Grosse Pointe, above, displays the 21” smallmouth bass that won him the bass category for Division B. The hefty fish was reeled in at City Park.



Henry Hosey, 13, above, is the muskie winner for Division B. He caught the 30” fish on the pier in Grosse Pointe Farms.



LEADERBOARD

LARGEST FISH OF THE WEEK PER AGE DIVISIONS
LARGEST FISH OF THE WEEK PER FISH CATEGORY IN DIVISION

DIVISION A
ON SHORE - AGE 12 AND UNDER

1	PAUL AMENT	19.5” WALLEYE	★
2	GEORGE ELLIS II	18.2” LM BASS	★
3	JONATHAN TROMBLEY	18” LM BASS	
4	ALEX STAHL	17.5” LM BASS	
5	PAUL AMENT	16” LM BASS	
5	PARKER HURD	16” LM BASS	
5	AVA LEVERENZ	16” SM BASS	
5	J.J. LEVERENZ	16” SM BASS	
5	FLYNN ZELDES	16” LM BASS	
6	PAUL AMENT	15” SM BASS	
7	LUKE AMENT	14” SM BASS	
8	PARKER HURD	13.75” LM BASS	
9	MACKENZIE HURD	13.25” SM BASS	
10	PARKER HURD	13”LM BASS	
10	BROOKS LOWRY	13”LM BASS	
11	TEDDY WHITTINGHAM	12.5” SM BASS	
12	MACKENZIE HURD	12” LM BASS	
13	MACKENZIE HURD	11” LM BASS	
13	BROOKS LOWRY	11” LM BASS	
14	GRAHAM DENNY	10” SM BASS	

DIVISION B
ON SHORE - AGE 13 AND UP

1	HENRY HOSEY	30” MUSKIE	★
2	DEAN WERNER	21” SM BASS	★
3	HENRY HOSEY	20” SM BASS	
4	JOE MILLER	19.5” SM BASS	
5	JOE MILLER	19” SM BASS	
5	JOHN LEVERENZ	19” SM BASS	
6	JOE MILLER	16” LM BASS	
7	NEENA LEVERENZ	10” SM BASS	

DIVISION C
BY BOAT - AGE 12 AND UNDER

1	CHRISTIAN PHILLIPS	20” WALLEYE	★
2	ALEX STAHL	19” LM BASS	★
3	LOGAN BOGARD	18” SM BASS	
4	CHRISTIAN PHILLIPS	18” SM BASS	
5	GEORGE ELLIS II	17.5” LM BASS	
6	PAUL AMENT	17.25” LM BASS	
7	GEORGE ELLIS II	16.5” LM BASS	
8	GEORGE ELLIS II	16” PIKE	★
9	LOGAN BOGARD	16” SM BASS	
10	PAUL AMENT	16” LM BASS	
11	PAUL AMENT	16” LM BASS	
12	MACKENZIE HURD	13.5” SM BASS	
13	LOUIS ELLIS	11.5” WALLEYE	

DIVISION D
BY BOAT - AGE 13 AND UP

1	GUS STUCKEY	33” MUSKIE	★
2	GUS STUCKEY	30” MUSKIE	
3	ANDREW PHILLIPS	20.5” SM BASS	★
4	ANDREW PHILLIPS	20” WALLEYE	★
5	ALLAN MORTON	20” SM BASS	
6	ANDREW PHILLIPS	19” PIKE	★
7	MARY WILTON	17” SM BASS	



MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:



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Grosse Pointe News



Flynn Zeldes 16” largemouth bass, above, was caught at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.



Joe Miller’s 19.5” smallmouth bass, above, was caught at Windmill Pointe.

COURTESY PHOTOS

The official 2026 Grand Champions!



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

WINNERS' CIRCLE

Jackie Piper Fylack, VP at Charles Schwab Grosse Pointe, above left, congratulates the winners of the 2026 Grosse Pointe News Fishing Classic overall longest fish awards at the Charles Schwab offices at 20879 Mack Ave. Christian Phillips, 12, above center, won the 12-and-under age division grand prize for a massive 32” pike, while Skip Moody, 19, above right, was the grand champ of the 13-and-up age division for his whopping 34.5” pike. Each grand prize winner received a brand new rod and reel from Lakeside Fishing. Many thanks to our premier sponsor and all our great sponsors and best wishes to our deserving winners.



The overall winner for 13+ was this amazing 34.5” pike, above, caught by Skip Moody, 19, of Grosse Pointe Farms. Skip sure has the magic touch. A very impressive win!



Christian Phillips, 12, above of Grosse Pointe Woods, with his champion 32” pike. It was caught on Lake St. Clair. Christian was a tenacious angler this season, and it paid off!



Louis Ellis, 5, above, of Grosse Pointe Park, caught an 11.5” walleye offshore on Lake St. Clair. With its dark green stripes, that is one pretty fish!



Allan Morton, above, is pictured above with one of the many fish he has caught, this one a 20” smallmouth bass he reeled in out on Lake St. Clair.



Mary Wilton, above, of Grosse Pointe Farms, holds a 17” smallmouth, just a sample of her fishing prowess throughout the competition.



J.J. Leverenz, 7, above, got this 16” smallmouth bass at Crescent Sail Yacht Club. J.J. is from Grosse Pointe Park.



John Leverenz, of Grosse Pointe Park, reeled in the 19” smallmouth bass, above.



Ava Leverenz, 9, caught the nice 16” smallmouth bass, above, at Crescent Sail Yacht Club.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Teddy Whittingham, 8, caught this 12.5” smallmouth bass at Pier Park. Teddy is from Grosse Pointe Farms.

CATCHING SUMMMER MEMORIES



Kyle Hecht, above, Branch Owner and Senior Financial Consultant at Charles Schwab Grosse Pointe, is the premier sponsor of the Fishing Classic. Here he casts a line with his daughter, Piper, 3, left, and son, Hunter, 6, right. Thank you to Charles Schwab Grosse Pointe for making the event possible.



The cutest little angler is Graham Denny, 3, above, of Grosse Pointe. He caught his 10” smallmouth bass at the Crescent Sail Yacht Club. Looks like this budding young fisherman is fascinated with fish. Maybe he’ll become a pro fisherman or marine biologist someday! Whatever he chooses, we hope he always enjoys the fun of fishing.



Roger Burden, 5, above, caught his very first fish this past Father’s Day at the Farms pier. That’s pretty special! Roger is the grandson of Bill and Katherine Wood, of Grosse Pointe Farms, and was visiting from Winnetka, IL.



Asher Zeldes, 9, caught this amazing 21.5” walleye at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club on week three of the competition. Asher also won in week two with a 26.25” pike.



Carter Zeldes, 13, above was a past winner with this 24” pike reeled in at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. He also caught a 17.5” pike the same week. Wow!



Neena Leverenz, above left, fished with family and caught a nice 10” smallmouth bass at Crescent Sail Yacht Club. Brooks Lowry, above right, reeled in his 11” smallmouth bass, at Windmill Pointe.



Mackenzie Hurd, 5, above left, displays her “girl power” during the Classic. Brother Parker Hurd, 7, above right, caught multiple fish including this 13.75” largemouth bass.



Logan Bogard, 7, above, of Grosse Pointe, got his 16” smallmouth bass off Lake St. Clair. He also caught an 18” smallmouth this week. Good fishing, Logan.



Jonathan Trombley 6, above, got his cool 18” largemouth bass at Shores Park. Jonathan is from Grosse Pointe Shores. Good catch, Jonathan!

COURTESY PHOTOS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEADLINE PICTURES, BBC FILMS AND DCM PRODUCTIONS.

Behind the scenes with Dustin Hoffman in the 2012 movie “Quartet,” written by Ronald Harwood and directed by Dustin Hoffman.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Quartet”
2012 - Rated PG-13
1 hr 38 min
★★★★☆

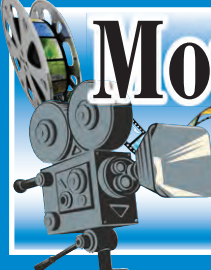
I saw this charming film a few years after it was released and thoroughly enjoyed it. I need to thank a reader of this column who recently recommended I review it. I gave it another viewing to refresh my memory, and I wasn't disappointed. Not only does it feature an all-star cast that includes the magnificent Dame Maggie Smith, it also stars Michael Gambon (“Gosford Park” “The King’s Speech”), Billy Connolly (“Brave” “Mrs. Brown”), Tom Courtenay

(“45 Years” “The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner”), and Pauline Collins (“Shirley Valentine”). If you're not familiar with these actors, you'll definitely recognize their faces, especially if you're a fan of British TV shows and movies. There's also a first-rate supporting cast of older professional musicians. Especially noteworthy is the fact that it was Dustin Hoffman's directorial debut, which he undertook when he was 75 years old. It's interesting that an actor of his stature, having starred in so many iconic films over the years, never directed before. But what a debut it was. I did a little



Cissy (Collins) and Wilfred (Billy Connolly).

research and was surprised to discover it was the only film Mr. Hoffman ever directed. He did such a fine job with “Quartet,” who knows what other masterpieces he could have produced! The film is based on the play by Ronald Harwood, who also wrote the screenplay. The setting is Beecham House, a retirement



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”



home located somewhere in the beautiful English countryside. However, this isn't your run-of-the-mill old folks home. It's an opulent country manor house, filled not just with gorgeous antiques, but retired opera stars and professional musicians as well. What an interest-

prima donna consent to perform with the rest of her contemporaries at the gala concert? As the action unfolds, the camera surreptitiously roams around the house and allows us to listen in on various groups and soloists rehearsing. It's great fun to witness these real life musicians practicing. During the end credits, we discover not only who they are in real life, but what role or group they were famous for. And the list is quite lengthy. One of the rare times the credits are definitely worth sticking around for.

Perhaps the most pivotal scene in the film is when Jean and Reggie go out for a walk away from Beecham House. Here we find out that the couple was once married. It turns out, due to an indiscretion on Jean's part, the marriage lasted just a few hours. Not only was Reggie crushed by this incident, he's been pining for Jean ever since. Naturally, you pull for them to get back together. And it definitely won't come as a shock that things do work out for everyone in the end. It's amusing to witness Cedric taking the reins as the director of the upcoming show. With his flowing robes and bejeweled fingers, he's about as pompous and majestic as they come. It looks like Michael Gambon had a blast playing this role. I thoroughly enjoyed this heartfelt and charming film. It's nice to see older actors get a chance to shine. Not only were all the principals in rare form, Dame Maggie Smith turned in one of her finest performances. She was her usual witty self, always ready to deliver a zinger to her cohorts. She's been in so

many great films over the years including “A Room with a View” and “Gosford Park” and I especially liked seeing her more recently in “Downton Abbey.” I was saddened to hear of her passing in 2024. The world of film lost a great one and she'll definitely be missed. I should mention that the soundtrack to the film is chiefly operatic arias and classical music. But you don't have to be a classical music buff to appreciate it. If you're in the mood for a delightful, feel-good movie, I think you'll love this one. Currently streaming for free on Kanopy (with your library card), Tubi, and YouTube. Also on Prime and to rent on Apple TV and other streaming services.

My rating system:

- ★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you're embarrassed to admit you've seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.
 - ★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.
 - ★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.
 - ★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.
 - ★★★★★ So good you'd actually buy it!
- If you have any movie suggestions, feel free to email me at: domin-



Movie poster for “Quartet.”



Cissy (Collins) brings Jean (Smith) flowers.”



Reggie (Tom Courtenay) and Jean (Maggie Smith) out on a walk.



The quartet takes the stage.

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

7/9 Solution

Pointe Word Search

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

CALENDAR
CEMENT
FILM
HOLLYWOOD
IDEA
MOVIE
POEM
PRINT
SPELL
STAR
THEATER
WISHES

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

Contract Bridge

SOLUTION TO A PREDICAMENT

South dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K Q
♥ Q 4
♦ K J 9 5
♣ Q 9 6 3

WEST

♠ 10 8 5 4 3
♥ 6
♦ 8 7 6 2
♣ 7 5 4

EAST

♠ 9 7 2
♥ J 10 9 3
♦ 3
♣ K J 10 8 2

SOUTH

♠ J 6
♥ A K 8 7 5 2
♦ A Q 10 4
♣ A

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
7 ♦			

Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

To be a good bridge player, simply relying on past experience in similar situations will not be good enough to carry you through in many cases. You must also be able to adapt to situations where things don't go exactly the way you would like them to go.

For example, take this case where South got to an excellent grand slam and went down one, losing 100 points when he should instead have made seven diamonds and scored 2,140 points.

It didn't take South long to go astray. He won the trump lead with the ten and continued with the ace, on which East discarded a club.

At this point, declarer realized that the only real threat to the contract was the possibility that the hearts might not be divided 3-2. So at trick three he led a heart to the queen and then led a heart back to the ace. Unfortunately, West ruffed, and the grand slam went down the drain.

Declarer would have done better had he taken more effective steps to guard against unfavorable divisions in both diamonds and hearts. All he had to do was to cash the ace of clubs at trick two, then lead a low trump to dummy's nine.

Upon discovering the 4-1 trump division, declarer ruffs a club, leads a spade to the queen and ruffs another club with his last trump. Now a spade to the king, followed by the K-J of trump, puts an end to the matter.

By playing this way, South scores all 13 tricks regardless of how the hearts are divided. He finishes with his four natural trump tricks, two club ruffs in his hand, the A-K-Q of spades, the A-K-Q of hearts and the ace of clubs. It seems ridiculously easy when the winning line of play is pointed out. The hard part is to think of it!

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg July 16, 2026

ACROSS

- 1 World's top-selling cookie
5 Used a broom
10 Go by
14 Coal chunk
15 Indiana NBA player
16 Woody's folk-singing son
17 Parting words in "The Sound of Music"
19 Authentic
20 Plants with fronds
21 Gorilla, e.g.
23 (Did you forget I'm here?)
26 Cunning
27 Academic field for which you may learn Old English
35 Ginger ____
36 "Jerry Maguire" star Zellweger
37 Chop finely
38 Prep, as a plane in winter
40 Ruby or emerald
42 Lowly worker
43 With
46 "You ain't seen nothin' "
48 Trains to Wrigley Field
49 Flowing locks
50 See 43-Across
- 53 Guy seen on the Food Network
55 Palindromic Korean word for "dad"
56 Brew with major hops
59 "Move on!"
61 What Taylor Swift has more of than geological time
64 Kathmandu native
66 Ideal vacation spot ... or a phonetic hint to a word hidden twice in 17-, 27- or 43-/50-Across
68 Snapple competitor
69 Divas have big ones
70 ____ de los Muertos
71 Risk getting pulled over
72 Puts on
73 Unit of corn

DOWN

- 1 "Frozen" snowman
2 Impolite
3 Middle Eastern bigwig
4 Company behind ChatGPT
5 Place to unwind
6 Bundle of bills
7 Vaping device
8 Social equal
9 Most loyal
10 It can have seven layers

11

- 51 (alien site?)
12 Really rock, in slang
13 Shoe part
18 Showed guests their seats
22 HS reunion attendee
24 Time for final holiday prep, say
25 "Geez!"
27 Sir's counterpart
28 Justice Kagan
29 Sanders who played for the Falcons
30 Relay race unit
31 "I gotta jet"
32 Words before requesting an Uber
33 Reason for a food recall
34 Taste or touch
39 Musical opener?

41

- Transformers' archenemy
44 Spain's peninsula
45 Coin with 44-Down pictured on it
47 Bottom's opposite
51 Supported a busker
52 Columnist's piece
54 Did nothing
56 Rustic hotels
57 Chewy Easter treat
58 Church recess
60 Emilia's husband in "Othello"
62 Home to seven "stans"
63 Burn on the grill
65 Had a nibble
67 A beast of burden

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

7/9 Solution

© 2026 by Andrews McMeel Universal
www.upuzzles.com

7/16

Dice Game by Drew Schmenner

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			
68								69				70		
71								72				73		

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Caution! Avoid shopping (except for food and gas) and important decisions all day until 8:30 p.m. EDT (5:30 p.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from LEO into VIRGO.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, July 16, 2026: You are idealistic, emotional and intuitive. This is a year of service for you, perhaps service to family. Take care of yourself so you can be a resource to those who turn to you for guidance, comfort and courage.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
It's a playful day! Enjoy socializing with others, especially romantic outings, sports and fun activities with children. At a deeper level, you feel you're seeing the world through new eyes, which, in fact, you are. Tonight: Get better organized.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Home, family and your private life are your priorities today. Restrict spending to food and gas because of the Moon Alert. Be grateful for opportunities to improve family relations; this is possible for you this year. Bonus! Tonight: Socialize!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Be careful, because most of this day is a Moon Alert, which means avoid important decisions and restrict spending to food and gas. However, you're full of ideas today! Be careful. Tonight: Relax at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Today's emphasis is on money, shopping, earnings and cash flow. However, most of this day is a Moon alert, which means restrict your spending to food and gas. Tonight: Discussions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today the Moon Alert is in your sign for most of the day. This means it's a marvelous day to socialize. It's also a wonderful day to appreciate the arts, create something. However, avoid important decisions and restrict spending money. Tonight: Check your money.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
This is a popular time for you, especially because friends from the past are back in your world again. Enjoy schmoozing with others. Today has an easy-going, unpredictable quality to it. Don't agree to anything important. Tonight: You win!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
This is a great day to schmooze with others and enjoy the company of friends as well as groups. However, avoid important commitments. Don't volunteer for anything. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Today you're high-viz, which means people notice you more than usual. Meanwhile, there's a Moon Alert in effect for most of this day. Agree to nothing important. Don't initiate something new. Restrict spending to food and gas. Tonight: Be friendly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Be patient with partners and close friends today, because Mars is opposite your sign. You're keen for a bit of adventure. Enjoy this day, but restrict spending to food and gas until the Moon Alert is over. Tonight: You're admired.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Be cooperative with others today. Take a nap if you can, because you do need more sleep right now. Meanwhile, be aware of the fact that today the Moon Alert is taking place in one of your Money Houses. Avoid financial decisions. Tonight: Explore and learn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others, which is not a big deal. It simply means you have to be cooperative and a bit conciliatory. Nevertheless, don't volunteer for anything and don't make important decisions. Tonight: Check your finances.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
This is a playful time for you and, indeed, this is a lovely day to socialize. This is a poor day for important decisions related to your job or your health. Be aware of the Moon Alert. Tonight: Cooperate.

BORN TODAY
Actor, writer, producer Will Ferrell (1967), soccer player, gold medalist Carli Lloyd (1982), musician, composer Stewart Copeland (1952).

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Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map

THIS WEEK: July 16, 2026

1. 566 Ballantyne Rd., GPS | 2. 1399 Edmundton Dr., GPW

● = YARD SALE ● = ESTATE SALE
See Classifieds for more details



Wait! Wait! Wait!

We spend a lot of time waiting to do things. We wait in lines, we wait for vacations, we wait for phone calls and we wait our turn playing games. The good news? Some imagination can make all that waiting time feel much shorter and, maybe, even a little bit fun!

THE KID SCOOP GREAT WAIT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Count backwards from 100 by fives.
- ☐ Find something from every letter of the alphabet.
- ☐ Think of five animals that start with "B."
- ☐ Imagine your dream treehouse.
- ☐ Draw your shoe.
- ☐ Stand like a statue for as long as you can.
- ☐ Sing your favorite song silently in your mind.
- ☐ Find 10 red things around you.

Rhyme Line

Waiting takes patience. While she waits for lunch, Gabriella is thinking of words that rhyme with things she sees in the cafeteria. Look at this picture. How many rhymes can you make?

Use the rhyming words to write a short poem.



Observation Game

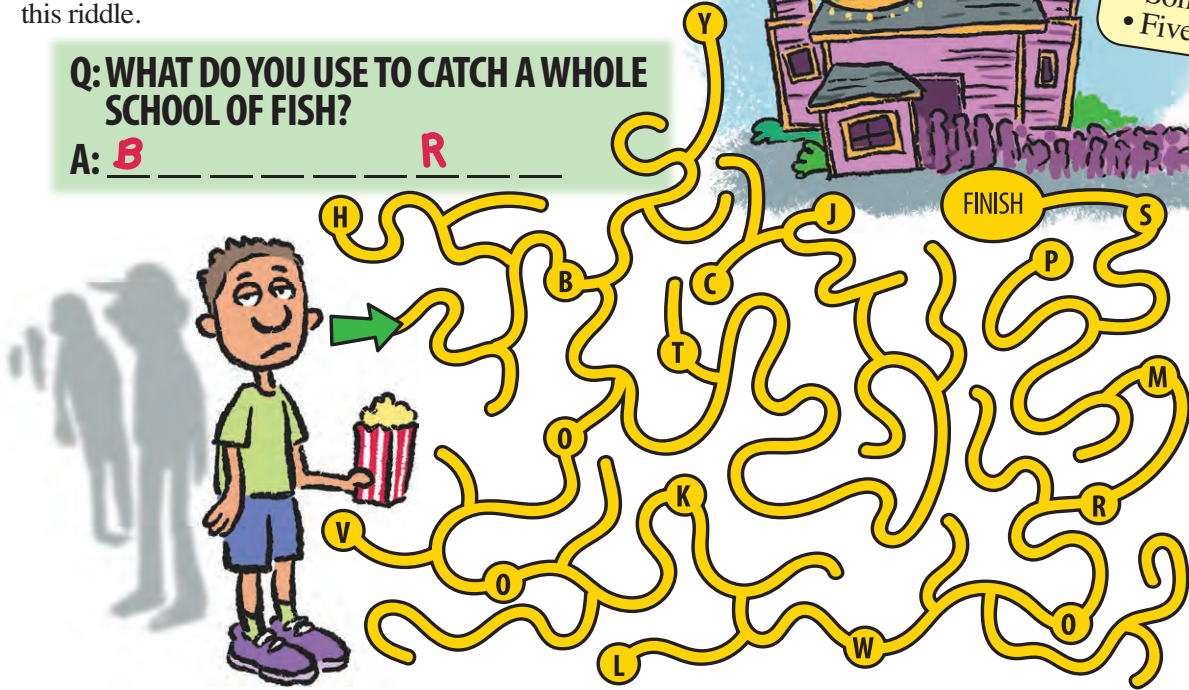
- While you wait, find:
- Someone wearing red
 - A clock
 - Something that rolls
 - Someone yawning
 - A pair of glasses
 - Someone reading
 - Five circles

Fun House Find

It's a long wait for the Fun House at the fair. Use the letters you find on the correct path to discover the punch line to this riddle.

Q: WHAT DO YOU USE TO CATCH A WHOLE SCHOOL OF FISH?

A: **B** _ _ _ _ _ **R**



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Use the code to discover an important message about waiting.

20 12 12 23
7 19 18 13 20 8
26 9 22
4 12 9 7 19
4 26 18 7 18 13 20
21 12 9

SECRET CODE			
26 = A	13 = N		
25 = B	12 = O		
24 = C	11 = P		
23 = D	10 = Q		
22 = E	9 = R		
21 = F	8 = S		
20 = G	7 = T		
19 = H	6 = U		
18 = I	5 = V		
17 = J	4 = W		
16 = K	3 = X		
15 = L	2 = Y		
14 = M	1 = Z		

TRY IT! Send a message to a friend using this code!

Double Double Word Search

BOREDOM
CLOCK
DREAM
FUN
GAME
LUNCH
NEWS
PATIENCE
PLAY
RED
ROLLS
SHOE
START
TURN
WAIT
WORDS

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **PATIENCE**

The noun **patience** means the ability to wait calmly or without getting upset or complaining.

It took **patience** to wait for my pizza to be delivered.

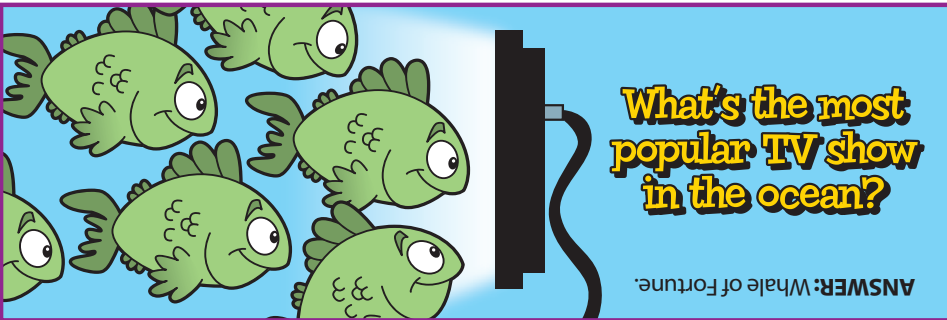
Try to use the word **patience** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Silly Words

Look for words in the newspaper that create a silly-sounding word when you say them backwards. Create a meaning for three of these silly new words. Think of these words next time you have to wait.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level words correctly.



Write On! Star Poem

Write a poem all about the stars.



Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.



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2D-3D ATHLETE OF THE YEAR WINNERS | 4D MAYA JOINT TENNIS | 6D-7D COMICS



Winners announced in fifth annual Athlete of the Year contest

By GP News Staff

The 2025-26 school year was another filled with exciting sports moments and outstanding performances that proved how special the sports community is in Grosse Pointe. From the football fields of fall to the courts and ice in winter and the diamonds of spring, the community once again got to

witness three seasons of amazing local high school sports. The Grosse Pointe News Athlete of the Year contest is a way to highlight the amazing student-athletes who gave their friends, families and the community moments to remember this past year. Now, the time has come for four of them to be honored. This year's winners

include two All-State hockey players, a volleyball phenom and a three-sport varsity captain. The winners came from a group of 41 athletes from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School who were showcased as part of our Athlete of the Week feature series throughout the school year. They were nominated by

coaches, community members and the Grosse Pointe News staff to highlight their strong performances, leadership and achievements in their respective sports. Two winners, one male and one female athlete, were chosen by Grosse Pointe News readers, as the community made its voice heard with more than 10,000

votes cast over two weeks. An additional male and female athlete were chosen as winners by the Grosse Pointe News in the staff picks category. Each winner will receive a \$500 scholarship courtesy of the Grosse Pointe News to put toward their respective college or university. Our Athlete of the Week sponsors from

throughout the year also help make the scholarship possible. This year's Athlete of the Week sponsors include Fairway Packing Co., Ray Laethem Buick GMC, Pointe Capital Management and Shana Sine Cameron of Sine & Monaghan Realtors. To find out who has been crowned the 2025-26 Athletes of the Year, see pages 2D-3D.



COURTESY PHOTO

Farms-City moves on to state tournament

The Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League 12U team defeated the Grosse Pointe Woods-Shores Little League 5-3 in the District 6 championship game Saturday, July 11, to win the district title. The Farms-City team takes one step closer to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa., as it advances to the state tournament. State tournament play begins Friday, July 24, hosted by Tecumseh. For more champions from last week's district tournaments, see page 8D. The 12U team roster includes: Ben Damman, Charlie Choma, Rainier Goddard, Grayson Ahee, Luke Nickolas, Jackson Mitchell, Connor Steiner, Teddy Harber, Grayson Farrell, Gavin Ahee, Michael Komasa, Wesley Marchal, Jack Mulvaney, and coaches Matt Harber, Keegan Farrell and Frank Mitchell.

2D | ATHLETE OF THE YEAR WINNERS

Congratulations!

to the winners of the
2026 ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
SCHOLARSHIP
CONTEST!



Meet the winners
and learn more about
their tremendous
accomplishments from
their incredible
high school careers

WINNERS

READERS' CHOICE

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Eva Borowski
GROSSE POINTE NORTH | BASKETBALL

Featured as Grosse Pointe News Athlete of the Week on
January 15, 2026

- Surpassed 1,000 career points with North varsity girls basketball during the 2025-26 season
- Served as varsity captain of North's volleyball, girls basketball and softball teams
- Will play college basketball at Albion College



Charlie Mueller
GROSSE POINTE NORTH | HOCKEY

Featured as Grosse Pointe News Athlete of the Week on February
12, 2026

- Led North varsity boys hockey with 30 goals and 42 assists during the 2025-26 season
- Became first North boys hockey player since 2008 to surpass 100 career points
- Named Division 3 second team All-State by Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association



Photo of Gabby DiVita by Grosse Pointe South Athletics
Photo of Nick Gould by Mike Adzima

Grosse Pointe News



GABBY DIVITA
Grosse Pointe South
Volleyball

Gabby DiVita

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH | VOLLEYBALL

Featured as Grosse Pointe News Athlete of the Week on October 30, 2025

- | Career stats over four seasons with South varsity volleyball include 2,157 kills, 1,280 digs, 233 aces and 139 blocks
- | Named 2025 Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association Miss Volleyball
- | Received All-State and MAC Red Division MVP honors in all four seasons of her varsity volleyball career
- | Will play volleyball in college at the University of Nebraska

Nick Gould

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT | HOCKEY & LACROSSE

Featured as Grosse Pointe News Athlete of the Week on November 27, 2025

- | Led Liggett varsity boys hockey in goals (43) and points (64) during the 2025-26 season
- | Named Division 3 first team All-State by Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association
- | Scored 93 goals for Liggett varsity boys lacrosse and received third team All-State recognition at attack from the Michigan High School Lacrosse Coaches Association
- | Will play college lacrosse at Otterbein University



NICK GOULD
University Liggett
Hockey & Lacrosse



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Photo of Eva Borowski by Mike Adzima
Courtesy photo of Charlie Mueller

Grosse Pointe will always be home for rising tennis star Joint

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

At 20 years old, Maya Joint could be considered a rising star in the tennis world with big things possibly on the horizon. Her journey to the biggest stages the sport has to offer began in Grosse Pointe, with her family and the community helping to foster a love for the sport that turned into a passion and now a professional career.

Places like the Neighborhood Club are where Joint got her start in taking tennis seriously. Even while she currently calls Australia home, she knows the Pointes and the tennis community in the area are a core part of her roots that helped her get to where she is today.

“We grew up right

across the street from tennis courts,” Joint said. “My dad had squash racquets, so we would go to the courts and play with the squash racquets and then my mom started to put me into some lessons at the local club. ... I had a knack for it because both my parents played racquet sports. I started traveling when I was 9 or 10, just driving around to some tournaments. I started doing well in the local tournaments, so when I got older, I started to play junior events around the Midwest. I thought there was a chance that I could really do something with this.”

Since 2023, Australia, her father’s home country, has become Joint’s home and base for her professional career. Competing in both sin-

gles and doubles, Joint has begun building an impressive resume and has appeared at some of the biggest tournaments in singles and doubles play.

Joint’s first doubles championship came at the 2025 Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) 125 Cancun Open. She followed that with both singles and doubles titles at the 2025 Morocco Open. Her first Grand Slam singles win came in 2024 at the U.S. Open, and she has competed in both singles and doubles play at all four of tennis’ Grand Slam events.

“Every time you play one of those events, you’re going to play against somebody very strong and have to test yourself,” Joint said. “I’ve learned how to handle different situa-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WTA

Grosse Pointe native Maya Joint is currently the 77th ranked women’s singles tennis player in the world by the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) and earned her first singles victory at Wimbledon over Serena Williams June 30.

tions and I know that it will make me better for the next time.”

A rather unique situation Joint found herself in occurred recently at the 2026 Wimbledon Championships. The singles draw put her in a first-round matchup with 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams, marking Williams’ first singles match at Wimbledon since 2022.

The match took place at Wimbledon’s famed Centre Court Tuesday, June 30, and was watched by more than 2 million people on ESPN. In the end, Joint defeated Williams in three sets, earning her first career Wimbledon singles victory and a milestone by defeating the player who is widely considered to be the

greatest of all time. It was the biggest stage Joint has been on yet in her career, but neither the setting nor her opponent caused her to waver.

“It could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Joint said about her match against Williams. “... I went and looked at the court a couple of days before and did the trial walkout, so I knew what I was expecting. I was trying to think about it as a normal match and not think about the setting too much or who I was playing.”

While Joint went on to lose her second-round match at Wimbledon to Alexandra Eala, her victory over Williams is a benchmark moment in her career. There is no

time to dwell on it, however, as Joint remains focused on training and collecting more wins in both Grand Slam and WTA competitions.

Joint’s tennis career has taken her around the world. Even while she travels or is at her new home in Australia, there is always something tying Joint back to Grosse Pointe. It is the place where she first picked up a racquet and learned to love being on the court, which is why she will never forget where she came from.

“I think I’ll always consider Grosse Pointe home,” she said. “I hope to come back one day to visit. I haven’t really been back there for a long time now, but it’ll always be my home and I can’t wait to see it again.”



Joint steps onto the court at the Australian Open.

Community leaders seek improvement in youth sports

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Navigating the modern world of youth sports can sometimes be a whirlwind for both parents and kids. There can be physical, mental and financial pressures to keep up with sometimes too many or not enough options for certain sports.

That is where local leaders in the sports community, like Anthony Toth, are trying to create change. Toth played college baseball at the University of Michigan and moved to Grosse Pointe with his family a few years ago. As a former Division I athlete and now both a coach and a dad, Toth has seen plenty of examples of what he thinks needs to change in the modern landscape of youth sports.

And he wants to do something about it.

“There’s this pressure of, ‘Does my kid need to be on a more advanced team at this age? Are they falling behind?’” Toth said. “... There’s a false pretense of if they’re not doing things at younger ages, they’re going to fall behind and not make their high school teams and all this stuff. Youth sports are a \$70 billion industry. How does that have the best



COURTESY PHOTO

Anthony Toth coaches Grosse Pointe Little League Softball players during the league’s Sandlot program, offering additional, low-pressure games and instruction for players after the Little League season ends.

interests of kids in mind?”

That is why Toth began working with the Project Play Initiative, a national initiative sponsored locally by the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, and The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods. The goal: build more healthy and inclusive sports communities.

“How do we keep (kids) involved longer?” Toth asked. “How do we build healthier habits

and lifelong healthy athletes as opposed to just training an 8-year-old like they’re going to be the next Major League Baseball star when that’s not a realistic expectation?”

Some of Toth’s efforts to create change already have included the formation of programs like the Summer Sandlot and Fall Ball for Grosse Pointe Little League Softball, giving athletes more options outside of travel softball to con-

tinue playing after the Little League season is over. The efforts are not intended to discourage participation in travel sports, but to provide alternative opportunities without as many of the outside distractions and pressures that might come with youth travel sports.

“It’s not anti-travel sports,” Toth said. “Travel sports can sometimes be the only option. ... If kids want to play more, they don’t have

another choice. Unfortunately, what’s happened with travel sports is that it has become a dilution of talent, coaches and overall ability to help kids both physically and on the mental side of things. ... The onus becomes winning. There’s an adult stress on winning, sometimes, rather than what the kid wants to do.”

Margi Whittingham is another Pointer stepping up to create those kinds of opportunities. Whittingham has been working with Project Play and also is the development director for Great Lakes Regional Field Hockey (GLRFH).

With GLRFH, Whittingham organizes programs around the Pointes and metro Detroit to introduce young athletes of different ages and skill levels to field hockey. It is a way for kids to try a new sport and a more affordable way for families to get their kids involved in a new sport.

“We have programming for all levels and all skills,” Whittingham said. “You can come out with no knowledge, whether you’re a 5-year-old or a 13-year-old, you can pick up a stick and learn how to play field hockey. We provide all the equipment, so you’re not financially investing

in a new sport before your child has tried it.”

As programs and initiatives like Project Play and Whittingham’s work with GLRFH are a good place to start, people like Toth believe there is more room to grow. Organizations like The Family Center, which made Toth a member of its board of directors, and others are trying to continue the conversation surrounding the high school sports landscape.

That conversation will be highlighted at “Raising Athletes, Strengthening Communities,” a panel discussion organized by Toth and The Family Center at The War Memorial Monday, Oct. 5. The panel will include guests such as coaches, educators and other community figures to discuss the current youth sports landscape and what more can be done to create the best youth sports experience possible.

“We’re all feeling these pressures,” Toth said. “What’s the truth behind it? How do we create opportunities and bring sports programs back into the community so that if girls want to play softball or field hockey beyond what Little League or the Neighborhood Club provides, they have the opportunity to do that.”

Local swimmer dives into lifesaving community campaign

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

A local student-athlete is leveraging her platform in the pool to tackle a serious safety issue affecting youth today.

Nicole McEnroe is a rising junior at Grosse Pointe South High School and a decorated competitive swimmer. She also has taken the lead for the local leg of the annual Corsan Challenge. The friendly summer competition brings together 14 swim clubs across the Michigan Interclub Swim Association (MICSA) league to raise critical funds for Detroit Swims.

An initiative managed by the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit,

Detroit Swims works to eliminate financial barriers to water literacy by offering free swimming instruction, safety gear and transportation to children in underserved communities.

For McEnroe, a multi-time MHSAA All-State athlete, MICSA league champion and lifeguard at the Country Club of Detroit, heading up the regional campaign hits close to home as most of the surrounding communities have a lack of water literacy despite Michigan’s water-centric environment.

The stakes and the incentives for this year’s challenge are particularly high. Participating regional clubs are racing

to help reach a collective \$25,000 goal, which would fund lifesaving water safety lessons for more than 1,200 local children. A single \$160 contribution covers the entire cost of training one child for life.

The highest-earning club will secure a traveling trophy and an exclusive training clinic hosted by Charlie Swanson, the University of Michigan swim standout who secured a gold medal at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

The community fundraising drive is active now and will end at midnight Saturday, July 25: mightycause.com/team/2026-Corsan-Challenge



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe South junior Nicole McEnroe is leading this year’s Corsan Challenge, a friendly competition between 14 different swim clubs to raise money for Detroit Swims. Scan the QR code above to donate.

Blue Dolphins hope to preserve legacy ahead of 100th anniversary

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

For nearly a century, the Grosse Pointe Blue Dolphins synchronized swimming team has been a staple of the Pointes’ oldest high school sports programs. As the program prepares to celebrate

its 100th anniversary in 2028, the Blue Dolphins are in search of more swimmers who can help keep the team’s traditions alive.

As of now, the Blue Dolphins have just three swimmers slated to return to the team for the

2026-27 school year. One of them is rising Grosse Pointe South senior Erin Korsak. Korsak has been with the team since her freshman year and knows the importance of protecting the program’s history for the future.

“Since it was one of the first sports in the school,

it should be preserved like any other sport that came after it,” she said.

The Blue Dolphins are a unified team welcoming students from both Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North. Swimmers can join regardless of prior experience when it comes to synchronized swimming.

While it might be an intimidating idea to join a sport like synchronized swimming without any experience, the Blue Dolphins do not want that to deter anyone. According to assistant coach Juliette Aouad, a North alumna and current member of the University of Michigan Artistic Swimming Club, the support of coaches and teammates is enough to help anyone interested in synchronized swimming overcome any reservations they may have about trying the sport.

“It’s a learning curve and it is a new skill,” Aouad said. “In my years

as a swimmer and a coach, I’ve seen so many girls come in feeling terrified. ... Through their time on the team, each and every one of them has become one of our best swimmers. As intimidating as it may seem, one of the things we like to have is an environment where you’re supported and your coaches are helping you and your teammates are helping you. It’s a really good support system.”

Communication and teamwork are key in any sport, especially synchronized swimming. Athletes like Aouad and Korsak are grateful for the opportunities the Blue Dolphins have given them to build a community and make lasting friendships in and out of the water because of how closely they work together.

The community of current and former swimmers has brought so many athletes together.

People like Korsak believe being part of the Blue Dolphins can completely change the high school experience, opening them up to new things and meeting new people as part of a program they want to live on for future generations.

“It connects both of the schools and helps you branch out and meet more people in the school district,” Korsak said. “... Everyone at South kind of knows each other, but you might not know a lot of people at North. It’s great to meet new people through this sport and make new friends.”

Interested swimmers can find the Grosse Pointe Blue Dolphins Synchronized Swim Team on Facebook for updates. Former team members also are encouraged to reach out on social media to help build a larger alumni network and base for the program’s history ahead of its 100th anniversary.



If you’re looking for a place to keep up with all the action, look no further than @GPNewssports on Instagram. Our page is dedicated to providing fans around the Pointes and beyond with the latest news and features surrounding Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett sports.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN KORSAK

Grosse Pointe Blue Dolphins swimmers perform a routine during last season. The team is one of the oldest high school sports programs in Grosse Pointe and will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2028.

Grosse
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News

THURSDAY

COMICS

Charles M. Schulz

Peanuts

I HEARD THAT CHUCK'S IN THE HOSPITAL, SIR

I KNOW, MARCIE, AND I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW I CAN SEND HIM SOME FLOWERS

THE EASIEST WAY, SIR, IS TO SEND THEM BY TELEPHONE...

SHE'S GOT TO BE KIDDING!

Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

Reg Smythe

Our loot's in there; it just LOOKS empty.

THE GREAT BITCOIN ROBBERY

WE'RE HOURS LATE AND THREE SHEETS TO THE WIND. FLO AND RUBE ARE GOING TO BE FURIOUS

DON'T WORRY. JUST LET ME DO THE TALKING, CHALKIE

WE'RE IN ENOUGH TROUBLE AS IT IS WITHOUT THAT, ANDY

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy

B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni

ERAAAAK!

BRAAAAK!

YOU'RE A PATHETIC FASTEST OWNER. HE'S SUFFICED TO BE MIMICKING YOU!

IN THE END, THINGS WILL BE PRETTY MUCH JUST LIKE NOW...

Reality Check

Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

THE LION IN THE WARDROBE

WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THERE?

NARNIA BUSINESS

I GOT SOME WOOD FOR A FIRE

GREAT!

IT'S A LITTLE EARLY FOR A YULE LOG

GRIMM, FOR THE LAST TIME, NO...

...I'M NOT GROWING SQUEAKY RUBBER PORK CHOPS

The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

"I CAN REMEMBER WHERE WE PARKED... I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER WHY."

IT SEEMS LIKE HARRY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FATHER WAS FAIRLY FRAUGHT.

YEAH... THE MONKEY ON HIS BACK REALLY HAD A CHIP ON HIS SHOULDER!

OR THE WAY YOU SAID IT!

Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton

Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson

"MARGARET THINKS SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S TALKIN' ABOUT, BUT SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO REALLY EVER DOES."

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE

When I said you could say hi to my dog, I didn't think it would take nine hours ...

Grosse
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THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

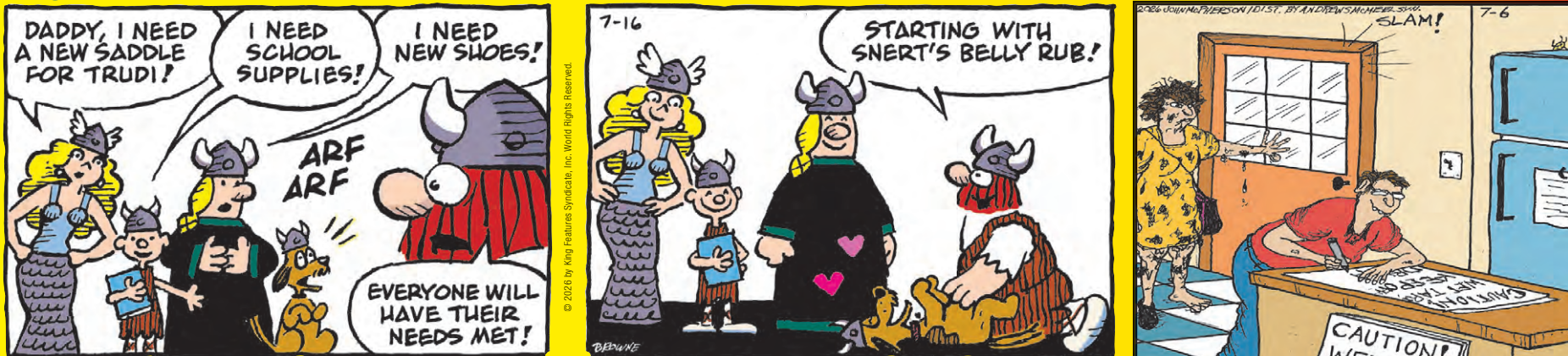
Jim Davis



Hagar The Horrible (Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators)

Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren

Close To Home John McPherson



Wizard of Id Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



Ziggy Tom Wilson



Blondie Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge Michael Fry and T. Lewis



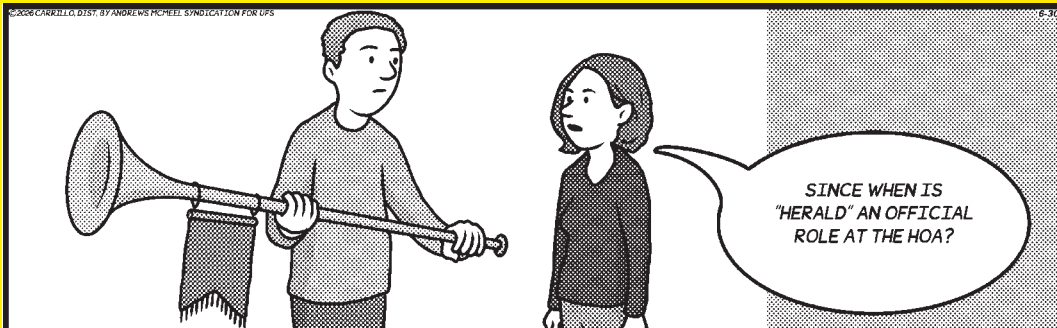
Crock Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



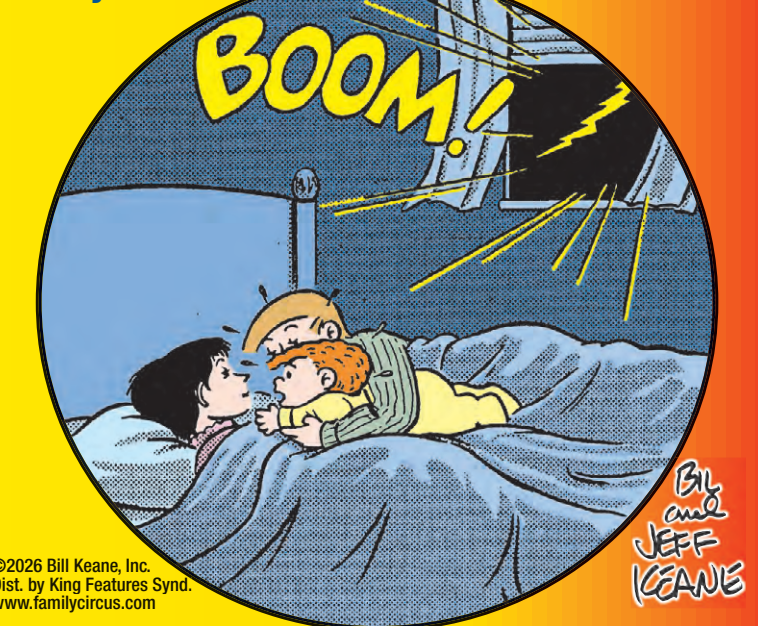
Popeye Bud Sagendorf



F Minus Tony Carrillo



Family Circus Bill and Jeff Keane



"I rushed in here so you guys wouldn't be worried 'bout me!"

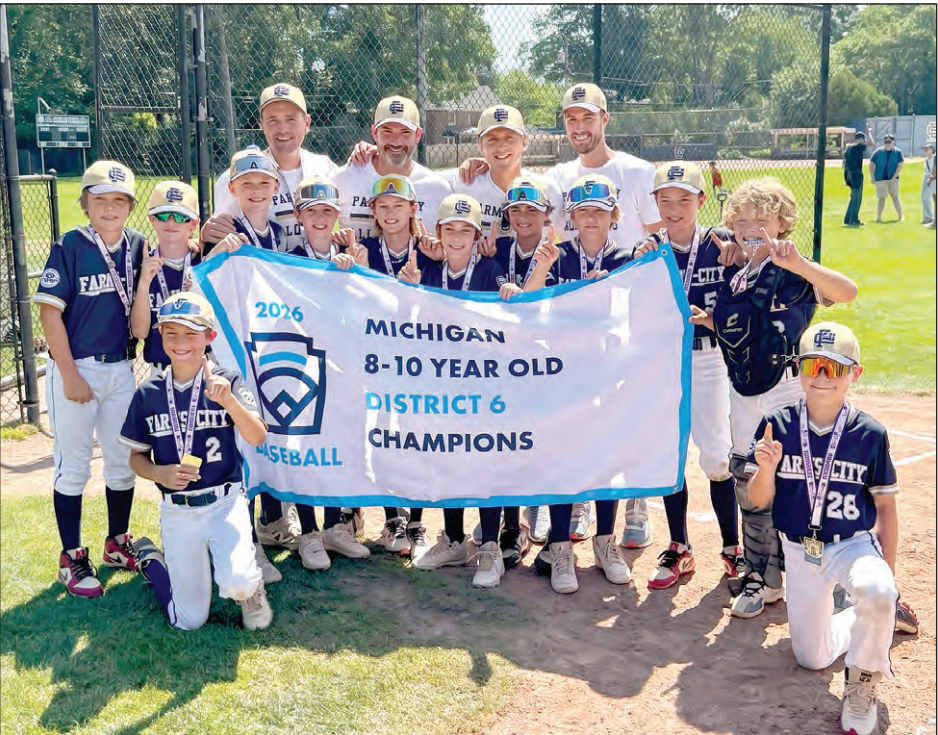


Woods-Shores, Farms-City take district titles



COURTESY PHOTO

The Grosse Pointe Woods-Shores 11U team won the district title Saturday, July 11, with a 6-5 win over Grosse Pointe Farms-City. Woods-Shores will head to the 11U state tournament in Alpena beginning Friday, July 17. The team’s roster includes: Benny Maltese, Kansas Waugh, Henry Buechel, Nicholas Amori, Boomer Inger, George Dakmak, Harrison Cavanagh, Tyler Vandenberghe Julian Augustyn, Blake Hawkins, Cameron Mannino and Christian Klamo.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League 10U team earned the district title Saturday, July 11, defeating Woods-Shores in the championship. The Farms-City squad will head to Harbor Springs for the 10U state tournament beginning Friday, July 24. The team’s roster includes: Huntley Prieur, Johnny Rizzo, Charlie Posby, Jack Coury, Finn Elley, Conor McKenzie, Jack Kowal, Will Palinski, Cass Lupo, Gus Harber, Carter Browne and Vinny Loperfido.

I SAY — SPORTS EDITION By Mike Adzima

A morning on the fairway and reminders of what golf is really about



There is something that feels right about an early-morning round of golf in the summer: getting out on the course and seeing the morning dew still glistening on the fairways and greens as you get ready to tee off before the day becomes too

hot. What makes it even better is the experience of playing an interesting, unfamiliar course with some familiar, friendly company. That is what my cousin, Luke Sloan, and I were able to do this past Sunday morning. Those who listen to WWJ Newsradio 950 or WXYT-FM sports radio

might be familiar with Luke’s name and know his voice from the airwaves. While we are both in the journalism business, we also share a love for golf, following the footsteps of our fathers, who have been longtime golfing buddies.

We try to meet each other for at least a few rounds of golf each season and Sunday’s round brought us to the Links at Gateway in Romulus. About a 40-minute drive down I-94 from Grosse Pointe, I would say Gateway is worth the trip for a well-kept and challenging, but enjoyable, public course to play in the metro Detroit area. The unique thing about Gateway is its proximity to Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The course is about four miles away from the airport and people like myself who share an affinity for both golf and aviation will enjoy watching the almost constant stream of planes flying overhead as they take off and land. The frequent noise of commercial airliners

above you during your round might be a bit distracting at first, but I found myself getting pretty used to it after a couple of holes. It also adds a fun extra mini-game to your round when you use a flight-tracking app and have each other guess where each plane is going. As for the course itself, I found Gateway to be a relatively fun challenge for an average golfer like myself. While you can find yourself facing some tough situations on certain holes, I never felt overly frustrated on the course. Perhaps the most challenging part of the course is the length of some holes on the back nine. Depending on which tees you choose to play from (we played from the gold tees), you might encounter a couple of lengthy par-4 holes that are well over 400 yards, followed shortly by a par-5 that measures well over 500 yards from the gold tees and can go up to even over 600 yards from the black tees, according to the scorecard. Also, the last par-3 on the back nine is hole 14, so be

prepared to not catch many breaks with short holes at the end of your round. All of that being said, I enjoyed my Sunday morning round at Gateway, not just for the challenging golf, but for everything that came with it. I got to spend a Sunday morning on the golf course with family and got to talk about life and sports and everything. It made me realize even more how golf can bring people together. Whether you are playing with someone you know well or get paired up with a stranger, the golf course is where you can connect with others and enjoy people’s company. To me, that is what golf is about. Sure, I want to have a good round and score as low as possible, but if I can do that while being out in beautiful weather with some good company, that makes it even better. Come back to the Grosse Pointe News in the coming weeks for more summer golf stories, including course reviews, tips from local pros and more.

MORE SPORTS EVERY WEEK

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

2025

WHO’S:
ON FIRST...
SERVING...
RUNNING...
DIVING...
ON PAR...
LEADING...
WINNING?

When you just have to know, see us!



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