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Grosse Pointe News

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

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SEPTEMBER 24, 2026
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Mack Avenue repaving project likely will continue through fall.

Mack Avenue repaving continues

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Road work on Mack is expected to continue into late fall, according to the Wayne County Department of Public Services.

The project involves hot asphalt milling and resurfacing over 1.58 miles in both directions, from Cook Road to Base Line Road, also known as Old Eight Mile, which is the boundary between the Woods and St. Clair Shores.

The concrete roadway base beneath the new asphalt is being repaired as needed, including drainage structure adjustments, as well as curb patching, sidewalk crossing ramp reconstruction and new pave-

See MACK, page 3A

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IN THIS ISSUE:
Sweater Weather



The fall style magazine defining the Pointes. Equestrian-inspired fashion, trends, outerwear, shoes, nails and more!

See Section C

Chamber speaker drive starts on Charlevoix

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — An extra amenity will be wedged into the Charlevoix streetscape improvement project as construction nears conclusion.

Outdoor speakers of the background music-playing kind were approved for installation along the commercial strip.

"There would be 10 speakers placed strategically to provide the optimal ambient sound covered," said Cindy Paparelli, director of the Tax Increment Finance Authority and assistant city manager.

The Charlevoix business district is within TIFA bounds.

See SPEAKER, page 2A

Life saved

Teen officer credited with saving DPW worker's life after freak accident

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — "It went from zero to 100 very quickly," said Officer Paul Lyke, who was dispatched in early September for a report of a DPW worker who cut his arm and was feeling a little lightheaded, but arrived at the scene of a man actively bleeding out from an artery.

Rick Braun, an eight-year member of the Farms public works department, was collecting rubbish on Moran around 8 a.m. Friday, Sept. 4, when a shard of broken glass from a picture frame punctured the heavy-duty Glad bag he was lifting and slid into his arm near the inside of his elbow.

"What he remembers vaguely is that the blood was shooting out 5 to 6 feet," said Lyke, who had the opportunity to speak with Braun following the life-threatening incident. "The other workers backed that claim up."

The young officer, newly hired to the department in May, was about 10 seconds away on Chalfonte when the 911 call came in.

He arrived to find two DPW workers huddled around Braun, using what used to be a white T-shirt as a makeshift tourniquet.

"I'm looking at the shirt," Lyke said. "And I'm processing, the shirt shouldn't have been maroon or almost black. It should've been white.

"They said, 'He's bleeding out really bad.'"

Muscle memory from his recent completion of the police and fire academies kicked in as Lyke applied a tourniquet officers keep on their person, slowing the bleeding significantly.

"My next radio transmission from me being on scene was, 'Tourniquet applied,'" he said, "and then that told the rest of the officers, 'Oh, this is something.'"

Braun was not yet out of danger. The MedStar ambulance that had been dispatched still was seven minutes from the scene at the point of the tourniquet being secured.

Lyke and the next responding officer, Paige Thomas, made the call to race him to the hospital in the back of a squad car.

"We don't do transports," Lyke clarified. "It's a liability for us to transport in the event that something does happen. So for me, it was a little bit of a risk to take him to the hospital, but I would rather take the risk and help him than (risk a different outcome)."

Braun, who politely declined an interview request in the interest of returning to normalcy, is expected to make a full recovery and already has returned to work.

Lyke, at 19 years old, is up for a lifesaving award. He is the department's newest hire and, at the time of the incident, had

See SAVER, page 2A



COURTESY PHOTO

DPW employee Rick Braun, left, and Officer Paul Lyke.

Sporting Equipment Drive returns next week

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Last fall's inaugural All Pointes Sporting Equipment Drive at Neff Park brought in more than $40,000 worth of new and gently used sporting equipment to be donated to kids in need.

"It was the largest donation, at least to that point, that Leveling the Playing Field had received," said Chad Murphy, City of Grosse Pointe parks and recreation coordinator, of the local nonprofit organization that redistributes the equipment to kids in lower-income areas at no charge. "We were pretty pumped."



COURTESY PHOTO

The racquet sports donation table at last year's inaugural All Pointes Sporting Equipment Drive.

The second annual All Pointes Sporting Equipment Drive is scheduled 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, hosted by the City and the Neighborhood Club.

The drop-off site is Neff Park, but anyone throughout the Pointes and beyond is welcome to participate.

"We're not going to turn anybody away," Murphy said.

Community members are invited to clean out closets, basements and trunks of their old gear collecting dust, so long as it is in decent condition.

The drive will accept a plethora of equipment

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Pointer of INTEREST



Joan Belgrave
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Co-created documentary highlighting late husband's talent, impact

See story, page 4A

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Walk Your Wheels kicking off

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — With signage now in place, The Village officially is kicking off its Walk Your Wheels courtesy zone, where those traversing through the downtown area are required to walk their bicycles, scooters and skateboards — both electric and traditional.

An exception is mobility scooters.

A community kickoff event takes place 3:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, in the greenspace behind the CVS parking lot.

The event will feature bike safety checks with Bikes, Blades and Boards, giveaways of bike locks and helmets and a fire station bounce house.

"It's a great opportunity to start the initiative with some positive things for the community, get kids and families involved and have our officers promote bicycle safety," Public Safety Director John Alcorn said.

The Walk Your Wheels zone is a safety initiative set in motion by the rapid increase in e-bike usage.

"We have congested storefronts and entrances, which obviously amplify that opportunity for there to be a collision," said Cindy Willcock, executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe. "We want to do everything we can to make everybody feel safe and avoid any kind of accidents."

The prevailing intention with enforcement is education rather than punishment.

"It's an easy kickoff," Alcorn said. "We're not out there knocking kids off their bikes and screaming at them. It's about education."

Officers are carrying coupons for a free kid-size frozen yogurt from TCBY, which they will hand out when they see children appropriately walking their wheels in The Village.

— Laurel Kraus





Courtesy zone signs, left, are posted and displayed as decals, above, on the sidewalk at entrances to The Village. The zone encompasses Kercheval between Cadieux and Neff, including all pedestrian plazas and public parking lots serving The Village business district.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

DTE to trim 48 miles of trees in G.P. Farms

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Tree trimming started this month and may run through the end of the year in Grosse Pointe Farms, as DTE Energy looks to reduce its power outages by 30 percent, as well as cut outage length by 50 percent between now and 2029.

"We're sensitive to the fact that communities love their trees and the Grosse Pointes, quite frankly, have a beautiful tree canopy," said Barbara Rykwalder, manager of corporate government affairs with DTE. "Unfortunately, trees account for about 40 percent of our outages."

Crews intend to trim 48 miles of trees within the Farms, she added, during a presentation to city council in August.

Residents can expect DTE crews to chip small debris and haul it away. Larger pieces are considered property of the resident and as such, will be cut into campfire-size pieces and neatly stacked. Residents may keep them for personal use or place them at the curb for DPW workers to collect.

If a resident prefers that a tree be entirely removed, a request may be made to the trimming crew when they knock on the door to alert the homeowner of the project.

"If they're going to be trimming a significant amount of tree and you'd rather just have it removed, that's the time to let them know," Rykwalder said. "You would be required to sign a form acknowledging that you want that tree removed, so we have that agreement."

Planned work also encapsulates five poletop maintenance projects and three implementations of automation devices, which automatically reroute power during an outage.

"Think of it like a strand of Christmas tree lights," Rykwalder said. "You take one light out and the whole strand goes out. With automation, you can take that light out of that strand of Christmas tree lights and the strand will stay lit.

"… So maybe instead of 300 customers out, you'll have 50."

To keep track of DTE work planned for the area, residents may Google "DTE Power Improvements Map," and enter the applicable ZIP code.

From this page, users also can track power reliability performance from the last three years.

For ZIP code 48230, DTE recorded 33 hours and 41 minutes of interrupted power in 2023; one hour and 25 minutes in 2024; and one hour and seven minutes in 2025.

For ZIP code 48236, DTE recorded 28 hours and four minutes of interrupted power in

See TREES, page 3A

Thank you for your service

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, which straddles Grosse Pointe Woods and St. Clair Shores, invited first responders from both cities to stop in for coffee and doughnuts the morning of Friday, Sept. 11, to show the parish's appreciation.



COURTESY PHOTO

SPEAKER:

Continued from page 1A

A majority of TIFA board members voted Sept. 16 to allow the installation.

Their decision was based largely on the ability to regulate the speakers' hours of operation and control sound levels through a computer application.

Paparelli said volume can be adjusted systemwide. Individual speakers can be turned off entirely.

The $53,600 system will be paid in equal parts of $26,800 by the city and Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce.

"We're bringing this initiative," Jennifer Boettcher, chamber president and executive director, told the TIFA board. "The intent is to do it throughout Grosse Pointe business districts. The first one we're working with is Charlevoix because of the infrastructure going on right now. It makes the most sense."

In addition to paying its half of the speakers and wiring, the TIFA board agreed to pay a separate $12,000 to erect three poles on which to hang the equipment.

"Funding is available as fund balance (in the) commercial improvement grant budget," Paparelli said.

Although Charlevoix is the first district in the Pointes to receive the chamber's offer, the technology employed is tried and true.

"The same system has been used in New Baltimore and Rochester," Boettcher said.

She said the amenity will complement the Charlevoix streetscape renovation's benches, public art and other welcoming attractions.

"We want to encourage more people to visit Charlevoix, to come, stay, have coffee, have a cocktail and enjoy art while sitting listening to piped-in music," Boettcher said. "Our intent is to bring this music to every business district because we're already a walkable community; we want people to come and stay. It also enhances the quality of life."

A feature tipping the board's decision was having authority to turn the system off. Yet members chose a wait-and-hear approach to regulating actual volumes and hours of operation.

"I'd feel more comfortable if it were for special events or seasonal," TIFA board Chairman Curt Ralstrom said. "If it's going to be all day, every day, 365 days per year —."

"That would be your choice," Paparelli interrupted. "You'd want to have that discussion once those are active and see what they sound like."

"That would be reactive," Ralstrom said.

"You don't know until they're up what (sound level) is good," Paparelli said.

Ralstrom envisioned not only limiting the hours of operation, but the days, too.

"I certainly wouldn't want music seven days per week outside my house," he said.

"If you decide to go forward, these are discussions you should have," Paparelli said.

Board member Jim Robson, a former councilman and always an advocate for Cabbage Patch residents, said, "It is a generous proposal, but it's a square peg in a round hole. It's not the right fit for Charlevoix. Put yourself in the position of residents. It's basically a residential area."

He cast the lone "no" vote to accept the deal. Voting yes were Ralstrom, Vice Chair Christina Anton and board members Pier King-Piepenbrok, Julie Secord, Mary Distel and Trenton Chamberlain. Missing the meeting due to excused absences were members Arthur Mullen, Randy Cousineau, Brian Czerny and Joe Tompkins.

Robson said around 10 houses on or in the streetscape zone could be impacted by outdoor music.

He said, "Three are on Beaconsfield. Three are on Lakepointe. One is on Maryland. Two are on Wayburn. I don't think those people would be really happy about ambient music, rock 'n' roll — whatever. It's not necessary."

"What if we did not put speakers near the houses in question? Or not put poles by those residents?" Anton said.

"We may need to limit hours that this is on," Ralstrom said.

"Just as the city council decided to change hours for the social district, this board would probably want to do the same," Paparelli said. "(The board) would control those hours."

Paparelli urged the board to focus on accepting or rejecting the offer.

"Then you can get community input for those other items," she said.

"The question is," Robson said, "will we get community input? When will we decide particular parameters?"

"We can put that to another meeting," Chamberlain said.

SAVER:

Continued from page 1A

been patrolling on his own for only about a month, following completion of field training.

He is a little more than one year removed from graduating from Grosse Pointe South High School in May 2025.

"Last year they were censoring these types of things in the classroom and now here I am doing it," he said. "But you don't really think about it. It's just work and it's what I signed up for and that's what I'm going to do."

Since the incident, Lyke has begun carrying two tourniquets on his person.

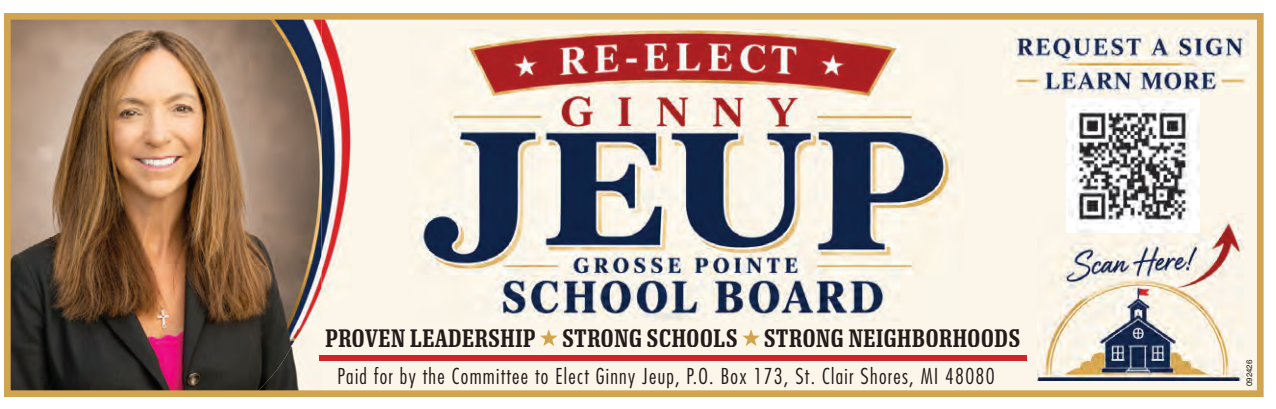
"(Braun) was bleeding so badly that he could have used two tourniquets," he said. "Because when I applied the first one, it was still seeping out a little bit. I've picked up a few more, because you honestly never know, and I wouldn't have known unless I would've had a situation to carry multiple."

He also agrees with a DPW worker who said students should be taught a Stop the Bleed course in school, in addition to CPR training, which already is taught in health class within the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Residents also have a responsibility to properly and safely secure rubbish.

"Any kind of non-safety plate glass should have duct tape across it, so that if it shatters it doesn't fragment and come apart," Public Works Supervisor Tom Joy said. "If it's already broken and in larger pieces, it should be in a labeled cardboard box, so the crew knows what they're handling."

The two DPW workers who assisted Braun prior to Lyke's arrival will be recognized during the city's October council meeting.







COURTESY PHOTO

A group photo from the 2025 Fall Classic at Lochmoor Club.

Charity golf outing continues at Lochmoor

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Despite a fire Wednesday, Sept. 9, that destroyed the clubhouse at Lochmoor Club, a long-time charity golf outing continued there as planned that weekend.

"After careful consideration, Lochmoor has made the decision that they want the Adios event to move forward this weekend," an email sent to participants Thursday, Sept. 10, said. "We are incredibly grateful for their commitment. Our teams continue to work around the clock to do everything possible to make this weekend a reality for our players, members, guests and supporters. And most importantly, the children."

What began as a conversation between two friends more than 40 years ago has grown into one of the area's successful, but lesser known, charities.

While spending time together at Adios Golf Club in Florida, Tony Giorgio and Jack McCullagh were inspired by the work of a local organization that used therapeutic horseback riding to help children facing physical, emotional and cognitive challenges. Moved by the impact these programs had on young lives, they created an organization dedicated to helping children experience moments of joy, hope and opportunity.

From that vision, The Children's Charity at Adios was born.

"It's a quiet charity the community doesn't really know about, but they

See OUTING, page 5A

1st Retail Week wraps up Saturday

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce officially kicked off its inaugural Retail Week Sunday, Sept. 20, bringing seven days of themed shopping, exclusive promotions and pop-up experiences throughout the Pointes' business districts.

"Supporting Grosse Pointe Retail Week lets you enjoy exclusive deals while boosting the Grosse Pointe economy, discovering unique products and getting personalized service — all in one visit," said IRIS owner Jenny Buda, who brought her idea for the event to the chamber.

Retail Week, now through Saturday, Sept. 26, features 33 participating businesses. To kickstart sales and encourage community engagement, the chamber distributed $25 Grosse Pointe Gift Cards to the 24 participating chamber members to award one lucky customer during the week.

"We're proud to be part of Grosse Pointe Retail Week," said Jen Kendall Mooney, manager/buyer at Coreander's Children's Bookshoppe. "At Coreander's, every book purchased, puzzle picked out, ice cream enjoyed and gift taken home helps us continue creating this little corner of the community we love so much. Your support during retail week — and all weeks — reaches far beyond our doors. It allows us to give back to local schools, nonprofits, fundraisers and organizations doing wonderful things right here in our community. Small businesses make communities feel like home. Thank you for supporting Coreander's."

Added Georgia Assaf, owner of Pointelle, "Our local businesses are our neighbors, friends and families. They're what make Grosse Pointe unique. Shopping local helps keep our small businesses open, supports local jobs and keeps our Village thriving."

"People should support Retail Week because the participating retailers are local small businesses that support our community firsthand," said Annabel Schlachter, store manager of LaLonde Jewelers & Gemologists. "These businesses are direct supporters of our schools, organizations, libraries and more that make our community so great. It's a nice way to show support for these businesses and maybe discover something new along the way."

To view a map of Retail Week's participants and specials, scan the QR code.

TREES:

Continued from page 2A

2023; one hour and 33 minutes in 2024; and three hours and 35 minutes in 2025.

"That doesn't compute with my personal experience of power outages in 2026," Councilwoman Beth Konrad Wilberding said.

Those figures will be available in February/March, Rykwalder said.

Councilman Lev Wood questioned the feasibility of burying power lines to better prevent outages from storms and trees.

"That's the most often asked question that I receive," Rykwalder said. "When we have new subdivisions, we do bury those lines."

Established communities are a different story, she added.

DTE piloted a program two years ago to bury lines in a Detroit neighborhood and found the cost to be three times that of going overhead.

"Every home would have to provide an easement," Rykwalder said, "so if one homeowner doesn't provide an easement, that means the line has to go above ground and then go back under for the next person who signs an easement.

"Every third house would have the green transformer box and, unfortunately, that's a necessity of that whole configuration."

Additional hurdles include established infrastructure such as water/sewer lines, trees and driveways.

"Probably the most calls I get are with regard to reliability concerns of our residential and commercial electric service within the city of Grosse Pointe Farms," Mayor John Gillooly said. "We hope that you continue to take appropriate steps to benefit all of us in the entire region with regard to reliability."

Rykwalder said DTE has invested $573,000 in Grosse Pointe Farms specifically over the last five years.

MACK:

Continued from page 1A

ment markings.

Jim Kowalski, Woods director of public works, said some of the work is taking longer than expected because many of the sidewalk crossing ramps are no longer ADA-compliant and more need to be repaired than originally thought.

As of Monday, Sept. 21, the parking lanes and adjacent travel lanes were expected to open as work begins on lanes next to the islands and turnarounds.

Detroit DPS said some minor work, including signage replacement and turf seeding, may extend into spring depending on seasonal limitations.

The $3.9 million project, which began Aug. 10, is funded by a combination of county and state money.

—Ted O'Neil

DRIVE:

Continued from page 1A

including for football, baseball/softball, golf, lacrosse, basketball, hockey/field hockey, racket sports, soccer and volleyball, as well as playground and fitness equipment.

A full list of accepted items can be found at levelingtheplayingfield.org/ways-to-help/donate-equipment/ or via the QR code below.

The nonprofit is unable to accept the following items: bikes, bike helmets, skateboards, clothing, croquet sets, exercise machines, fishing gear, uncertified football helmets, hats, partial sets of uniforms, protective cups/jock straps, racquetball equipment, scooters, skis and snowboards, trophies and used running shoes.

"Most of the programs that apply (with us) are Title I schools that need equipment for PE classes, for recess, for health classes, so we see a lot of Detroit Public Schools coming in, a lot of Dearborn Public Schools," Leveling the Playing Field program manager Catie Meyers said previously, "and then folks that are grassroots trying to get a league started in their area because they have kids who are interested and they just don't have the full financial means to fully get it up and running."

Additional volunteers to help with collection during the drive still are being sought.

Those interested may reach out to Kara Hardenbrook, Neighborhood Club marketing and development director, at kara@neighborhoodclub.org.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, SEPT. 28

- Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Facilities Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Policy Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

- Grosse Pointe Park Fall Plant Exchange, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Windmill Pointe Park.
- Fall Fest at Grosse Pointe Woods City Hall, 5 p.m.





Documentary examines impact of jazz talent Marcus Belgrave

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

"One of the most influential musicians of the 20th century. Playing on dozens of legendary Ray Charles and Motown hits. Sought after by jazz greats from Dizzy Gillespie to Wynton Marsalis. And you don't know his name. Until now."

These words introduce the trailer for "… And Damn, He Could Play: The Marcus Belgrave Story," co-produced by his widow, Joan Belgrave.

The jazz trumpeter built a reputation playing with Ray Charles, the Funk Brothers and Charlie Mingus. While he could have pursued fame and fortune away from Detroit, Marcus Belgrave stayed in the city he loved to become a teacher, so he could ensure the future of his art form would carry on in the hands of the next generation.

"He could have left Detroit and been as famous as Miles Davis," said Joan Belgrave, who spent four years working on the documentary, which was shot in Detroit. "When you see the film, you can see his humanity. He was a fabulous musician."

The sentiment is shared by many big names in the jazz community. Ray Parker Jr., Wendell Pierce, Don Was, Wynton Marsalis and others share their thoughts on Marcus Belgrave during the 90-minute film, directed by Timashion Jones.

Flying under the radar was part of the musician's lifestyle. It's also part of the couple's story.

"When I met Marcus, I didn't know who he was," said Belgrave, a Grosse Pointe Woods resident. "I spent 30 years in California, moved back here and ran into him. I was just surprised and delighted by his spirit.

"I was producing and I hired him," she added. "I thought, 'Oh, he can play a little bit.' I was unaware of his huge impact. I found out as we worked together."









PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOAN BELGRAVE

Singer Joan Belgrave and her trumpet-playing husband, Marcus Belgrave, often performed together. Among their talented friends, pictured with the couple top right, is Motown legend Stevie Wonder.

Belgrave said she often hears from musicians during her travels about the impact her husband had on them. He never hesitated to help when asked, she added.

"I had to take him out of Michigan in the winter because he couldn't say no to anyone," she said. "He had COPD and would get pneumonia. Because of his love for people, he'd say, 'They need me.' He was just special like that. I felt his story needed to be told."

Marcus Belgrave — who posthumously was honored with Marcus Belgrave Avenue, a ceremonial renaming of John R at Madison and Center streets in Detroit — was part of Ray Charles' touring band and recorded with Martha Reeves, the Temptations, the Four Tops, Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis Jr., Dizzy Gillespie and a host of other musicians.

"Marcus was an original member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra when Wynton started it," his widow said. "Marcus started jazz at the DSO; there wouldn't be a Paradise Jazz Series were it not for Marcus.

"People didn't know his impact," she added. "Marcus just did what he did."

The documentary is just the latest achievement for Belgrave — a vocalist, producer, songwriter and former on-air jazz radio personality.

Originally from Ann Arbor, Belgrave moved to California in 1978 to pursue a singing career. She met and married her first husband in 1980; he wanted her to support his career, which led her to stop singing.

"I had to stop completely, because I can't do music 'a little,'" she said. "I didn't sing for 15 years; I stopped when I got married. I didn't even sing in church."

In 1994, she returned to Michigan when her father died and sang at his funeral.

"When I went back to California, it was like a waterfall opened," she recalled. "I couldn't stop singing if I wanted to."

Her passion for music marked the end of her first marriage, which produced three children. Today, her daughter is a Peloton executive in New York. One son is a professor and poet in California; the other is a trainer in Nashville and former NFL coach.

Belgrave returned to Michigan with a renewed mind for music.

"I came here to focus on music," she said. "No relationships; I didn't want to deal with that. … I was very protective of my space."

She met Marcus Belgrave in 2003. She worked with the trumpeter for a year before she let him take her on a date.

"Over the years I got to know him," she said. "I got to watch him and see how unique he was as a person. … I watched how he treated people, how he was around women. He was the best — giving, open. I think he liked the fact I didn't want anything from him. A lot of people had agendas, but I had my own stuff going on. I got to know him as a person, not just the phenomenal musician he was."

They were married in Niagara Falls in 2006, just after a joint gig at the Toronto Jazz Festival.

"God puts us where we need to be, when we need to be there," Belgrave said. "If I hadn't gone through what I went through with my ex, I never would have met Marcus. Marcus was where I needed to be; Detroit was where I needed to be."

For years the couple made music together, entertaining audiences in Detroit and beyond. In 2015, Marcus Belgrave died from COPD and congestive heart failure. Making the film to honor him was a must.

"He told me he was happy with his legacy; I said I don't want to hear that," Belgrave recalled. "The more I thought about his legacy, I thought, 'The world will know.' I've kept my promise by telling his story (through the documentary). It's not a music story, not a jazz story; it's a human story.

"… The folks at Motown were gracious with us because it was Marcus," she added. "People loved him; doors flew open."

The warm reception was particularly necessary when Belgrave was diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer while creating the film. The day she was diagnosed, a friend and former Motown musician living in California called her, learned of her diagnosis and flew her to Los Angeles for treatment. She underwent 24 infusions and 30 rounds of radiation while making the film. She has been cancer-free for three years.

"I wrote and produced a song when Marcus passed called, 'I'm Not Going Anywhere,'" she said. "I not only lost my husband, but I lost my partner. I wouldn't hear his horn talking to me onstage anymore. After I wrote it, I realized he was always going to be with me. When I was in treatment, I pushed to have it recorded. It was released in 2022, during my treatment."

Belgrave's main focus now is promoting the film.

"It was real important for me to get this done," she said. "The next step is I need to fight, to get this out to the world. God is the reason I'm still here."

"… And Damn, He Could Play" was well received at a screening this summer and will premiere in November at the DOC NYC film festival.

"I think it will get some buzz," Belgrave said. "I'm trying to get a distributor. This film festival is the biggest film festival in the country. They're giving us a red carpet world premiere."

In the meantime, she's keeping busy doing the thing she's loved her whole life: making music. She recently performed a Motown show for Concert of Colors and with the Macomb Symphony Orchestra; she'll entertain during a gala afterparty at the Bonstelle Theatre next month.

"I've been inspired lately to do a lot of writing," she said. "And I'm still singing. I have a studio in my house.

"I take it one day at a time, one blessing at a time, one sunshine at a time. We don't want the rain at times in life, but it helps us appreciate the flowers that are coming."

VOTE YES | Renew the millage Nov 3

GP yes!
LIBRARY

Your taxes for library services will not increase

The Grosse Pointe Public Library is asking voters to approve a renewal of 0.6432 for 15 years and would expire in 2042. Failure to renew the millage will reduce the Library's overall budget by 30%, which would result in cuts to staffing, hours and services.

Learn More. GPLibraryYes.org

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

City of Grosse Pointe

Double feature

A 68-year-old Detroit man on a stealing spree took a bike from a garage on Notre Dame at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, and rode it to a store in The Village where he stole $90 worth of groceries.

The man, who is a well-known suspect to the department, was arrested as he fled on the bike.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Monkey business

Three young boys were captured on security cameras at 7:40 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, climbing the fences of a sports court at an area school and swinging on the metal bars, causing them to be damaged and pulled out of the ground.

The principal arrived Monday morning to find a section of the court's fencing torn down and the fence poles ripped out of the ground.

Crash

A crash occurred at Mack and Moran at 4:05 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, when a vehicle exited the Village Market parking lot, attempting to cross Mack and enter Canyon, but hit another vehicle traveling east on Mack.

The driver of the first vehicle, a 34-year-old Detroit man, was arrested for driving with a revoked license. He currently is on parole for a concealed weapon permit violation and carjacking.

Traffic light down

The Kerby and Kercheval intersection was closed for a few hours following a single-car accident that snapped a wooden utility pole in half, smashing the traffic signal to the ground, at 8:50 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14.

The driver, a 36-year-old New Hampshire woman, told officers she was driving east on Kercheval, turned left on Kerby while looking at her phone and drove into the utility pole.

Officers noticed an odor of intoxicants and she was cited for operating while intoxicated, before being turned over to a local hospital for injuries to her face.

Behind back

While being arrested for driving without having a license at Mack and Opal at 1:08 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, a 25-year-old Detroit man also had open liquor transport added to his charges when an open fifth of Crown Royal was found in the map pocket behind the driver's seat, within reach of the driver.

True to character

After tearing down a sign at a local gas station at 10:24 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, a 36-year-old Detroit man was arrested and turned over to Macomb County for felony warrants for assault and damage to property.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Tampering, not taking

Perps with fetishes for other people's property have satisfied themselves this month tampering with, not stealing, parked cars.

Two more cases were reported Friday, Sept. 18. In the 1400 block of Beaconsfield, someone rummaged through a Hyundai and Ford Escape, both unlocked.

"No items were missing," according to police.

The week prior there were enough similar incidents that investigators deployed the public safety department's drone in an attempt to find the perpetrators.

The trend kicked off Sept. 5. A resident saw three males rifling through two unlocked vehicles parked curbside in the 1100 blocks of Bishop and Harvard.

— Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Suspect sought

Officers are looking for a 27-year-old Detroit woman who led police on a high-speed chase around 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18.

An officer attempted to pull over the driver for an expired license plate and rear tail lights that weren't working. She stopped in front of a house on Lochmoor where two women were standing in the driveway.

Public Safety Director Ken Werenski said the women were house cleaners waiting for a ride share.

As the officer approached the vehicle, the woman sped off, driving across sidewalks, driveways and lawns. Werenski said the chase was suspended for safety reasons when the woman drove through a parking lot at University Liggett School

—Ted O'Neil

Report information about this and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

OUTING:

Continued from page 3A

should," said Marty Monforton, who sits on the charity's board of directors. "The first few years, the event was held at Adios in Florida, but then more and more people wanted to participate."

Founding members Leo Kalyvas, Bill Minoletti, Dr. Al Santino, Dick Scott, Joe Vicari, Ed Connelly, Jim Giftos, Giorgio and McCullagh reached out to friends and fellow members at Lochmoor, creating a network of supporters committed to helping children and the organizations that serve them.

The group has raised millions of dollars over the years in support of 15 different charities that serve children 18 and younger and operates with zero administrative costs. Locally, Kids on the Go, Full Circle Foundation, The Arc of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods and the Nino Salvaggio Foundation have received support from the foundation.

The weekend marked the 28th Adios Fall Classic — and 15th consecutive sellout — at Lochmoor Club.

The entry fee is $1,000 and the field is limited to 96 golfers.

"This is so meaningful, Lochmoor members pay to golf at their own club," Monforton said. "We'll get entries and people tell us if they get waitlisted, just keep the money as a donation."

Monforton said the staff and membership at Lochmoor were on board with moving ahead.

"Our members and staff look forward to the Fall Classic, not simply because it is a wonderful event, but because we know what it represents," said Barb Walkowski, Lochmoor's director of catering and special events. "We look forward to seeing our members, guests, friends and families come together in support of a cause that touches so many lives.

"There is a special feeling around the club during the Fall Classic," she added. "The laughter, the conversations, the friendly competition and the shared purpose create an energy that is difficult to replicate."

The festivities kicked off the evening of Thursday, Sept. 10, with dinner at Hook in St. Clair Shores. Friday and Saturday featured several rounds of golf, with a dinner and live auction Saturday night.

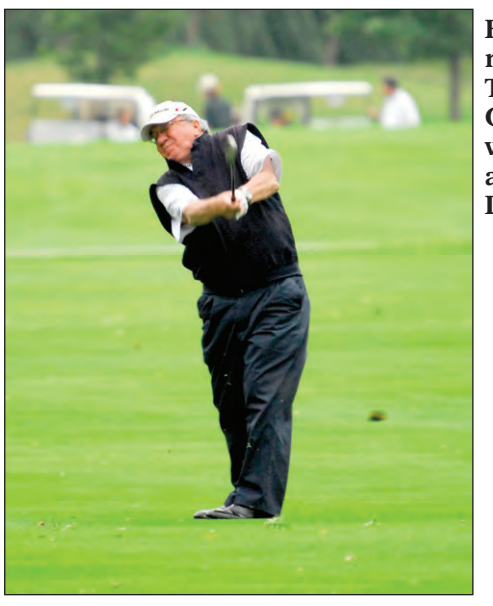
Items up for grabs this year included a Rolex watch, tickets and field passes when the Detroit Lions host the New York Jets later this month and tickets to a Detroit Tigers game next year in the Home Plate Club, which includes unlimited food and drink, a parking pass and private entrance.

Monforton said several area restaurants provided food over the weekend for golfers and Lochmoor staff.

The charity also holds a spring golf outing, usually in Las Vegas.

"It's about much more than golf," Monforton said. "It is a celebration of friendship, generosity and the belief that a dedicated group of people can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children."

See adioskids.com for more information.



Founding member Tony Giorgio, who passed away last December.

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POINTES OF VIEW

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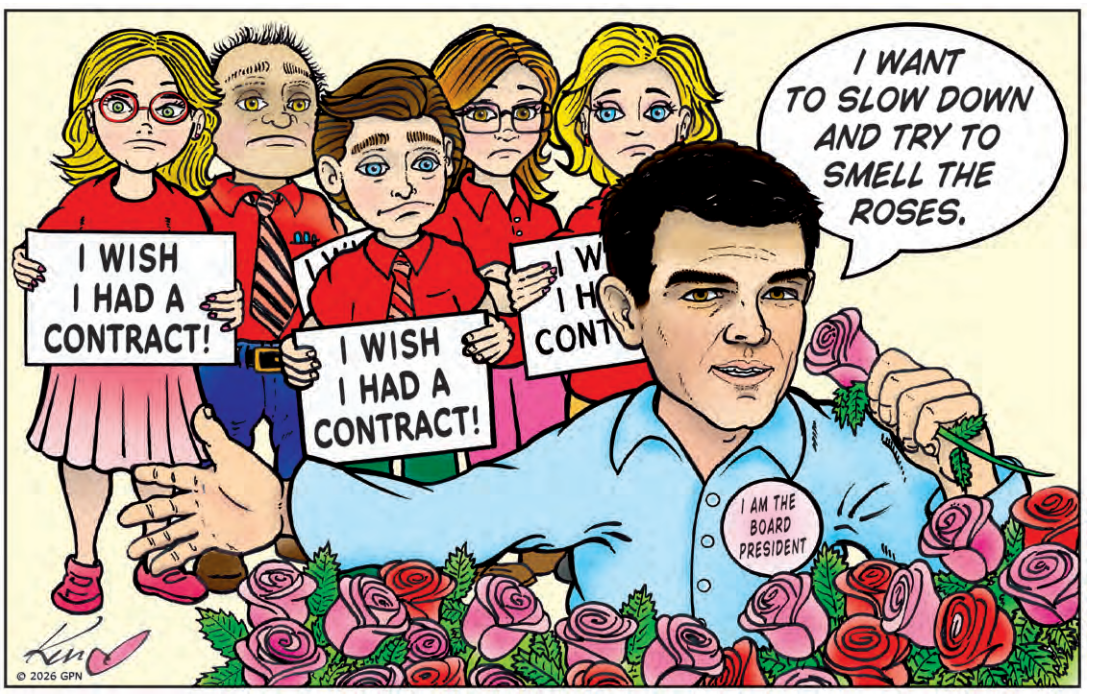

ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

OUR VIEW

Endorsements

As noted on page 8A, we interviewed the four active candidates running for three open seats on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education last month and used that information to form our endorsements. We are printing this today as it is the first day voters can get absentee ballots.

Our picks for the board are Virginia "Ginny" Jeup, Walter "Walt" Fitzpatrick and Thomas "Jake" Howlett.

Ms. Jeup is completing her first four-year term on the board and is the only one of three incumbents first elected in 2022 running again. She has been a steady and consistent voice for students and always puts parental rights first, even when some policies aim to diminish those rights. Ms. Jeup knows how the board does business and is not afraid to ask tough questions.

Ms. Jeup, along with Trustee Sean Cotton and former Trustees Terry Collins, Lisa Papas and Ahmed Ismail, worked seamlessly with the fantastic leadership of former Superintendent Andrea Tuttle to save GPPSS from the brink of financial disaster.

The district finished the 2024-25 fiscal year with a $5.4 million surplus, bringing its fund equity balance above 15 percent after it had shrunk below 9 percent as COVID bailout money was used to fund positions — rather than programs as intended — for which the district chose to deficit spend in the preceding years. The 2025-26 fiscal year ended with a $2.2 million surplus.

The work of that board and Dr. Tuttle saw the district's Moody's Investors Service credit rating increase from A1 to Aa3 last November. It was downgraded from Aa3 to A1 in March 2023. That meant around $1.9 million in savings in interest on the first round of improvement bond sales voters approved last fall.

Mr. Fitzpatrick retired in 2024 after 30 years with GPPSS and 40 years total in education, including roles as principal at Trombly and Kerby elementary schools. He started with the district as a teacher in 1994 at Pierce Middle School, then became assistant principal there before his final two roles.

Having been both a teacher and administrator in the district, we feel Mr. Fitzpatrick would be a good addition to the board due to his 360-degree understanding of "on the ground" issues in our schools. He also knows how to solve problems and works to get along with people even if there are disagreements.

Mr. Howlett, a private practice attorney, is a board member for the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education. His background in legal matters dealing with governmental units would be a plus for the board, having previously been legal counsel for Grosse Pointe Park. He also is an independent thinker who knows how to resolve issues without letting personalities get in the way.

Local issues

We also support passage of millages for the Grosse Pointe Public Library and the Park's parks and recreation efforts, as well as a public safety assessment in the City of Grosse Pointe.

The library is seeking to renew its 0.6847 mills for 15 years. The same amount was approved in 2011 and 2018.

A mill is $1 in taxes for every $1,000 of a property's taxable value.

Aside from reading materials, the library provides a tool borrowing program, videos in both physical and digital formats, story times, free classes for all ages, a makerspace, live music and more. It also has every issue of the Grosse Pointe News available online dating back to the first one in November 1940.

The Park is seeking 0.65 mills for seven years for upgrades to Windmill Pointe Park and Patterson Park. Engineering consultants for the city said the two parks face around $6 million in deferred maintenance costs.

The City is asking voters to approve a 1.25-mill assessment for four years to help defray public safety costs.

Council there chose to go with an assessment, rather than a millage, as it would not be subject to Headlee rollbacks, which require municipalities to roll back millage rates each year to limit state and local taxation and prevent government revenues from growing faster than the rate of inflation.

Finally, while we generally do not weigh in on matters outside the Pointes, we also are endorsing **Terry Collins** of the Park for the state Board of Education. Given the high-profile issues surrounding public education today, having a local voice with financial acumen at the table would be a benefit.

OUR VIEW

Tone-deaf or tactical?

Comments made by Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education President Clint Derringer at the end of the board meeting Monday, Sept. 14, left more than a few people scratching their heads.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Derringer recognized it was the first board meeting with Superintendent Roy Bishop as "full-fledged" superintendent. Dr. Bishop had been going by the title of "acting superintendent," pending the retirement of former Superintendent Andrea Tuttle, which was effective Aug. 31.

Mr. Derringer then said he wanted to "slow down and try to smell the roses" this school year. What, exactly, does that mean? The school district has a $100 million budget, an audit to complete and a teachers union that remains without a contract three weeks into the school year and more than a month since its last collective bargaining agreement expired.

Then things went a little sideways. Mr. Derringer emphasized that Dr. Bishop is "fully under contract" and that is "important" to the district, Dr. Bishop and his family and the board.

Yes, he actually used the word contract not long after several teachers — as they have at the last few board meetings — spoke during public comment about the need to reach a new agreement.

That is where Mr. Derringer's use of said word could be seen as being tone-deaf. Is a contract for the Grosse Pointe Education Association not important to him, the district, teachers and their families and the board? Especially considering his wife is a member of the GPEA?

Besides, Dr. Bishop has been "under contract" since June, when the board voted unanimously to approve it.

Or was Mr. Derringer's use of the word "contract" intentional? There has been some speculation that it was a tactical move aimed at the GPEA because the union was not fully in lockstep with the board's decision earlier this year to appoint Dr. Bishop as superintendent without any sort of search, internal or external.

During stakeholder updates at the board's second meeting in February, GPEA Co-President Taryn Loughlin praised Dr. Bishop for his willingness to cooperate with the union on a variety of issues. Her comments then were used by some board members as part of their reason to support Dr. Bishop's appointment.

"My comments were taken out of context and I want to go on the record that the GPEA has been consistent in what it asked of the board and that is process and procedure," she said later during public comment. "We are not opposed to an appointment, but I do feel there is a lack of opportunity for stakeholders to get to know Dr. Bishop in a more intimate and professional way." Loughlin also said no one should make it sound like "the GPEA is on board with an appointment and picking someone all in one breath."

As we have said previously, after the GPEA endorsed Mr. Derringer, Vice President Colleen Worden, Treasurer Tim Klepp and Trustee Laura Hull in the 2024 election, some thought the union would get whatever it asked for on a

See OUR VIEW, page 7A

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.

Be more responsible

To the Editor:

For the first time in many years, Grosse Pointe students have returned to their classrooms while their teachers continue working without a new contract.

Honestly, this situation should surprise no one.

Five of the seven current board members were endorsed by the Grosse Pointe Education Association when they ran for office and received financial support from the larger MEA PAC. That is not inherently improper; supporting preferred candidates is what unions and political organizations do. The problem is that voters elected a board so heavily aligned with one side of the bargaining table.

A school board needs balance, independent oversight and members capable of protecting the interests of students, employees and taxpayers. We have not had that balance. The

See LETTERS, page 7A

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

I SAY By Renee Landuyt



Four paws and a search vest

Sept. 11, 2001, was a day that changed America. There were many human heroes: civilians who ran back inside the towers to help others; workers on the higher floors who took control of the situation to try to help people to safety. Many first responders knew when they went up those stairs in the towers there was a good chance they might not come back down. Heroes.

But the unspoken heroes were the dogs that were trained in search, rescue and recovery, who showed up with their handlers to help search the rubble and debris of the towers that fell. Heroes come in all shapes and sizes and sometimes they come with four paws, soft fur and a strong drive to work.

It is estimated that more than 300 specially trained dogs, such as German shepherds, Labradors, springer spaniels and border collies, were deployed in the roles of search and rescue, police work, cadaver dog teams and therapy dogs to work at Ground Zero and the Pentagon assisting first responders. The dogs worked in the debris of the World Trade Center. Their job was to detect human scent or locate human remains and provide emotional support and comfort.

Initially, the dogs worked with their human handlers looking for survivors. Then, after a few days, the search shifted from rescue to the recovery of remains.

When dogs trained in search and rescue spend days looking and don't find anyone, they can get sad or depressed because they think they aren't doing their job. After days passed without finding someone alive, their demeanor shifted and so did their emotional state. As the possibility of finding survivors dwindled, the dogs grew confused. A few refused food and some laid down on the rubble and whimpered. It was starting to take a toll on the dogs. When this happens, the search-and-rescue teams take turns hiding or pretending to be hurt. This gives the dogs a chance to find someone and it's good for the mental health of the dog. It's called a mock-rescue exercise. The handlers do this to keep the dogs motivated to search during challenging situations such as this with so much debris, much of it smoldering.

The smallest dog to work the site, Ricky, weighed just 18 pounds. Ricky's size enabled him to work in smaller places the bigger dogs didn't fit. Ricky worked for 10 days straight.

Sage, a black and white border collie, and her handler, Diane Whetsel, were deployed to the site of the Pentagon attack. Sage was 2 years old at the time and discovered the remains of the terrorist who was piloting the hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 plane. After 9/11, Sage was deployed to Aruba to help search for Natalee Holloway, then helped rescue animals stranded during flooding of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Afterward, Sage and her handler were deployed to Iraq to search for soldiers captured or killed by enemy gunfire. Sage is regarded as the Navy SEAL of search dogs. Sage died in 2012.

Trackr, a German shepherd, and his handler, Canadian police officer James Symington, came from Nova Scotia to help with the search-and-rescue operation. Trackr detected signs of life in the debris of the North Tower and alerted rescue workers, who then were able to locate Genelle Guzman-McMillan, a Port Authority secretary, and pull her out of the rubble to safety. Genelle was trapped for 27 hours after the collapse of the North Tower. She was the last survivor found.

Like many first responders, Trackr suffered a neurological disorder later in life linked to inhalation of toxic smoke and dust at the World Trade Center. He passed away in 2009.

Search-and-rescue dog Apollo saved eight lives. He was with the K-9 unit of the New York Police Department and the first police dog to respond, getting there moments after the buildings collapsed. In order to get to the rubble, Apollo and his police partner, Officer Davis, had to wade through deep water. Apollo fell through a hole and momentarily disappeared. When a fireball came up through the hole, Apollo ran out behind it and was on fire. His partner brushed the embers off of him and Apollo went right back to searching. Apollo was just shy of 10 years old when he worked at Ground Zero. He died in 2006.

Therapy dog Molly made over 100 trips to Ground Zero.

Roselle was a guide dog that went to work with her blind owner, Michael Hingson. When American Airlines Flight 11 hit the North Tower where Hingson worked, the dog was asleep under a desk on the 78th floor. Roselle stayed calm despite all the smoke and confusion and led Hingson, a coworker and about 30 other people down 1,463 stairs to safety. Once they were outside, Roselle guided Hingson through falling debris and dust to a subway station right before the South Tower collapsed. Roselle died in 2011.

Sky, a black lab, worked in search and rescue for FEMA and was the first dog to enter the Pentagon despite the fire and intense heat. Like all the dogs, she was focused on doing her job.

Sky searched the rubble at Ground Zero for eight days after the attack. Although she didn't find any survivors, she brought a lot of comfort to the others working. She died in 2011.

A golden retriever named Bretagne (pronounced like Brittany) and her handler, Denise Corliss, came to Ground Zero with Texas Task Force 1. Ground Zero was their first mission together. When she saw fatigued or grieving first responders, Bretagne would walk over and lay her head on their laps, offering comfort as only a dog can do. After she retired at age 9, she volunteered at an elementary school as a reading assistance dog. Bretagne passed away in 2016, the last surviving rescue dog of 9/11.

These dogs left a lasting impression on first responders, their handlers and anyone watching them work. All of the dogs who assisted and comforted at Ground Zero have now died. We pay tribute to the search-and-rescue dogs of Sept. 11, 2001, and remember their bravery. We are forever grateful for their courage, heroism and hard work. May they run free in the fields of doggy heaven.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

problem has been compounded by the consistently weak leadership and questionable financial judgment that, in my view, have characterized Colleen Worden's years on the board.

Despite that record, Board President Clint Derringer placed Worden in charge of the board's teacher-negotiation team while stepping back from that responsibility himself. Last week, rather than explaining how he intended to help resolve the impasse, Derringer told the community he wanted to slow down and "smell the roses."

The result should surprise no one: four previously approved bargaining-unit agreements that deserve closer financial scrutiny, followed by stalled negotiations with the district's largest employee group. The board member leading those closed-session negotiations has not demonstrated the financial discipline this district needs. Meanwhile, a board president whose wife is a district teacher chose to step back rather than take an active role in resolving the impasse.

Now the entire community is paying the price.

That brings us to this year's election. Why elect Michelle White, a candidate closely aligned with Worden, and preserve the same governing arrangement? Even the teachers' union apparently recognized the need for a different direction when it left White off this year's endorsement list.

This election is not about personalities. It is about whether Grosse Pointe will continue rewarding years of weak leadership or finally demand something better. Our community needs board members who will ask difficult questions, exercise sound financial judgment, negotiate responsibly and answer to students, employees and taxpayers alike.

Grosse Pointe does not need another vote for the status quo. It needs independent leadership — and the courage to change direction.

TERENCE COLLINS
Grosse Pointe Park

Support the GPPL

To the Editor:

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library. The Friends is a 78-year-old, member-based organization whose mission is to foster a love of reading and support the GPPL. We have over 300 members that join our organization each year and each member has a story about how the library has positively impacted them and our community — stories about the many library services that are available to everyone at every age, such as children's story times, senior classes, the makerspace and much more. In addition, the technology services provided, including free internet access, computers, printers and digital resources are vital to many residents for job applications, government services, health care information and educational needs.

Our members also understand the library is a community gathering place. Not only does the library bring people together through their own programs such as author events, educational programs and cultural events, the three library branches also serve as meeting places for other organizations, tutoring locations for students and as places where individuals can go to connect face-to-face with others in our community.

While Friends do give funds annually to support the library, the amount we are able to give does not

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OUR VIEW:

Continued from page 6A

silver platter.

It appears the GPEA might be having buyer's remorse. For this year's election, it has endorsed just two of four candidates, those being Walt Fitzpatrick and Jake Howlett. It chose not to endorse Michelle White, however, whose views appear to mirror the aforementioned.

We are disappointed the GPEA chose not to endorse Ginny Jeup. She was on the board in 2024 when the district and union ratified a two-year agreement that provided 2 percent raises and step increases each year, with a step increase equating to about a 4 percent pay boost. More importantly, that contract permanently removed the dreaded "formula," which called for teachers to take a pay cut if the district's fund equity dipped below a certain level.

Roses are red, violets are blue, Dr. Bishop has a contract, teachers, do you?

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GINNY JEUP
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GINNY JEUP


JAKE HOWLETT


WALT FITZPATRICK

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Four vie for three seats on school board

The Grosse Pointe News sat down with the four active candidates running for the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education — Virginia "Ginny" Jeup, Walter "Walt" Fitzpatrick, Thomas "Jake" Howlett and Michelle White — on Aug. 24. A fifth candidate who will appear on the ballot is Mariel Krupansky. She chose not to run for personal reasons, but decided after the deadline to withdraw had passed, so her name remains on the ballot.

There are three open seats on the board in the Nov. 3 general election for four-year terms. They currently are held by Jeup, Sean Cotton and Valarie St. John, with the latter two choosing not to seek re-election.

During the interviews, the candidates were asked the same 12 questions. The interviews were recorded and transcribed via a computer program. The following questions and answers have been edited only for grammar, syntax and clarity.

We are printing these today, Thursday, Sept. 24, as it's the first day voters can acquire absentee ballots. Short video introductions of each candidate are available online and through our social media channels or by scanning the accompanying QR codes. We also used these interviews to determine our endorsements, which can be found on page 6A.



Walter Fitzpatrick



Thomas Howlett



Virginia Jeup



Michelle White

Walter "Walt" Fitzpatrick

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Years in Grosse Pointe: 32

Occupation: Retired GPPSS teacher and principal

Endorsements: Pointers for Academic Excellence, Joint Association Committee (five employee bargaining units within GPPSS)

What three words best describe you? Collaborator, listener, experienced

Q: Let's say the district faces a $4 million budget shortfall. You can't raise taxes and you have to reduce spending. Which areas do you examine first and what would you protect at all costs?

A: For me, we would look as far away from the students as we could and start there. There's no easy cuts. If we say buildings and grounds, then I would say, "Well, what do the buildings start to look like? What repairs are we letting go?" So there's no easy solution. And then if we decide on something, what are the unintended consequences of reductions or an elimination of something? For example, if there's cuts in the curriculum department, how does that impact any new initiatives or any revisions in curriculum that we have?

Q: What is a book that has influenced you and why?

A: "They Call Me Coach," by John Wooden. It talks about setting expectations as a leader, as a coach. A lot of what was in the book I transferred over to my day-to-day interactions with students and parents. I realize and I recognize that not everybody agrees with a decision I made as an administrator or as a teacher, so it's learning how to work with that, the fallout. Because we disagree doesn't mean our relationship should change.

Q: If an effort to close an achievement gap improves outcomes for some people but reduces them for others, would you support it?

A: I guess I would say I'd have to know more about the specific initiative to say yes or no. Every student in a classroom should be getting what you call tier one (support). Every student. And then depending on, as you monitor their success, you may have to give a little extra. But it doesn't mean you take away from somebody else. It just means that some students need to get a little extra. And then there are some students that need more than what a classroom teacher potentially could provide, so that would be to get to another system of support. But everybody deserves to get the core or what we consider tier one in the classroom and it doesn't mean if something else is going to happen, it doesn't mean that the day-to-day instruction changes.

Q: How do you see yourself managing relationships and behavior on the board given its sometimes hostile environment?

A: Having been a building administrator, I have sat in many meetings where parents are sitting across the table or are upset and angry. As I said earlier, the nature is that there's going to be disagreement. And so I've always tried to handle myself that because we disagree, I don't attach that disagreement to you as a person. I personally will never attack anybody or put anybody down because we disagree. Sometimes good things can come out of disagreements because then you can find a common road or you can see things differently. I still think at the end of the day, we're all there for the same purpose and that is to provide a great environment for students to be successful.

Q: If the board could only significantly improve one thing over your tenure on the board, what would you want it to be?

A: One thing that I always worry about is finances because the number of students that walk through the door, that's where we get our money. And so I think being wise in how we spend and what we spend on is important. I would then say the curriculum and what goes on in day-to-day quality teaching, and how we support the people who deliver the instruction every day.

Q: What financial metric or indicator would you watch most closely as a trustee and is there anything budget-wise right now that worries you?

A: The biggest thing for the budget that worries me is that we can't generate income. So the only way we can increase the revenue that comes in is by trying to attract or bring more kids into our system. Our biggest expenditure in the district is personnel, so I always worry about how we provide a sound budget but yet be able to support those folks that make it all happen. My biggest worry is how do we compensate employees appropriately but yet have a sound budget where we're not always trying to tap into our fund equity.

Q: Should schools be required to notify parents if a student asks to use a different name, pronouns or gender identity at school? Why or why not?

A: I don't know about the word "require." I would just say as an administrator, if a child came up to me and asked, I would personally feel obligated to call. As a parent, I'd want to be contacted as well.

Q: If the district expands preschool opportunities, what approach would you like to see them take? For example, should every elementary school have a preschool classroom, or should it be centralized in one building?

A: I'm of the mindset that we have to try it, because we keep talking about it, so let's try it. Having worked in the elementary level, my biggest concern would be there isn't space in every single building to offer it. So I really don't know if it's better to offer it in one location or in multiple locations. Let's try it, evaluate it and make a decision moving forward. Trombly is available, so putting daycare on the first floor at Trombly is a first step. And then in buildings that have available room to try it there and then look at the enrollment data, parent feedback, take all of that to make decisions moving forward.

Q: If the district did expand preschool, how should available seats be prioritized? Should we participate broadly in the Great Start Readiness Program, which includes people maybe not living in Grosse Pointe? Should we prioritize the resident families first and then backfill or any other model that you think is appropriate?

A: They're two different offerings. GSRP is available to a variety of folks, but I would assume the preschool program would run very similar to the way we do enrollment in elementary, whether it be residents and perhaps employees' children as well. I see the purpose of one of the goals of preschool would be to capture newer, younger families and those are the folks that we should give priority to, to make sure there's space. If our goal is to increase enrollment, make sure that preschool is a priority.

Q: What do you think should happen with Trombly? They've talked about whether it could reopen as a regular elementary, or you could have the preschool on the first floor and other grades on the second floor. Or should people just look at it as the district made its decision, let's move on?

A: It is looked at emotionally. I was the building principal when it closed. It closed at the start of COVID, so it was very difficult to transition away. We should use data to see whether or not we should open it. If there are enough students to fill it to offer a solid elementary education, then that's a conversation we should start having. But if we can't fill and get enough students on each grade level to offer at least two classes, that's going to be a tough conversation. I do feel that something should be happening, that building should be used. No one at Defer ever went to Trombly. I would think about those students that currently go to Defer and consider that their home school. If you opened Trombly do you make those kids come back? Or do you let them finish out their elementary career at Defer?

Q: The Grosse Pointe Public School System currently partners with the local public safety departments to provide armed school resource officers in the high schools as part of the district's approach to school safety. Do you support continuing the district's partnership to provide armed school resource officers in our high schools?

A: This was a conversation earlier in my career and the biggest reason the district never went for it was finances. I do think having a resource officer on site helps with safety, with planning.

As a building administrator, and particularly when I worked at middle school, to have that relationship with the local public safety was so valuable, especially when you would get information about certain things. It was nice to share and then have somebody else assist you in dealing with things.

Q: In the event of an emergency, do you support letting local public safety have access to school building security cameras so responding officers can obtain real-time information?

A: In case of an emergency, it could be very valuable to have access to something. They came to me when I was a principal a couple of times looking at our outside cameras because of things that happened at nighttime. If there was a school shooter, God forbid, the police should have access to be able to see it right there so they can call in help.

Thomas "Jake" Howlett

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Years in Grosse Pointe: 49

Occupation: Attorney

Endorsements: Pointers for Academic Excellence, Joint Association Committee (five employee bargaining units within GPPSS)

What three words best describe you? Empathetic, prudent, committed

Q: The district faces a $4 million budget shortfall. You can't raise taxes. You have to reduce spending. What areas do you examine first, and what would you protect at all costs?

A: I think protecting at all costs is the classroom and the students. I think every decision the board makes that is budget focused, you have to remember the impact of those decisions is always felt first and last by the students. And so I think in examining the budget overall, you would want to start from the back and move toward the classroom.

Q: What is a book that has influenced you and why?

A: "To Kill a Mockingbird." It was a book that my dad was a big fan of and I just thought it was a great story about a person willing to stand up to do the right thing in the community, even though he took a lot of criticism. I do think of that book often in the context of the election because there's a part of that book when the neighbor is talking to, I can't remember if it's Jem or Scout, about their father and says, "You know, there are some people in the community who have to do the unpleasant jobs for us, and your father is one of them." And that's how I always thought of my dad. He was on the school board for eight years. Not that I would ever compare being on the school board here in Grosse Pointe to having to stand up and defend a wrongly accused man, but I do think it has impacted me in terms of my commitment to service and how important it is when you live in a community.

Q: If an effort to close an achievement gap improves outcomes for some but reduces overall academic performance, would you support it?

A: I would be very careful about supporting that. I think I always look at the academics and the outcomes in this community in two different ways. I think we have a unique opportunity in Grosse Pointe because we have a diverse student body. We've got economic diversity. We have racial diversity. We have students that come into this district from other districts that might be behind students that start here, but we are a high-achieving district. We send our students to the best colleges. I'm always hesitant to make decisions or have impacts that I think lower that high priority that this community rightly puts on that.

Q: How do you see yourself managing relationships on the board given its sometimes hostile environment?

A: Disagreement is not a bad thing. I don't think we would ever want a school board that's completely in line on every decision. I think there is a real risk to that type of outcome. I think I have a skill set that's valuable to the school board in terms of being able to get along with a lot of different people. I think respectful disagreement, honest collaboration and working through are going to be some really difficult and challenging problems and understanding everybody's perspective and viewpoints, but then using your own judgment to come up with the best solutions, is something I do every day.

Q: If the board could significantly improve one thing during your tenure on the board, what should it be and why?

A: I would really like to see the board and the district as a whole do a better job with enrollment. Raising revenue, we're sort of constrained with what we can do. We are not a school of choice. I certainly don't support schools of choice, but I do think the district can do a better job of increasing enrollment, drawing families to the district from outside the district and most importantly taking students that are available to our district that might be making other choices and getting them to choose the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Because of the budget constraints, because of the revenue constraints, it's

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really students in-district that drive most of the incoming money.

Q: What financial metric would you watch most closely and do you have any concerns about the district's finances?

A: I have concerns about the district finances. I don't think they're being mismanaged or there's anything sort of specific I would necessarily point to. But school finances are like an impossible Rubik's Cube to solve. You can't control very easily the money that comes in and there's just not enough money to do all the things I think people would like to do.

I think the current teacher contract is a very good example of that. I don't know that you'll find anybody that says teachers should be paid less or that we shouldn't make our Grosse Pointe teachers the highest paid in the state. Everybody rightfully so loves and appreciates our teachers, but even that conversation has to be had in the context of the wider budget. My concern with the budget is long-term planning. And I think it's easy to lose sight of what the next two years, five years, 10 years look like.

Q: Should schools be required to notify parents if a student asks to use a different name, pronouns or gender identity at school? Why or why not?

A: Yes, the school should notify the parents. Speaking as a parent, I think that's information that I would want to know. One of the great things about this district is we have good parent involvement and I think the district operates well when the parents are working closely with teachers, administration and the board.

Q: If the district expands preschool opportunities, what approach would you like to see them take? For example, should every elementary school have a preschool classroom, or should it be centralized in one building?

A: I don't know that I would like to see it centralized in one building. I think there is such a need. I know there's been a lot of talk about implementing a program like that at Trombly, which I think is part of a much bigger question related to that particular elementary school. It's an administration decision to understand what and how, where and how it's implemented and how that can be incorporated into the best use of our facilities. I know there are restrictions about keeping it on the first floor. We'd have to look at enrollment levels at different schools. I think having it in multiple facilities to service a broad range, geographically in the community would be ideal, but it would be really a cost-benefit analysis to see where it is feasible and make the most sense.

Q: If the district did expand preschool, how should available seats be prioritized? Should we participate broadly in the Great Start Readiness Program, which includes people maybe not living in Grosse Pointe? Should we prioritize the resident families first and then backfill or any other model that you think is appropriate?

A: We should prioritize Grosse Pointe families. If we're going to use our facilities and our resources, whether or not some of that money is coming in from the state, I think the priority here in our district should always be first to our Grosse Pointe families and then to the extent that there is capacity or availability. I think then you can look outside of the community. I think we could take a look at that and if we can service a broader range of students and there's a need for it and it helps, that benefits Grosse Pointe and its families, then I think that's a great option.

Q: What do you think should happen with Trombly? They've talked about whether it could reopen as a regular elementary, or you could have the preschool on the first floor and other grades on the second floor. Or should people just look at it as the district made its decision, let's move on?

A: I would support reopening Trombly as an elementary school, but I'm not really able to give that as an unequivocal answer. That would be highly dependent on what the enrollment projections are currently, what the enrollment projections would look like going forward, the cost to reopen it, how sustainable it is going forward.

The worst thing you can do is turn it into a volleyball where the district made a decision to close it, now they're going to reopen it and five years from now we have a different set of issues or an enrollment problem and we're going back through it. Neighborhood schools are one of the cornerstones of this community. One of the great traditions that we have is walkable schools, community schools.

Q: The Grosse Pointe Public School System currently partners with our local public safety departments to provide armed school resource officers in the high schools as part of the district's approach to safety. Do you support continuing the district's partnership to provide the school resource officers in the high schools?

A: I do. From everybody I've talked to, that program has gone really well. It's a complicated issue, or can be a complicated issue, but it sounds to me like we're very fortunate in Grosse Pointe to have some excellent SROs. The safety of our students is one of the first priorities that a school district has and I am a firm believer that it makes those buildings safer.

Q: Should the public safety departments have access to the school security cameras so that if they respond to an event, they have real-time information before they arrive?

A: I do think as a part of that safety component and having those officers in the schools, it makes sense to have that sort of visibility and the ability to respond. I think it's important we trust our educational experts when it comes to these types of questions. I think we need to also trust our law enforcement partners.

Virginia "Ginny" Jeup

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Years in Grosse Pointe: 26

Profession: Business owner

Endorsements: Former GPPSS Superintendent Andrea Tuttle, Pointers for Academic Excellence, former Grosse Pointe Park Councilman Jim Robson, Grosse Pointe Farms Councilman Joe Ricci, City of Grosse Pointe Councilman David Calceterra, City of Grosse Pointe Councilman Chris Walsh, GPPSS Trustee Sean Cotton, Eastside Republican Club

What three words best describe you? Independent, community-minded, experienced

Q: The district faces a $4 million budget shortfall. You can't raise taxes and you have to reduce spending. Which areas do you examine first and what would you protect at all costs?

A: Well, the first is, what money is closest to our kids, what money is closest to the classroom? What will help our teachers have all the tools they need to teach our kids reading, writing or arithmetic? Secondly, I would protect opportunities for our kids, whether that's sports, fine arts, the things that help them to succeed in life.

Q: What is a book that has influenced your life and why?

A: "Into Thin Air." It's about a journalist who decides to climb Mount Everest. It's a true story. It's an adventure. It's overcoming many challenges. I was trying to encourage my 16-year-old to read it the other day, so that's on the top of my mind right now.

Q: If an effort to close an achievement gap improves outcomes for some students but reduces the overall academic performance, would you support it?

A: In general I would not support that. We need to focus on all of our students and we want academic excellence from all of our learners. Every single student that walks into Grosse Pointe, we want them to walk out and be a better human as they graduate and grow up. We want to launch them into adulthood with all the opportunities they can have. I'd like to see that money spent for the whole.

Q: How do you see yourself managing relationships on the board given its sometimes hostile environment?

A: In general, I get along with people. I don't get personal with people. These are board issues. They're not personal issues. We need to bring the tension down and follow the process. I mean, we're making decisions on first reads. There used to be a spot in the agenda where it said other board business that we would bring to the table, but since Colleen Worden and Clint Derringer have been the presidents those opportunities have been taken away. I feel if there was more procedure at the board table that could take down the tone, because the hard questions need to be asked at the board table.

Q: If the board could significantly improve one thing over your next tenure on the board, what would you want it to be?

A: The most important thing for me is that our students have the best experience possible from the day they walk into our schools to the day they graduate. My children had a great experience through Grosse Pointe. I would hope that experience carries over.

It really starts at the board. The board gives direction to our superintendent. We want our superintendent, Dr. Bishop, to succeed in every way possible because that benefits the students, the parents, the families and everyone involved.

Q: What financial metric or indicators would you watch most closely and is there anything about the budget right now that worries you?

A: The financial metric we have to keep an eye on is just like running a household. You need the amount of money that you spend to equal the amount of money that comes in. That all starts at the board table because the board gives direction to the superintendent which affects our budget greatly.

Q: Should schools be required to notify parents if a student asks to use a different name, pronouns or gender identity at school? Why or why not?

A: I absolutely think the parents should know if that occurs. We're partners with parents. We're not against them. If a student is making the decision to claim a pronoun one way or the other or anything like that, the parents should be informed. I don't see any reason why we would keep that information from a parent at any point.

Q: The district is looking at expanding preschool. What approach would you prefer? Should there be one preschool classroom in every elementary school or should it all be housed centrally in a repurposed building or something entirely different?

A: I think that every elementary school, we have seven right now, I would argue that we should have eight with Trombly being reopened, and everyone should be able to walk to their elementary schools, bike to their elementary schools and that should start in preschool. I'd love to see the fifth grade out of the middle school and back down to the elementary schools, give them more years of childhood. I'd like to see all eight of our elementary schools thriving.

Q: If the district does expand preschool, how should the available seats be prioritized? Participate broadly in the Great Start Readiness Program, which might allow eligible students who live outside the district to attend the schools, or prioritize Grosse Pointe resident families first and then maybe backfill with others if there's space, or some other?

A: I think we absolutely have to prioritize Grosse Pointe Public School System families for those spots. Whether it's the Great Start Readiness Program or whether it's our paid preschool, those seats must go to residents.

Q: What should be done with Trombly? Reopen it as an elementary school, do the first floor preschool and have other grades on the second floor or has the decision been made and the district should just move forward?

A: I think the community south of Jefferson formed a great team independent of the schools. They brought us a ton of data. They went door to door. They took surveys and they brought us the research that said there are enough children south of Jefferson to reopen Trombly and now we're having a huge discussion about the need in this community for a preschool, so we're expanding our preschool program. That automatically brings another class or two or three to Trombly.

Q: The Grosse Pointe Public School System currently partners with our local public safety departments to provide armed school resource officers in the high schools. Do you support continuing the district's partnership?

A: I do support that and I'm proud of the work that we've done to get to where we are today. We have an amazing resource officer at South, a separate amazing resource officer at North. We hear nothing but positive things from families, from students. They are in our schools to protect our kids and that's our No. 1 job as a school board or a school district is to protect the kids in this district. So I strongly believe they need to be there.

Q: In the event of an emergency, do you support allowing public safety departments to have direct access to school security cameras so that responding officers can obtain real-time information?

A: Absolutely. The officers should undoubtedly have full access to our cameras so that in case of an emergency they could pinpoint the issue, the problem, whatever's going on, and have all the information they need.

Michelle White

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Years in Grosse Pointe: 18

Occupation: Community volunteer

Endorsements: State Rep. Veronica Paiz, Gun Sense Candidate designation by Moms Demand Action

What three words best describe you? Caring, committed, collaborative

Q: Let's say the district faces a $4 million budget shortfall. You can't raise taxes and you have to reduce spending. What areas do you examine first and what would you protect at all costs?

A: Well, I would protect at all costs teachers' compensation. I think that the reason that Grosse Pointe schools can claim to provide their students with an elite education is because of our teachers. Our teachers are the best of the best. I have experienced it myself with my kids. I believe that that has to be protected.

As far as what we cut, I would say we have to look as far away from the student experience as possible. I think, especially in these inflationary times, we should be looking at our vendor contracts.

Q: What is a book that has influenced you and why?

A: I guess one of the ones that really comes to mind is "The Giving Tree." It's a gift that I give to young people, because I think that we have to be mindful of what we are putting out into the world, what we are giving. And we also have to be mindful of what we're taking. I think as a human being, I feel morally obligated to give all that I can give to make the world better, to do right by other people and to be very mindful of what I'm asking of other people to do.

Q: If an effort to close an achievement gap improves outcomes for some students but reduces them for others, would you support it?

A: I wouldn't want to do that. I think that we must work on lifting up all students, but it should not come at the expense of others. I think the goal here, as a district, is to lift all boats. I would look for ways to do that, even though we have limited resources. But I think that collaboratively we can work together and we can find solutions that would help that would be good for all kids.

Q: How would you see yourself managing relationships and behavior on the board, given its sometimes hostile environment?

A: I think that's an overarching goal that I have. We have to figure out a way to get along. We have to work respectfully, because that's the job. This is a nonpartisan board. I would be a nonpartisan trustee. I have to leave all partisanship aside, but you're talking just about maybe differing viewpoints. That's welcome. You have six or seven people who are coming together and they have differing viewpoints. They come from different places and so they can contribute different things and hopefully by working together you come up with the best answer together.

Q: If the board could significantly improve one thing over your tenure on the board, what should it be and why?

A: We have to figure out our answer to enrollment and the money that we don't have because of declining enrollment and how to manage the resources that we have. The declining enrollment situation has been brought on primarily by declining birth rates and then also by the fact that we're hemmed in and can't really add new housing.

And because of Prop A, older people are staying in their homes because property tax rates are uncapped if they move out. They're living in this amazing community for a very low tax rate, many of them.

We also have to do exit interviews with people who do leave, the people who are living here with kids and don't send their kids here. We need to figure out why they're leaving and we need to actually address those issues as to why they're leaving. We also have to look at our programming and make sure that we're actually providing the programming and the academic rigor that parents want for their kids so that they want to send their kids here to Grosse Pointe schools.

Q: What financial metric or indicator would you watch most closely as a board member and do you see anything about the budget that worries you?

A: I guess in my mind it's just the butts in seats. The fact that we don't have all the kids who live here in our schools. We have just such a wonderful foundation in our schools, but we can always do better and we need to do better so that we can bring some of those kids back.

Like I said before, I

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think we should be looking at vendor contracts. We need to take a deep dive and make sure that we're getting the best bang for our buck and that we're also going out for bid as much as possible, making sure that we're attracting a good pool of bidders.

Q: Should schools be required to notify parents if a student asks to use a different name, pronouns or gender identity at school? Why or why not?

A: No. I think the role of the school, especially a counselor, is to encourage the student to talk to the parent, but I understand it could be hard for a child to do that in some homes. I would also encourage the child to talk to the parent about perhaps getting some outside counseling help to make that process go much smoother for the student and the family.

The goal is for the student to have a happy home life, a happy family life, one where they feel they belong and be their true selves, but also feel supported at school. And we know for sure that anybody who is identifying perhaps as LGBTQ we know that having just one trusted adult can stop them from killing themselves.

Q: If the district were to expand preschool, what approach would you prefer? Should there be a classroom in every elementary school? Should they pick a building and have it centralized?

A: I don't know the answer to that, but I will say that we have to take a really holistic look at how we're looking at our buildings and how we're using our buildings. I don't know if it makes most sense to have it in a centralized location or in each individual building. If I had my preference, it would be in each individual building, because I feel like that's your home school and the family becomes part of that community. And then I think that it is better for retention of our students to have it there.

Q: With preschool, how should the available seats be prioritized? Do you think that we should do the Great Start Readiness Program, which allows people who live outside the district to come in, or give priority to resident families and then fill in with any capacity or another enrollment model?

A: You know, I don't have the answer to that. I have to think about that. The advantage of the Great Start Readiness Program is that we get extra money for that. I think we need preschool for all our kids and we should make sure that we're offering it to our residents.

Q: What do you think should happen with Trombly? Should it either open as an elementary school again or there's potential there to have preschool on the first floor and upper grades on the second floor, or do you look at it as though the decision's been made and people just need to move forward?

A: I don't look at it as a decision that's been made and people need to move forward at all. I will say that had I been on the board when that decision was made, I never would've voted for closing Poupard and Trombly. And that's because the Blue Ribbon Committee didn't recommend that. If you're going to convene a committee made up of community members, then you need to be listening to what the committee says.

I also very much value walkable schools. It's why we moved here. That was high on my list. I think we should try to do everything we can to retain that. I think it also makes us different from districts across the metro area. How can we set ourselves apart? How can we make our district attractive to other families?

Q: The Grosse Pointe Public School System currently partners with our local public safety departments to provide armed resource officers in our high schools. Do you support continuing the district's partnership?

A: I was at the board meeting where the board renewed the contract with the police departments for the SROs. One huge reason is because the building principals asked them to. The building principals have been very pleased with how it's going and they wanted it renewed. And so the board said yes and I support our building principals.

Q: In the event of an emergency, do you support allowing our local public safety departments to have access to the district's security cameras so that when they respond they'll have real-time information and be aware of the situation?

A: In the event of an emergency? Yes, I do. I don't have any reason to say that wouldn't be a good idea. We want everybody to be safe.

South students help build Little Free Library

A group of high school students from across metro Detroit — including some from Grosse Pointe South High School — recently spent time turning their passion for literacy and community engagement into a neighborhood resource with the installation of a new Little Free Library in Detroit's West Village neighborhood.

The project was planned, organized and installed by students participating in Generation of Promise, a youth leadership program through Focus: HOPE.

The library was installed in front of the Parker Durand apartment building at the corner of Kercheval and Van Dyke.

"This project is a wonderful example of what can happen when young people are given the opportunity to identify a need, develop a solution and see their ideas through to completion," said Melissa Petz, student activities director at South. "These students didn't just talk about making a difference; they created something that will continue to serve the community long after their capstone project is complete."



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Lucy Sousanis, Audrey McLean, Chloe Spain, Cami Thomas, Carson Cynowa and Melissa Petz stand in front of the completed Little Free Library. Not pictured are Ariel Chan, Brigette Krauskoff and Suha Gil.

PRIDE OF THE POINTES

The National Merit Scholarship Corp. announced the names of more than 16,000 semifinalists in the 72nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program, including **Alexander J. Hess** and **Charles R. Marks** of Grosse Pointe Farms and **Robert R. Warner** of Grosse Pointe Woods. University Liggett School senior **Margaret Huebner** also was among those selected. Semifinalists have an opportunity to compete for 6,700 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately $24 million.

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On behalf of JT Mestdagh Foundation and Fusion Integrated Training, a big **THANK YOU** to all the Warriors, all the Event and Base Camp Sponsors, the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, and the Grosse Pointe community for making the 2ND ANNUAL WARRIOR RUN a great success!

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How senior millage revenue is being spent

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES AND HARPER WOODS — As summer seeps into fall, the Pointes and Harper Woods are approaching one year since contracts first were ratified with The Helm and Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Services, PAATS, to receive senior millage funds.

Both entities last week provided to the Active Adult Commission — the governmental body responsible for appropriately allocating the millage — comprehensive reports on their use of taxpayer money thus far.

In the last year, The Helm received $998,082.47 from the senior millage. PAATS received $104,000, per its scope of services.

The communities' investment has enabled The Helm to open the Wilson Day Center, increase programming by 18 percent — with 65 percent of the 250 monthly programs being new programming — hire a licensed gerontology social worker, offer offsite programming in the Farms, Park and Harper Woods and expand services in information and assistance and nutrition distribution.

"I think this is spectacular what you've done," said Beth Konrad Wilberding, AAC commissioner and Farms councilwoman. "It's absolutely wonderful. It's way beyond my expectations, way beyond."

Likewise, the millage has enabled PAATS to hire a dedicated program manager to run the program, hire a graphic designer to produce promotional materials and improve awareness of services, expand its service area to include medical appointments to 11 Mile and 12 Mile between Kelly and Gratiot, upgrade its accounting software and purchase two new computers.

"Several recent new wheelchair-bound seniors have shared that the expanded service to 12 Mile Road has saved them $125 per trip to attend medical appointments in the new area," noted a report submitted to the commission.

The Helm

The Helm split its senior millage funds — it budgeted to receive $1.1 million and supplemented a $103,261.53 difference with a portion of its philanthropic efforts — between the following services:

◆ $219,000 toward Meals on Wheels, paying for the direct cost of meals, employee salaries and fringe costs;

◆ $70,000 toward legacy programs and $106,000 toward program expansion for senior outreach services including information and assistance, medical equipment lending, Medicare assistance and friendly reassurance case coordination;

◆ $88,000 toward legacy programs and $35,000 toward program expansion for health and wellness services including support and education, fitness and exercise classes and caregiver education and support;

◆ $88,000 toward legacy programs and $35,000 toward program expansion for education and enrichment opportunities, which denote programs and activities to reduce isolation and depression, including events, clubs and social gatherings;

◆ and $438,000, equating to 40.60 percent of its portion of millage funds, to the adult day program at the newly opened Wilson Day Center in The Village.

"It's amazing that you got the day center up and running within the first year of service," said Maureen Juip, AAC commissioner and City of Grosse Pointe councilwoman. "I think that was a key campaign promise and you delivered."

The adult day program, which serves seniors living with cognitive decline and their caregivers, has welcomed 18 participants in the first 75 days of full operation, following a pilot period earlier this summer. It also has served 40 caregiver participants.

"We are at about 25 to 28 percent utilization, so we have lots of room to grow," said Krista Siddall, executive director of The Helm. "We have 20 slots a day. We're seeing, right now, four to five slots a day filled with people."

In the last year, millage dollars have provided:

◆ 33,664 Meals on Wheels meals delivered,

◆ 2,879 older adults and families assisted with information and support,

◆ 1,839 medical equipment loans/items provided,

◆ 575 Medicare counseling sessions,

◆ 437 friendly reassurance connections,

◆ 1,486 fitness, health and wellness classes,

◆ 1,017 participants in education and enrichment classes,

◆ and 486 hours of caregiving for participants at the Wilson Day Center.

PAATS

Millage funding accounted for 32 percent of the PAATS budget from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

The revenue filled a gap in a significant cash flow issue the organization has faced.

Two of its main sources of revenue, SMART and CDBG funds, regularly are delayed in releasing funding. This has led to instances in recent years when PAATS had to reduce hours because it couldn't make payroll.

"What jumped out at me from all of this was that (millage funds) helped eliminate that periodic cash-flow problem, which obviously presents a problem," said Vicki Granger, commission chair and Woods councilwoman. "Somebody calls, they need a ride to go to the doctor and PAATS had to suspend operations for a couple weeks at a time until whatever money came in from whatever source."

In the last year, PAATS provided 6,887 rides to 241 seniors.

"Two hundred and forty-one for $104,000, that just strikes me as being very expensive," Granger said. "So the question that comes up to me is at some point, is there a more efficient way to provide transportation for seniors that doesn't work out to be $100,000 divided by 250?"

Tim Rowland, PAATS treasurer and Farms finance director, said millage funding has allowed PAATS to properly work through its cash-flow issue. The only remaining hurdle is a current search for a new insurance provider, as the costs are inflating dramatically.

"A big portion of that funding was used for our cash-flow issue," Rowland said. "I anticipate we could ask for less money for this current year."

Juip also suggested

See MILLAGE, page 12A

LETTERS:

Continued from page 7A

come close to covering the operational needs of the library. Without this millage renewal, the library will be forced to make hard decisions about the services we all love, which would not only negatively impact those of us that use the library, but also our community at large. Therefore, I hope voters understand the importance of voting "yes" to the renewal Nov. 3, so the library can continue being the amazing asset it is to the Grosse Pointe community.

TRACY MAGEE
President, Friends of the GPPL

Outrageous

To the Editor:

It is clear that Clint Derringer's leadership is driven by pettiness and emotion and not the responsibilities of public office. Two elected trustees, Sean Cotton and Ginny Jeup, asked to tour district buildings, which is necessary to understand the schools they oversee. At Monday's meeting, President Derringer unilaterally denied their requests. There was no discussion. No deliberation by the board. He said the tours will wait until January 2027.

The trustees have not toured school buildings since 2024. That is outrageous. Trustees are elected by voters to serve as informed fiduciaries for students, employees and taxpayers, not to be kept at arm's length from the schools they govern.

What is Clint hiding? Is it the overcrowding reportedly occurring in some schools and classrooms? The board majority has not secured a teacher contract and declined to attend opening day with teachers. Now it appears he is unwilling to spend time inside the buildings, listening and learning firsthand.

If Dr. Roy Bishop wants to show true leadership and not appear to be a puppet of the board majority, he should conduct these tours for trustees who take their position seriously.

KIMBERLY MOIN
Grosse Pointe Woods



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Preview Party Raffle
Tickets are $25 each or 5 for $100
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Market Days
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026
9:30 AM until 7:00 PM
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Market Days
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026
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TIFA budget on track

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Silence is golden when no questions are asked.

A Q&A review of the Tax Increment Finance Authority budget last week lasted shorter than the Icelandic manned space program. The island nation rosters as many rocketeers as it has snakes, meaning none.

State law mandates the budget review happen annually, which, along with statutory informational sessions, provide the public opportunities to keep tabs on authority activities and financial standing.

TIFA Director Cindy Paparelli acted outside her concurrent role as assistant city manager Sept. 16 by presenting board members a line-item summary of the budget for fiscal year 2026-27. The fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30.

Of the beginning-year overall budget totaling $1,539,000, only 12.62 percent has been used, leaving an available balance of $1,344,801.69.

Some $38,800 of that figure was allocated later in the meeting to partner with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce on a project in the Charlevoix commercial district. The city and chamber are going halfsies on the installation of outdoor ambient music speakers in the district. Streetscape renovations are a TIFA project with some road and sewer work paid out of the city budget.

The authority is funded by a portion of the district's property taxes, which must be spent on district improvements, including economic development.

Of this fiscal year's budget, captured property taxes generated $1,493,000 revenue. The rest came from penalties and interest on taxes ($1,000) and interest on investments ($45,000).

— Brad Lindberg

Hospital shooter pleads guilty

The Detroit teen accused of shooting at a Henry Ford St. John Hospital security guard last March pleaded guilty in Wayne County Circuit Court Wednesday, Sept. 16.

Trejion Sanders, 17, waived both his probable cause conference and preliminary exam in Grosse Pointe Woods Municipal Court in April. He was charged with assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to do great bodily harm, carrying a concealed weapon, felonious assault and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. He is being charged as an adult.

He pleaded guilty to assault with intent to do great bodily harm and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony in exchange for the other charges being dropped. His sentencing is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Woods officers responded to a report of shots fired shortly before midnight Thursday, March 5, in the parking lot along Mack at the hospital. They found Sanders had been shot by a security guard as he and three other suspects were attempting to steal a vehicle.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said the guard first tried to deploy his Taser but it did not take effect, after which Sanders fired a handgun at the security officer, a 31-year-old Eastpointe man, but missed. The officer returned fire, striking Sanders in the leg.

—Ted O'Neil

Fall Harvest is this Saturday

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The annual Fall Harvest at Neff Park returns Saturday, Sept. 26, to celebrate some of the best the season has to offer: pumpkin decorating, apple cider, doughnuts and hay bales to climb.

"We might end up changing the shape a little bit, just to give it a little bit of a flair," Parks and Recreation Coordinator Chad Murphy said of the hay bale mountain, which made its debut last fall. "We really thought that was a good hit."

Check-in at the front gate begins at 2:30 p.m., with activities starting at 3 p.m.

The family fun will include pony rides, a petting farm, pumpkin decorating, hay bale mountain climbing, pumpkin bowling, a candy hunt and guessing game, and an inflatable obstacle course.

"Last year we did the Hungry Hippos inflatable," Murphy said. "This year it's a racing obstacle course, so there'll be two entry points and you can race your friend or take it as you want. It should be good to go for ages 3 and up."

Attendees also can enjoy hot dogs and s'mores roasting over an open fire, apples, caramel apples, apple cider, doughnuts, other seasonal treats and the chance to win an apple pie.

"More and more people are coming down to the park, it seems, this year and looking for activities to do," Murphy said, "so, if they're looking, they're going to find the answers that they're looking for (in) all the stuff we're doing."

Park passes are required for entry and admission is $10 per person, though children ages 3 and younger are free.

The admission price may be paid online via the city's parks and rec software ahead of the event or at the gate via cash, check or card.

— Laurel Kraus

MILLAGE:

Continued from page 11A

future consideration of whether the millage funds could enable services to be expanded into the weekend, such as for a senior who'd like a ride to a place of worship on Sunday morning.

Odd man out

A spotlight continues to be shown on Grosse Pointe Shores, which was the sole city out of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods not to pass the senior millage in 2024.

Ensuring equitable service between millage paying and non-millage paying communities was called into question during the year-one review.

"As far as Grosse Pointe Shores, because we're funded primarily through federal dollars, through SMART, we're not allowed to charge them a different rate for using the bus," Rowland said of PAATS. "That'd be considered discriminatory through federal grants."

As for The Helm, it has waived membership charges for millage communities and now charges a $180 annual membership fee per household for other cities, such as the Shores. It also would charge a Shores resident $200 per day for use of the Wilson Day Center — though none yet have taken part — compared to the $79 per-day cost for residents of millage communities.

On the other hand, Shores residents have not incurred any additional cost for services The Helm considers essential, including Meals on Wheels.

Of the 33,664 meals and liquid nutrition delivered in the last 12 months, 594 were provided to the Shores, which Siddall said is being covered through the Helm's philanthropic efforts.

"I'm not suggesting that you don't ensure that this need is met. I just think from a finance standpoint, if you take all the proper nouns out of it, suddenly dollars that would've otherwise come to support Meals on Wheels are being paid for out of our pockets, yet they (the Shores) don't have an additional out-of-pocket," said Michele Hodges, AAC commissioner and mayor of the Park. "That just seems to be an equity issue from my standpoint, where we did the responsible thing to our communities. We invested, but they're still getting the benefit, having not invested."

The concern may lead to an ongoing conversation.

"Once we get through this, that may lead us to, as a commission, talk about do we want to approach Grosse Pointe Shores," Granger said, "and go through this with them about how their residents are using these services and request that they consider putting this on the ballot with the city elections in November 2027."

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Opening day!

Full Circle opens James and Patricia Anderson Innovation Center

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Teammates — members of Full Circle's TEAM 26 program, a day program for adults with developmental disabilities — dove right in to make personal pizzas their first day at the James and Patricia Anderson Innovation Center, which opened Sept. 8.

The center, the former Henry Ford Ophthalmology offices on Jefferson in Grosse Pointe Park, sits across the parking lot from Full Circle's Upscale Resale Shop.

The pizzas were constructed in the center's learning kitchen, among many new amenities administrators and teammates are thrilled to finally have. In the short time it's been open, teammates have made gazpacho, potato-leek soup, pizzas, cinnamon rolls, cupcakes and apple pie.

"(Full Circle founder) Mary Fodell has been a huge presence in the learning kitchen," said Stephanie DiVirgil, director of operations. "It's a huge piece of the program now. It's a great space with room for 10 adults to be there at the same time without stepping on each other."

The kitchen is TEAM 26 teammate Amelia Breskin's favorite part of the building, but her heart remains at the resale shop, where she plans to run a coffee micro-enterprise she's hoping will be a big hit. In its early stages, the Richard & Jane Coffee Bar will be open mornings, Tuesday through Friday, starting Thursday, Oct. 1, though customers are encouraged to call first to check while Breskin settles into the new operation. Shoppers can get coffee for a donation, as well as flowers from the Edible Garden and homemade cookies.

"The learning kitchen is our pride and joy," DiVirgil said. "We're looking forward to having guest chefs come in and do little classes with our guys. And we're hoping to offer after-hours classes for the general public, too."

Down the hall is a dining room, The Nutrition Nook, named by its sponsor, the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club.

"After they make food in the kitchen, they can come in here and eat lunch," DiVirgil said. "We look forward to making a meal for guests, maybe parents or members of Rotary. We wanted this to be less cafeteria and more grown-up dining room. They keep reminding us they're adults; they're not in school anymore."

While the main floor is ready to house TEAM 26, construction isn't complete. The lower level, also still under construction, will eventually house all of TEAM 26's micro-enterprises — floral arranging, shredding and laundry services among others — with room for more. A wide-open gymnasium will provide space for teammates to play soccer, Rollerblade, learn to ride bicycles and take part in other activities. A stage will host performances by the Full Circle Singers and evening social events like karaoke, bingo and dances.

"The basement is off-limits until it's done; we want them to have the wow moment," said Liz Klang, TEAM 26 coordinator.

On the main floor, the TEAM 26 lounge includes tables and chairs, workspaces for crafts, a kitchenette, a quiet room and a family room complete with couches and a television.

"We tried to think of everything they need," DiVirgil said. "They have their own dedicated space now; this is all for them. We finally have a staff office, too, after living out of churches the past three years."

The main floor also includes several classrooms, including two resale-shop training modules.

"These are used to prepare them for working in the store," DiVirgil said. "Donations go in the bin, then they wheel it over from across the street, hang it and sort it by category. It helps the store tremendously for season changeovers, because everything is sized and organized already. And it's teaching them at the same time. Once they're more used to it, we'll have them start pricing items.

"The resale shop is what Full Circle is, how it started," she added. "Even though it's so much bigger now than where we were, this is a great space for training."

Another classroom temporarily houses the Stitch & Sew micro-enterprise until the lower level is finished. A dedicated art studio rounds out the space.

"It's really nice to have the art studio we have now for young adults to do their thing and express themselves," said Lizzy Farrell-Russano, art therapist. "Art therapy is about self-expression. The young adults get a lot out of it, like a sense of accomplishment. They can have success at any level; there are no wrongs. What's wonderful about this group is they really support each other."

The art department also will tend to the spirit rock in the driveway median between the two buildings. Passersby will see the first painted project soon.

Visitors to the center enter a grand atrium, outfitted with comfortable seating, gathering spaces, a bar and other amenities. Full Circle intends to host fundraisers, parties, speakers and community groups there.

"We want to connect with the community," DiVirgil said. "We'd like to rent out the space, too, for events like baby showers. The caveat is that the teammates get to help. They can serve as greeters or something similar so that it becomes a job for them."

See OPEN, page 4B



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Lindsay Rusch sews together quilt squares.





Dez Peoples prepares to use fresh green peppers grown in Full Circle's Edible Garden on his pizza.



Full Circle Board President Sue Banner helps Amelia Breskin with measuring, while Stephen Van Elslander cuts quilt squares.



From left, Dez Peoples, Jenna Thornton, Jimmy Gallagher and Kevin Sperry work the dough for the personal pizzas they made for lunch.


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Pumpkin time!

Local duo brings harvest decor right to your door

By Grosse Pointe News Staff

Thanks to Pointe Pumpkin Co., fall throughout the Pointes is getting a fresh and festive look. Think heirloom pumpkins, cozy hay bales, colorful fall blooms and towering cornstalks, all styled into eye-catching displays that give local homes a warm, seasonal welcome — with plenty of personality.

The Grosse Pointe-based business, owned by Jenny Cameron and Kathy Gray, brings all this beautiful, effortless fall decor right to your doorstep. They specialize in curated pumpkin porch displays featuring a mix of classic orange and unique multicolored heirloom pumpkins, with optional seasonal touches like hay bales and cornstalks.

From smaller porch displays to statement-making fall installations, Pointe Pumpkin Co. will handle the delivery, design and setup of your display — so your home is ready for the holidays — without the hassle.

Visit pointepumpkinco.com to view their various packages and place an order for your own beautiful autumn decor masterpiece.





Above: Jenny Cameron, left, and Kathy Gray, right.



The creative pair that makes up Pointe Pumpkin Co., above, designs displays that flow along with each home's distinctive look and architectural components — for seasonal decorations that enhance the fall holidays for the whole neighborhood.





A BOUNTY OF FALL BEAUTY

Pointe Pumpkin Co. uses the freshest traditional and heirloom pumpkins. Along with other fall elements, they create unique installations, from corner accents to welcoming entryway pumpkin patches — featuring dried cornstalks, natural hay bales, colorful gourds and more.

The cool custom designs create a sense of instant fall joy for all ages. Even passersby can enjoy the seasonal autumn spirit inspired by the displays.











Left top and bottom: A generous entrance display at a Grosse Pointe Tudor approach features beautiful white heirloom pumpkins in unique shapes, contrasting with oranges and greens.

This cornstalk and pumpkin display blends nicely with the Halloween decor, above. Cute, colorful stacks make the stairs inviting, left.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mac Watts will perform this Saturday in Grosse Pointe Park.

Get amped up with Mac Watts at outdoor concert

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Nashville superstar and Michigan native Mac Watts will take the stage once again during an outdoor fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 26, that benefits the future home of Michael B's Cafe.

The headliner — who was raised in Bloomfield Hills before making it big in Music City — is one part of a down-home celebration that kicks off at 5 p.m.

"The Thrift Store Cowboys are opening," said Alicia Carlisle, whose Cabbage Patch Saloon will be open for business during the event. "And the Full Circle Singers will join us for a casual, fun night."

The concert takes place in the parking lot between Cabbage Patch Saloon and the future Michael B's. Keeping with the country theme, bales of hay will be provided for additional seating. Food and drinks will

See WATTS, page 6B

Community Joiner Fair returns with bestselling author Priya Parker

At a time when many people are searching for deeper connections and a stronger sense of belonging, three community organizations are inviting residents to discover meaningful ways to get involved close to home.

The Grosse Pointe Public Library, The War Memorial and The Family Center are partnering again to present the second annual Community Joiner Fair from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"I think many people feel a sense of disconnection and are looking for opportunities to spend time with others in real life, engaging in fun and meaningful activities, whatever that means for them," said Jessica Keyser, director of the Grosse Pointe Public Library. "The Joiner Fair provides a kind of on-ramp to feeling a sense of belonging in our community. Last year's event was so successful with hundreds of attendees, I was actually stopped out in the community asking when the next one will be. I believe last year was just the beginning and this year's Joiner Fair will be even bigger and better."



COURTESY PHOTO

Author Priya Parker has written two books, "The Art of Gathering" and "The Art of Fighting."

Building on the success of its inaugural event, this year's Community Joiner Fair will feature dozens of local nonprofits, civic organizations and clubs, along with a special keynote conversation featuring bestselling author Priya Parker, author of "The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters." Parker will be joined by WDET's Ann Delisi for a conversation exploring how meaningful gatherings and community connections can help address today's growing sense of isolation.

"The War Memorial is proud to once again partner with the Grosse Pointe Public Library and The Family Center to host the Community Joiner Fair," said Jennifer Sutton, director of public programming and special events at The War Memorial. "Creating opportunities for people to connect is central to our mission and this event brings together many of the local clubs and organizations that enrich life in our community. We're especially excited to welcome Priya Parker, whose insights on gathering and belonging will help set the tone for the day. We hope attendees leave with a new passion, new connections and a stronger sense of

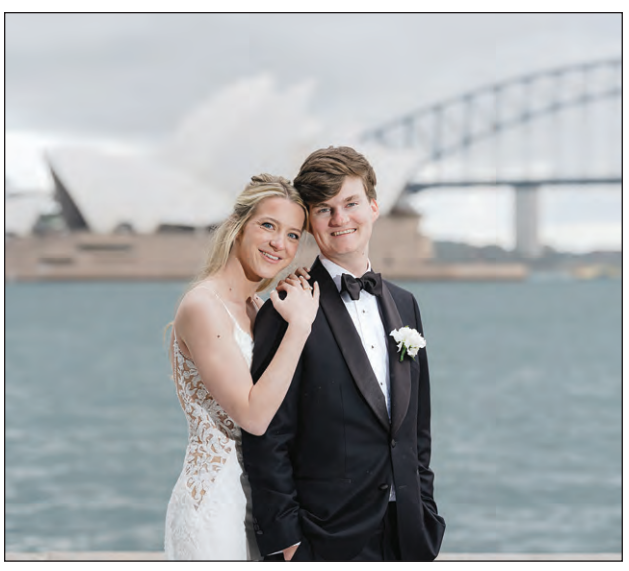
See JOINER, page 5B



One of the seating areas in the James and Patricia Anderson Innovation Center's grand atrium.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

WEDDING



Callie and Matthew Kennedy

Tobin—Kennedy

Callie Christine Tobin and Matthew Benton Kennedy were married March 20, 2026, at Watersedge on Circular Quay in Sydney, Australia.

The bride is the daughter of Debbie and Kevin Tobin of Cumming, Ga. The groom is the son of Angela and Charles Kennedy of Grosse Pointe.

The bride earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Michigan. She is a finance manager with Zillow.

The groom earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor from the University of Chicago Law School. He is an associate with Kirkland & Ellis.

The couple honeymooned in Australia and Asia. They reside in New York City.



OPEN:

Continued from page 1B

Furniture was selected by Tricia Wood, wife of project architect Rob Wood. Dan Connell of the Connell Building Co. and Detroit Woodworking is making a table for the conference room.

The new space serves 15 to 18 teammates a day, though DiVirgil hopes to grow TEAM 26 to around 30 members. They meet 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"It's private pay now, but we're working to start billing for Medicaid, hopefully by the end of the year," DiVirgil said.

Additional office spaces eventually will house more staff. DiVirgil envisions eventually adding a social worker, therapists, Community Living Services representatives and others down the road.

"We want to be a resource for parents, so when they call and say, 'I have no idea what to do,' we can say, 'We can help you with that.'"

For Klang, the center ends a long stretch of working out of her home and various churches.

"It's nice to finally have a home, a place to call ours," Klang said. "The kids are having fun making it their own space. I thought it was going to be super stressful, but they've taken the stress off.

"The last six months, I worked on an island with these guys," she added. "I packed up (the previous location on) Mack and took it all to Memorial Church and ran the program by myself. It was stressful all the way around, but now we're all together."



Retired Grosse Pointe South High School teacher Patti O'Hare, who had worked with Full Circle students in the kitchen off and on for 10 years, assists Kevin Sperry in putting a tray of pizzas into the oven.

Klang, a personal trainer who is certified in adaptive fitness, also is looking forward to having space for fitness training in the lower level.

"With the new facility, we have the space to start just about any micro we want," she added. "We have the ability to have guest speakers. It's an inviting space that will bridge the gap with the community. I'm grateful for the opportunity for these guys and for the community. The options are endless here."

When construction is complete, DiVirgil said Full Circle will host a private donor event, as well as open houses for the public and parents of young kids with diagnoses.

"We want them to know we'll be there for them when their kids are done with school," she said.

"Thank you to Liz and the staff for being so flexible," she added. "The staff and volunteers managed to carry the program and keep it amazing despite not having a permanent location. Connell Building, Rob and Tricia Wood, the staff and our volunteers all made this possible."

"Big kudos to the parents, especially, for being so supportive, so patient and so understanding," Klang added. "We had to push back the start of our season. They were bummed, we were bummed, but it didn't take away from the experience of it all."

"We're so happy to finally be in it," DiVirgil said. "After years of being separated, with TEAM 26 being off-site, it hit me. I got emotional. It's amazing we're all back together."

Full Circle gala is Nov. 5

The Full Circle Foundation hosts its annual "An Evening Under the Stars" fundraising gala 6 to 10:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at the Roostertail in Detroit. The evening will include dinner, live and silent auctions, an open bar and performances by the Full Circle Singers. Among the big-ticket auction items is a trip to Paris.

Julia and Don Hoffmann, longtime Full Circle supporters, serve as honorary chairs.

Tickets are available online at fullcircle.home.qtego.us.

Sponsorship opportunities and mobile registration for online bidding also are available on the website.

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.



Jane Elizabeth Stevens



Drew Michael Mascarin



Veronica Babbage Smith

Jane Elizabeth Stevens

Jane Elizabeth Stevens, 70, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026.

Jane was born Aug. 23, 1956, to Robert and Lucy Stevens. She was a beloved presence in the lives of many. Jane graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1974 before attending Wayne State University, then followed in her father's footsteps by attending the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. She earned a Juris Doctor degree in 1981. She was a proud and exacting attorney for 45 years, working for the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office for more than 35 years. She also served as head of the federal division for much of that time and helped countless families through her work.

Jane enjoyed traveling to many places around the world, including Israel, Ireland, Egypt, Germany and Switzerland. Closer to home, she enjoyed cruises to Alaska, the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes.

Jane's Lutheran faith was fundamental to her life. She was a member of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church since her family moved to Grosse Pointe in 1963. A longstanding member of the choir, she also played handbells. She was involved in various church activities for many years and cherished the lifelong friendships she formed there.

Jane is survived by her loving family, including her sister, Jill Bush (Phillip); brother, Robert; niece, Samantha Stevens; and nephew, Blake Stevens. She was predeceased by her German shepherds, Baron and Star, whom she adored.

The family would like to thank Jane's angel caregivers, Sherryl Bates and Marie Fleming, as well as the staff at Nursing Unlimited for their care and compassion during Jane's recent health struggles.

Visitation will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, until an 11 a.m. memorial service at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church Organ Restoration Fund or General Fund, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, feelc.org/give; or to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, 20542 Harper, Harper Woods, MI 48225, gpaas.org/donate.

Drew Michael Mascarin

Drew Michael Mascarin, 64, passed away suddenly Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, in Port Huron. He was a beloved father, son, brother, friend and so much more to those who knew him. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his family and friends.

Drew was born Feb. 20, 1962, in Detroit, to Telesforo and Yolanda Mascarin. As a child, he was an exceptional hockey and tennis player who shared his talents and passion for sports with his parents and sisters. He carried those interests into adulthood when he attended Michigan State University, where he was a member of Delta Chi and the hockey team. He also enjoyed traveling the country and took countless ski trips with friends during college.

Drew later became a tennis coach at Grosse Pointe North High School and University Liggett School. He also was a tennis pro and the general manager/owner of Wimbledon Racquet Club. His love of tennis also became an important part of his children's lives.

Throughout his life, Drew remained an avid MSU fan and continued attending MSU hockey games in recent years with old teammates and his oldest daughter. He loved talking about sports with family, friends and anyone willing to listen and was a diehard fan of the Detroit Lions, Tigers and Red Wings.

More recently, after moving to his final home on the St. Clair River in St. Clair, he developed a deep appreciation for being on the water and fishing. He also was fascinated by cars and boats, both of which were interests that created a special bond with his son and closest friends.

Most of Drew's life was consumed by his love and compassion for Beachside Villas, the family's rental properties in St. Maarten. To Drew, however, it was always more of a home. Drew was most commonly found wearing a Beachside Villas hat and a St. Maarten T-shirt. His loved ones will never forget the countless trips and memories he shared with his children, extended family and friends. The staff members at Beachside Villas quickly became family to Drew and they all shared many major life milestones and celebrations together. Drew never would leave for St. Maarten without his "island shirts" for dinner.

Drew will be remembered most for his love of cooking and hosting. Drew passed along his love for cooking to his children, who will carry on his memorable recipes for years to come. Drew welcomed anyone and everyone into his home, provided they stayed for dinner.

He was predeceased by his beloved parents, Telesforo "Telly" Mascarin and Yolanda (nee Sisak) Mascarin; and oldest sister, Catherine Keilly.

Above all, Drew was a loving father to his surviving children, Madelyn Mascarin, Michael Mascarin and Maggie Mascarin, who were the most important part of his life, aside from his beloved mini Goldendoodle, Ellie. Although his time with them was far too short, his love will live on in their hearts and in the memories they carry. Three weeks before his passing, Drew became a grandfather for the first time to Cruz Mascarin, son of Michael Mascarin and Ella Croftchik.

Drew also is survived by his sisters, Debbie Mascarin and Susie Keane, who shared a close and loving bond with him throughout every stage of his life. Drew and Debbie grew up sharing a love of hockey and tennis and later both attended MSU. In their later years, they found joy in gardening and cooking side by side. Drew and Susie also shared a love of tennis and gardening. Susie was one of his biggest cheerleaders and proudly supported him at childhood hockey games and tennis matches. They formed a bond that only grew stronger in their adult years.

Drew shared many years of his life with his closest friend, Tracy Mascarin, with whom he shared his three children and grandson. Together, they bonded over their love for their children, tennis, holiday celebrations and Beachside Villas.

Those who knew Drew knew he refused to do anything quietly. He was openly proud to be a father and took immense pride in his children's accomplishments. He never hesitated to move forward in ways that benefited those he loved. Drew loved loudly and that love was undeniable. In the final years of his life, he surrounded himself with those who mattered most. He was many things to many people. Although his absence will be felt every day by his loved ones, his family and friends will continue to carry his memory with them.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Oct. 24, at Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Veronica Babbage Smith

Veronica Babbage Smith passed away peacefully in her sleep Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, after an aggressive recurrence of cancer.

Veronica will be lovingly remembered by her friends and family as a wonderful wife, grammy, mom, sister, friend, singer and helper. She was born in England in 1944 to parents who were Royal Air Force officers during World War II; her father was a chaplain and her mother was a recruiting officer. When the war ended, her father returned home to meet his daughter for the first time before the family moved to Australia. Veronica and her three younger brothers grew up in Sydney and Melbourne before the family moved to Atlanta, where Veronica attended Georgia State University.

While in Atlanta, Veronica met Sam Smith and they married at Sam's childhood home in Bessemer City, N.C. During this time, Veronica honed her bookkeeping and computer skills before working at Gleaners Community Food Bank for about 20 years, eventually becoming vice president. She also started a computer consulting business and contributed her skills to several organizations, including her church and Freedom House.

For about 10 years, Veronica and her daughter, Kristen, were both avid horseback riders, a time for which Kristen is especially thankful. Around the same time, the family developed close ties to Torch Lake and eventually Kristen had the chance to work with Veronica to design their dream cottage. The whole family celebrated their 10th summer together at their cottage in 2026, where Veronica treasured her time in her garden, often assisted by her granddaughter, Lily.

Veronica's love of travel started with a one-year trip around the world with her mother as a teenager. She also enjoyed living for a short time in France with Sam, several trips to Europe, trips to South Africa and Central America and visiting family in Australia, New Zealand, North Carolina and Georgia. She loved learning, exploring new challenges and her annual "Ladies of the Lake" trips with friends.

As part of her lifelong desire to better the world around her and support positive endeavors, Veronica served on many boards and helped friends in times of need. She was a treasured member of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church for nearly 50 years, acting as president, singing in the choir and loving the music and friendships there. She also was an invaluable member of the Detroit Concert Choir for more than 20 years; she traveled twice with it to Europe and helped keep the office running smoothly.

Veronica was committed to seeing her grandchildren grow up and sought cancer treatment to extend her time with them. Since they were young, Veronica had dinner at Kristen's house every week and was a supporter of all their artistic, musical and athletic efforts. She especially loved that Lily took up horseback riding and loved seeing Jack play soccer and the violin. They are thankful to both Grammy and Papa for the opportunity to spend time up north with them during the summers, enjoying hikes, sailing and other adventures with Grammy. Times spent together were precious for the entire family.

Veronica was predeceased by her parents, Janet Elizabeth and Stuart; and son, Russell. She will be loved and remembered by her husband of 57 wonderful years, Sam; daughter, Kristen Foley (Brian); brothers, Malcolm, Christopher and Tim; grandchildren, Jack and Lily; and several beloved nieces and a nephew.

A memorial service and reception will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, Grosse Pointe.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230, gpuuc.org/donate.html; Detroit Concert Choir, 2126 Seminole, Detroit, MI 48214, detroitconcertchoir.org/gift; or Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, 2846 Three Mile Rd. N., Traverse City, MI 49686, gtrlc.org/donate/tribute-gift/.



Tim Dinan

Tim Dinan

Tim Dinan, 65, passed away Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026.

Tim was born Aug. 3, 1961, in Grosse Pointe Woods, to William and Mary Dinan. He was an original and memorable person. A true adventurer at heart, he traveled a path of bold choices, endless curiosity and a special gift for bringing people together.

Tim's passion came alive in the hospitality industry, leading him to a vibrant career running several successful restaurants in multiple states, including Michigan, Texas and Florida. That work required grit, instinct and a real love for people. Eventually that adventurous spirit found a meaningful job in Ann Arbor, where Tim turned his talents toward helping people when they needed it most.

Above all else, Tim had a great sense of humor; he was wickedly funny, perfectly timed, occasionally inappropriate and always hilarious. Tim could find a joke in almost anything and made a lot of people laugh when they needed it.

Tim loved sports, especially his Michigan Wolverines. He loved following and prognosticating about weather; the bigger the storm, the better. He also was an avid gardener.

Tim's memory will live on for his loved ones in every "Go Blue" chant, every thunderstorm and every garden in bloom.

Tim is survived by his mother, Mary Dinan; sister, Nancy Rieth; brother-in-law, Robert Rieth; and nephews, Michael and Jack Rieth.

A private funeral and celebration of life is being planned.

In lieu of flowers or memorial donations, a special act of kindness may be done in Tim's memory.

JOINER:

Continued from page 4B

belonging."

"When Jessica brought 'Join or Die' and the idea of the Joiner Fair to our attention last year, and The War Memorial joined the effort, we were blown away," said Jennifer Bingaman, executive director of The Family Center. "It's a powerful statement about what our organizations value and the investment we're willing to make to build a happier, healthier community. We are stronger together and this event showcases there's a meaningful place for everyone."

The evening is inspired by the acclaimed documentary, "Join or Die," which highlights the importance of civic participation and belonging in building healthier, happier communities.

The Community Joiner Fair is free. Visitors can meet representatives from local organizations, discover volunteer opportunities, explore new hobbies and learn how to become more engaged in the community. To register an organization to host a table, visit form.jotform.com/251534197431153.

The keynote conversation begins at 6 p.m. and is free. Seating is limited, so registration in advance is recommended at tinyurl.com/y45ahjee

Leading up to the event, a free screening of the documentary "Join or Die" will be held Tuesday, Sept. 29, at The War Memorial.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ann Delisi, a staple in Detroit's media landscape for more than 30 years, is a host on WDET-FM.

Grosse Pointe Symphony begins search for third music director in its history

The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra has begun the search for its next music director, a position that has changed hands only twice in nearly seven decades.

Following the retirement of longtime music director Joe Striplin after 20 years, the orchestra is undertaking a deliberate search for the person who will help shape the next era of the GPSO.

The eventual selection will become only the third music director in the orchestra's history since Felix Resnick assumed leadership in the late 1950s. Resnick led the orchestra for nearly 50 years before Striplin succeeded him.

Rather than immediately appointing a successor, the GPSO will spend the 2026-27 season working with accomplished guest conductors from across metro Detroit, giving the orchestra and its musicians an opportunity to experience different conducting and leadership styles as the search progresses.

That process has already begun.

Marc Haas, conductor emeritus at Cass Technical High School, led the GPSO's summer concert in August.

For the orchestra's Sunday, Oct. 25, season premiere — and first performance at the new Schaap Center for the Performing Arts — Doug Bianchi of Wayne State University will lead from the podium.

On Sunday, Dec. 6, Greg Cunningham of Oakland University will lead the orchestra's Christmas concert at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

Each guest conductor brings a different musical background and perspective to the orchestra while GPSO considers what it wants from its next artistic leader.

The search is about more than selecting a conductor. The next music director will inherit an organization entering one of the most consequential periods in its history: a new permanent performance home at the Schaap Center, new opportunities to expand audiences and programming, as well as the orchestra's 75th season approaching in 2027-28.

The GPSO Search Committee is taking the search seriously, including sending a member survey on desired qualities of the next director.

"The process will be thoughtful and deliberate, with musicians and organizational leadership determining who is best positioned to lead the GPSO into the future," said Joan Blair, search committee chairwoman.

More details on the position may be found at gpsymphony.org or by contacting Blair at blairjoan@sbcglobal.net.

Ford House a 2026 Best of Michigan winner

Ford House has been named a 2026 Best of Michigan winner by Guide to Michigan, earning statewide recognition as one of Michigan's standout museum destinations.

The annual Best of Michigan awards celebrate businesses, organizations and attractions across the state.

"This recognition means so much to our team because it reflects the meaningful experiences we work hard to create for our visitors every day," said Mark J. Heppner, president and CEO of Ford House. "Ford House is an incredible piece of Michigan history, but it is also a place that continues to evolve, welcome new audiences and give people new reasons to return."

The historic estate of Edsel and Eleanor Ford, Ford House welcomes visitors to experience the couple's home, collections, gardens and grounds along the shores of Lake St. Clair. A National Historic Landmark, the estate shares the Ford family's story while connecting history, architecture, art, landscape and community.

Today, a visit to Ford House extends beyond a traditional museum experience. Throughout the year, guests can explore the main residence, walk the grounds and gardens, participate in educational programs and special events, experience seasonal programming, shop at The Shop or dine at The Continental.

"We are grateful to everyone who continues to visit, support and share Ford House," Heppner said. "That being said, none of what we do could ever happen without the vision of our board and the dedication and hard work of the amazing staff. This recognition belongs to them, as well as our volunteers, Friends and visitors who help make this place so special."



COURTESY PHOTO

Ford House President and CEO Mark Heppner holds the Best of Michigan award.

Ford House is one of five museums named a 2026 Best of Michigan winner in the Museums category by Guide to Michigan.

Moross Greenway fall cleanup is Oct. 10

The Moross Greenway Project is looking for volunteers for its annual Big Fall Cleanup event from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

Volunteers are asked to bring a good pair of work gloves; boots are recommended, as the islands may be wet. Trash bags/buckets, trash pickers and traffic safety vests will be provided.

The volunteers will be focused on three main tasks:

◆ Weeding garden beds to prepare islands for winter.

◆ Dividing perennials. Bring a shovel if you are interested in dividing and moving perennial plants.

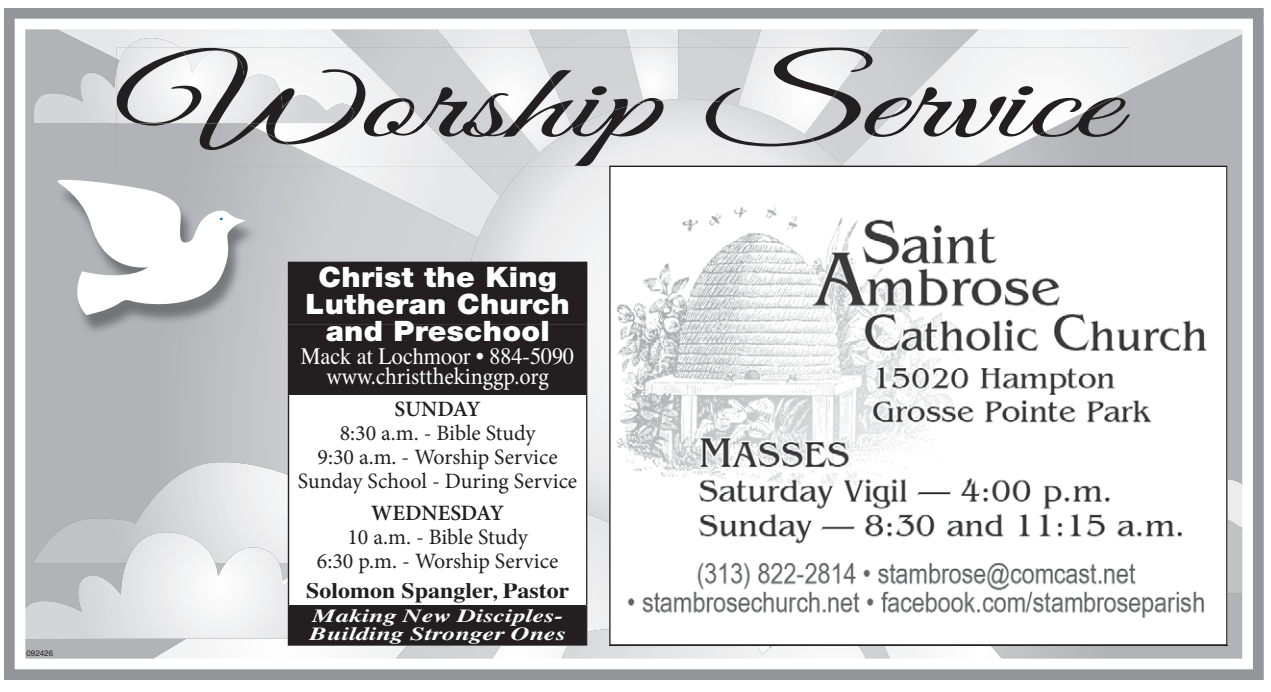
◆ Collecting litter and trash along the seven greenway islands.

Interested volunteers may gather next to Grace Community Church, 21001 Moross. Parking is available in the church lot.

Board members will be available to guide volunteers and answer questions. More details about the Moross Greenway may be found at morossgreenway.org.

Fun fact: The rented art sculptures currently on display on the Moross Greenway have been made possible through the generosity of a few donors. They are the work of Michigan artists and are displayed on a rotating basis for one year. The sculptures are for sale and a portion of the proceeds from each sale benefits the Moross Greenway. For images of the sculptures, visit morossgreenway.org/art-sculptures

The Moross Greenway Project is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



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.

◆ The Novel Network Book Club, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24. The club will discuss "The Aviator's Wife" by Melanie Benjamin.

◆ The movie "Blue Miracle" will be shown at noon Friday, Sept. 25. Cost is $10 and includes lunch.

Ford House

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

◆ Storytime: "A Color of His Own," 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in September.

◆ Preserving the Past: Researching Historic Homes, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24. Cost is $12 for Friends, $15 for the public.

◆ Harvest Day, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Register at redcrossblood.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

◆ Free Bikes 4 Kidz Collection Event, 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

◆ Learn to Play Bridge: A Six-Week Beginner Series, 9 to 10:30 a.m. beginning Saturday, Sept. 26. Cost is $175.

◆ Carriage House Market: Vintage, Antiques & Makers, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27.

◆ Veteran Wellness Creative Class, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 28 to Nov. 2.

◆ The War Memorial Supper Club: Harvest Dinner, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30. Tickets are $88.

GPAA

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

◆ Exploring Encaustic on Paper with Candace Law, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

◆ Watercolor/Color Theory with Diane Krempa, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 29 through Oct. 20. Deadline to register is Tuesday, Sept. 22.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. The speaker is Keon Sims, clubhouse supervisor with CNS Healthcare. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org or RSVP to register@familycenterhelps.org.

◆ Caregiver Compass: A Seminar Series for Caregivers begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30. The first program in the series will focus on the emotional adjustment to becoming a caregiver, self-care and stress management strategies.

◆ Raising Athletes, Strengthening Communities takes place at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5.

Right to Life

Right to Life of Michigan Macomb Educational Resource Center is collecting baby items during an open house/drop-off baby shower event from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at 27417 Harper, St. Clair Shores. Donated items will benefit local pregnancy help centers. The event includes refreshments and drawings for gift baskets. Call (586) 774-6050 or email macombrlm@rtl.org.

WATTS:

Continued from page 4B

be available for purchase.

Tickets are $60 and available online at michaelbcafe.org.

Sponsorship opportunities also are available online.

"Proceeds are going into our building fund," Carlisle said. "We want to get construction going by the end of the year. We want to have all the funds for the project before we start the project, so there are no hiccups when we open."

The project is the renovation of the building at 15118 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. After its first phase of construction, the Michael B's coffee shop will open, employing young adults with special needs — many of whom are learning how to operate a retail business through classes offered through Wayne County Community College District.

The second phase will add a cafe to the business, along with the opportunity to employ more members of the special needs community.

"We want to get the coffee shop open, then we'll have another fundraising round for the cafe," Carlisle said. "We are moving forward."

For more information, visit michaelbcafe.org.

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Zoo Boo returns with expanded day-to-dusk experience

The Detroit Zoo's annual Halloween celebration, Zoo Boo, returns 3 to 8:30 p.m. the first four weekends in October — Oct. 3 and 4, 9 and 11, 16 and 18 and 23 and 25. Responding directly to guest requests for more time to see the animals, Zoo Boo will feature an expanded day-to-dusk format that moves the start time up to 3 p.m., giving guests an extra hour of daylight to see the animals who call the zoo home.

Guests can access the full zoo footprint until 6 p.m. Then, dusk transforms the eastern portion of the zoo — from the main admission gates to the Table 28 restaurant, across from the Arctic Ring of Life — into an illuminated Halloween adventure through 8:30 p.m.

Key event highlights include:

◆ Animal enrichments and zookeeper chats — Guests can get closer to the animals throughout the afternoon with scheduled zookeeper chats and fall-themed enrichments across the zoo. Programming varies by date.

◆ Allergen-friendly treat stations — Select trick-or-treat stations will offer dedicated allergen-friendly treat options.

◆ Daytime zoo access, 3 to 6 p.m. — Guests can explore animal habitats throughout the zoo, including the new Fred and Barbara Erb Discovery Trails, as well as all habitats toward the back of the zoo until 6 p.m. Erb Discovery Trails also will host interactive children's entertainment, including meet-and-greets with a new lineup of costumed characters every night of the event. However, select areas and experiences will potentially be unavailable. The Aaron and Caroylnn Frankel Stingray Cove will close at 8 p.m.

◆ Live entertainment — The front half of the zoo features live entertainment, including a light-up dance floor with a kids' DJ, fire performers, aerialists, a talking pumpkin, Top Hat Side Show acts and extreme juggling. The Zoo Boo Revue also returns to the events pavilion with showtimes throughout the evening.

◆ Seasonal food and Blake's collaboration — Blake's Cider Mill Market and Bar returns with fresh cider, doughnuts and seasonal treats, with proceeds supporting animal conservation. Guests also may enjoy expanded dining options — including a new "Spookeasy" — and collectible ghost souvenir cups.

◆ Spooky science — On select dates, guests may discover the not-so-scary side of science and nature through interactive activities hosted by community partners.

"We heard from our guests that they wanted more time to experience the zoo and see the animals during Zoo Boo, so that's exactly what we're giving them this year," said Brittany Gardner, public events manager for the Detroit Zoo. "Families can arrive at 3 p.m., explore habitats throughout the zoo until 6 p.m. and experience the 'merry-not-scary' event they know and love. Then, they can stay as the evening transforms with illuminated-décor, incredible entertainment and more as the sun goes down."

Online tickets start at $21 in advance; tickets are $27 at the gate. Detroit Zoo members receive a 10 percent discount and free parking. General parking is $8 per vehicle.

Tickets and add-ons — including 4D theater passes, VR experiences, carousel rides and cider pre-orders — may be purchased at dzoo.org/zooboo. All guests ages 2 and older require a ticket for admission.

Every Zoo Boo ticket supports the Detroit Zoological Society's mission and helps fund work to protect animals, restore habitats and inspire the next generation of conservationists.



COURTESY PHOTO

Zoo Boo returns to the Detriot Zoo the first four weekends in October.

How Grosse Pointe residents can help grow our tree canopy

By The Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative

There is something very special about driving through the Grosse Pointes beneath a canopy of mature trees. The arching branches. The shade on a summer afternoon. The changing colors in October. The birdsong overhead. Our trees are one of the defining features of the Grosse Pointe communities — and one of our most valuable shared assets. But that canopy cannot be taken for granted.

Trees are aging. Storms take down healthy specimens. Utility and insurance companies, disease and insects claim others. Construction, road work and utility projects can mean the loss of trees. And sometimes, a tree disappears from the public right-of-way (between the sidewalk and street) and simply isn't replaced. The result can be an empty space where a tree once stood. That empty space is an opportunity.

Look down your street. Is a tree missing? One of the simplest things every resident can do is take a walk down the block and look at the space between the sidewalk and the street — the public right-of-way where many of our street trees grow. Is there an empty planting space? Was a tree removed several years ago but never replaced? Is there a stump where a tree once stood? Could a new tree fit in a location that is now bare? If so, ask your city about having a replacement tree planted.

Don't assume someone else has reported it. Don't assume the city knows. And don't assume because the tree in front of your house is gone, nothing can be done. Ask for a tree. That simple action can make a difference.

Each of the five Grosse Pointe communities has its own system for managing public trees. Residents should contact their city's public works, forestry or appropriate municipal department to report a missing or damaged street tree and ask whether the location is eligible for replacement.

How to get started in each community

◆ Grosse Pointe Park: The city has an online RequestTracker system that includes a specific "Tree Damage or Down" request, as well as a general concern form. Grosse Pointe Park also has a long history of urban forestry leadership, including a comprehensive street-tree inventory and an aggressive tree-replanting program. Call (313) 822-5100.

◆ City of Grosse Pointe: Residents interested in having a tree planted on city-owned property can contact City Forester Mike Gilmore at (313) 885-5800. The city has specifically encouraged residents to "ask for a tree" as part of its effort to restore its canopy.

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods: Contact the Department of Public Works at (313) 343-2460. The city's forestry division manages trees throughout the city and parks and works with the beautification and tree commissions on reforestation and landscape projects. Residents also can use the city's online "Report a Problem" system.

◆ Grosse Pointe Farms: Contact the city's Public Service/Department of Public Works through city hall at (313) 885-6600 and report the location of the missing tree and your request for replacement. The city's Public Service Department oversees public works and city landscaping.

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores: Contact the Department of Public Works through city hall at (313) 881-6565 and ask to report a missing public right-of-way tree and request consideration for replacement. Grosse Pointe Shores also has a tree board working with the city.

When you make a request, provide the street address, side of the street, approximate location of the missing tree and, if possible, a photograph. Ask specifically that the location be evaluated as a potential street-tree planting site.

And remember, don't plant a tree yourself in the public right-of-way without first getting permission from your city. Municipalities have rules about species, spacing, utilities, sidewalks and placement. For example, the Woods requires permission for planting in the right-of-way, while the City's ordinance gives the city control over public-right-of-way trees.

No single city, organization or resident can restore our tree canopy alone. But together, we can. The goal of the Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative isn't simply to plant more trees. It is to build a healthier, more diverse and more resilient urban forest — one that will shade our streets, reduce heat, manage stormwater, provide habitat, improve neighborhood beauty and continue the tree-lined character that makes the Grosse Pointes special.

One tree is a small act. Thousands of trees are a legacy. The tree canopy we enjoy today was planted and protected by people who lived here before us. Now it is our turn. Look up. Look around. Find the empty spaces. And help us fill them — together.

Residents interested in becoming involved with the Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative — including tree mapping, education, volunteer opportunities, tree stewardship, community planting and future initiatives — are encouraged to connect with the collaborative and become part of the growing network of residents working to protect and expand the tree canopy across all five Grosse Pointe communities.

For more information, visit gplearns.uls.org/trees

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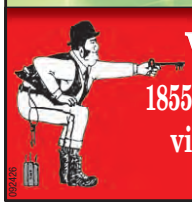
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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



POINTING YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WITH REAL-LIFE ADVICE!

Phones have no place at family meals



Dear Gabby: My husband and our teenage children all insist they can "listen and scroll" at the same time during dinner. I disagree. Every meal now includes someone looking at a phone instead of each other. Am I being old-fashioned? — Hungry for Conversation in the Park

Dear Hungry: Wanting eye contact at dinner isn't old-fashioned. Phones at the table should be outlawed.

The family meal may be one of the few times everyone is together without rushing somewhere else. It's difficult to build relationships when everyone's attention is divided.

Rather than arguing every evening, make the rule simple: Phones away until everyone is finished eating.

No exceptions for adults, either.

— Gabby

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

Cellphone etiquette in public



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR ANNIE: I'm starting to wonder if headphones have gone out of style. Last week, I was sitting in a doctor's waiting room when a woman across from me put her phone on speaker and had a very loud, very personal conversation for nearly 20 minutes. Everyone in the room could hear about her sister, her husband and what sounded like an argument over money. No one said anything, but several of us exchanged looks.

A few days later, I was at the nail salon hoping for a little peace and quiet, and another customer was watching videos at full volume. Between the music, the commentary and the occasional burst of laughter from her phone, it felt more like sitting in her living room than a salon.

I'm not expecting complete silence in public. People talk, phones ring and life happens. But I also don't want to know the details of a stranger's marriage or hear someone's entire TikTok feed while I'm getting a manicure.

I was raised to believe that being in public means being considerate of the people around you. Is it rude to politely ask someone to lower the volume or use headphones, or have I officially become the cranky lady everyone avoids in the waiting room? — Craving a Little Quiet

DEAR CRAVING: No, you are not the cranky lady in the waiting room. You are simply someone who remembers that public space belongs to the public.

It is perfectly reasonable to say, politely, "Would you mind lowering the volume a little?" The key is the way you ask. A little kindness usually gets you farther than a dirty look ever will.

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

Left, Enzo played by Parker the dog and voiced by Kevin Costner and Denny played by Milo Ventimiglia at the track, in the 2019 movie "The Art of Racing in the Rain," written by Mark Bomback and Garth Stein and Directed by Simon Curtis.

Movie Junkie Mark

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"

by Mark Domin



MOVIE REVIEW
"The Art of Racing in the Rain"
2019 - Rated PG
1 hr 49 min
★★★★☆

Stories told by animals can be a delight. I've recently viewed three such movies. "Good Boy" was a creepy horror film as seen through the eyes of a pet dog. It isn't narrated by the canine so you're left on your own to figure out what's going. "Remarkably Bright Creatures" is based on the best-selling novel with the same title and is the story of a smart Alec octopus. It's a wonderful movie I reviewed a few months back. "The Art of Racing in the Rain," the movie featured in this review, is also based on a novel. It's about an observant dog and his race-car-driving owner. While the critics seem to be divided on it because of its sappiness, I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Garth Stein wrote the best-selling book the movie is based on. It was so popular it spent an impressive 156 weeks on the New York Times Best Sellers list. The film rights changed hands several times over the course of eight years before it was put into production. It was finally released in 2019, and it's another one of those movies that I somehow missed when it came out. I'm glad I finally caught it.

"The Art" is a family-friendly film that deals with familial ties, perseverance in the midst of adversity and overcoming a painful loss. It also focuses on the joy and special bond that's formed between humans and our pets. The story is told by a sweet golden retriever named Enzo, named after Enzo Ferrari, the founder of the Ferrari Car Company. Kevin Costner is the voice of the irascible canine and I must say, he's perfect for the part. His voice has a gravelly, raspy tone which fits the character of the wise, old-sage nature of the pooch.

The film features Milo Ventimiglia who plays Denny, a Formula 1 race car driver. Early in his career, Ventimiglia starred in the hit TV series "Gilmore Girls." He more recently appeared in the award-winning show "This Is Us." I've been a fan of his for quite a while and he does an admirable job in this film. Amanda Seyfried ("Mama Mia!," "Mean Girls") also stars in the film. Simon Curtis ("Goodbye Christopher Robin," "Woman in Gold") directed and writing duties were handled by Mark Bomback and the book's author Garth Stein.

We first encounter Enzo as he's lying on the floor of the front hall of his home. He's listless and can barely move. When Denny arrives, he quickly scoops the poor creature up in his arms and comforts him. It's apparent that the dog is near the end of his life. The heartbreaking scene will definitely require the need for a tissue or two. But it's one of the few sad moments for quite a while.

The rest of the movie jumps back in time and is told in a straight, linear timeline. One day, on his way home from the racetrack, Denny spots a "Dogs for Sale" sign and he stops to check it out. He really has no intention of bringing home a new pet, but when he spots the cutest little puppy, he's instantly smitten. It's love at first sight, and he ends up adopting the handsome dog he would inevitably name Enzo. And it's Enzo who relates the story.

Denny spends almost every waking moment with his new pal. Enzo especially enjoys his time at the race track. While Denny doesn't win a lot of races, he proves himself to be a valuable member of his Formula 1 team due to his skills maneuvering a race car in the rain. He's an absolute master in challenging situations and he's totally in love with the world of racing. It's what he was born to do. That is, until he meets Eve (Seyfried) on the street one day. They immediately hit it off and within a year, the two are married (with Enzo being the ring bearer). It isn't long before Eve gives birth to a darling daughter Zoe (Ryan Kiera Armstrong).

The four are one happy family and Eve is totally supportive of Denny's racing career, even though he's away from home a fair amount of time. Then tragedy strikes when Eve is diagnosed with cancer. Obviously it's a huge blow to them and when she passes away after a brave fight, the family is devastated. To make matters even worse, Eve's parents don't feel that Denny is capable of raising their young granddaughter. Unfortunately, a horrible custody battle begins. It isn't tragic enough to lose one's wife, but then to add a legal fight into the bargain is almost more than Denny can bear.

But one of the key themes to the movie is bouncing back after a tragedy. Whether it's on the race track or life in general, the important thing is to claw your way back. It's something Enzo is so good at reminding us about. Plus it's just one of the numerous bits of advice the observant canine shares with us through the course of this delightful movie. The film offers wonderful life lessons we all can learn from, no matter how young or old we are.

Currently streaming on Netflix, YouTube TV, and Disney with a subscription. And to rent on Apple TV, Fandango, and Prime.

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually buy it!

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

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



Enzo comforts Eve.



Enzo gets the ride of his life.



Zoe (Ryan Kiera Armstrong), Eve (Amanda Seyfried), Enzo and Denny (Milo Ventimiglia).

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



After a few positive dupe experiences, I fear I've become addicted to trying every dupe in sight. Again, I wanted something nice I wasn't willing to splurge on at the moment. This time, what I wanted was the viral Aritzia Babaton Revive Poplin dress that seemed absolutely perfect for my job, a trip to Italy or almost any occasion. What's not perfect is the price: $150. Not that it's THAT crazy, but when there is a dupe lurking on Amazon for $36.99, it is tempting.



Aritzia.



Pretty Garden.

The original Aritzia dress comes in multiple colors. The top is made from 94 percent nylon and 6 percent elastane, while the bottom of the dress is 100 percent cotton. The top is a nice, stretch fabric that hits all the right areas you want to hide — like arm and back bits that like to pop out.

The dupe is by Pretty Garden and comes in six colors. The top is made of 90 percent viscose and 10 percent elastane, while the skirt portion is 60 percent Tencel and 40 percent cotton. The dupe feels nice and it's not super cheap looking. One not-great feature of the dupe dress is that mine came with a giant hole in the pocket, which obviously speaks to the overall quality.

As you can probably see from the photos, the dresses are very similar. The OG Aritzia is a great dress and probably worth buying. From my experience, the dupe dress also is a decent-ish item. It traveled well on our summer vacation with flat sandals, was nice and breezy to wear to work and I would look forward to throwing a cardigan or jacket over it for fall if it held up to the washer and dryer (which it didn't, really).

Note: The dupe dress is not as long as it appears in the photo, at least on my 5 feet, 8 inches. Other than the pocket being ripped, this dress fits the bill for a current, easy sundress that is good for spring, summer or early fall if it would have lasted. I am giving this one 3 alligators because it fits great and the price is right. However, the quality just isn't there, unlike pieces you can find locally at our boutiques. You can find it here: https://amzn.to/4z8p4cT.

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

5 Out Of 5



The snack struggle

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

As a parent, I've always had a complicated relationship with snacks. Ninety percent of the snacks my kids eat are empty calories packed in brightly-colored bags. And these brightly-colored bags cost a fortune and are gone in two days.

Sure, I always have cucumbers and carrots, apples and strawberries on hand. And they'll tolerate them for a bit. But you better believe that there is always a shriveled up bag of carrots that finds its way back home and eventually gets thrown out. And sending them with an apple feels like a ticking time bomb, a race against oxidation, and the apple wins every time. They won't eat a brown apple and they certainly won't eat apple slices drenched in lemon juice. Why can't they just fill up at meal times and have a banana and some yogurt in between?

On the flip side of this, I decided to follow my son around for a day this summer to get an idea of how much energy he was actually expending during the day. And the result was, I've never been so hungry in my life. Within the first two hours, I had played pickleball, played three games of tennis and went tubing. The fact is that I'm not at all as active as them.

How can I provide snacking options that they will actually eat without feeling like I'm breaking the bank and giving them more crap. Also, how am I going to find time to make something at home?

A small part of this answer was found when I came across a recipe from Healthy Little Vittles. Gina Fontana writes about cookie dough balls in various flavors that are gluten-free and vegan. We are not a gluten-free household, but these snacks looked like they took no time to make and had just a few ingredients. The base for these cookie dough bites is almond flour with any kind of nut butter and maple syrup. The rest is just fun add-ins. I've shared her chocolate chip cookie dough and churro recipes. These bites took about seven minutes to make and there is no baking involved. The best part is that I've seen my kids walk by the refrigerator and grab one either in passing through the kitchen or on their way out the door. They are tasty, sweet and satisfying. They've got a decent amount of protein in them but try adding a scoop of protein powder for an added boost.

Trust me, I have plenty of brightly-colored, bagged snacks lying around the house. And they won't be going anywhere anytime soon. But I'd like to think they'll last a bit longer with these cookie bites around as an easy grab-and-go option. Give these a try during your next weekly meal-prep session. But be warned, they don't last very long.

Cheers, Mombeau

Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough

(Yields 12-14)

1 ½ cups almond flour

¼ cup peanut butter

¼ cup maple syrup

1 tsp vanilla extract

¼ tsp salt

⅓ cup dark chocolate chips

In a bowl, combine all ingredients. Use a wooden spoon to mix everything together into a soft dough.

Then with a spoon or small melon baller, shape into tablespoon balls. Let them set in the fridge for about 30 minutes before snacking!

Churro Bites

(Yields 12-14)

1 ½ cups almond flour

¼ cup almond butter

¼ cup maple syrup

2 tsp cinnamon

1 tsp vanilla extract

¼ tsp salt

½ cup cane sugar

2 tsp cinnamon

Add the almond flour, almond butter, syrup, two teaspoons of cinnamon, vanilla and salt to a bowl. Use a wooden spoon to mix into a soft dough. Then with a spoon or small melon baller, shape into tablespoon balls. Combine the cane sugar and remaining cinnamon on a small plate. Roll each ball in the sugar mixture. Place them on a plate and let them set in the refrigerator for about 30 minutes before snacking!

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Grosse Pointe News



Translating labels

Approximately four bottles of wine out of every 10 sold in this country are from overseas. When they come from Italy, France or Spain, some of the better wines are not easy to identify.

The reason for this is that in several countries the name of the district is all that is needed, not the name of the grape. The law allows many wines to carry geographical data; the name of the grape variety isn't required.

In fact, using the grape's name actually suggests that the wine is not of high quality. So although a wine called Meursault is, by law, entirely made from chardonnay, the grape will not be mentioned if the district name, such as Meursault, is there.

This creates problems for Americans who are unfamiliar with imported wines' place-naming system. Here are a few common translations that might help:

Vouvray, Savennieres and Anjou are three smaller regions within the larger Loire Valley of France that produce white wines made entirely of chenin blanc. Most of them are slightly sweet. Those designated "Sec" are dry.

Bourgogne Passe-tout-grain (poss-too-grah) is seen only occasionally. It is a lighter-styled red wine made from a blend of gamay and pinot noir in burgundy and can be a good value.

Chianti (key-ahn-tee) is a widely distributed, light-styled, tart red wine made from Sangiovese that goes nicely with red-sauced dishes like chicken cacciatore and pizza.

Chinon and Saumur (she-nohn an sao-moor) are red wines from the Loire Valley, both made from cabernet franc. Neither wine is typically aged in small oak barrels and their elegant fruit works nicely with grilled salmon.

Cotes du Rhone (coat-due-roan) usually refers to a rustic red wine blend of 27 approved Rhone Valley grapes like grenache (usually dominant), mourvedre and syrah.

Langhe Nebbiolo (lahng-ehh): One of my favorite red wines, it is usually a pale red from north of Milan in Piemonte. It is usually made by producers that also make Barolo from the same grape. In recent years, Langhe Nebbiolo's reputation has increased, especially from Alba.

Cava and Sekt (kah-vuh, zekt) are sparkling wines. The former is from Spain and typically is made from local grape varieties xarel-lo, macabeo and parellada. Most Sekt is produced from riesling.

Nizza (neet-zah) spans 18 Italian districts covering more than 600 acres, all of which are planted to Barbera grapes. The products of numerous producers once were called Barbera d' Asti Superiore Nizza, but the Italian government now allows just Nizza as a special designation, indicating quality.

Quincy (can-see): Another Loire Valley subdistrict, which gained official government status 90 years ago, mainly because of its distinctive and more subtle white wines made mostly of sauvignon blanc with a small amount of sauvignon gris.

Wine of the Week:

2025 Domaine Mardon Quincy, Cuvee Tres Vieilles Vignes ($25) — The aroma of this "old vine" classic Loire Sauvignon Blanc displays lemon peel and hints of citrus blossoms and minerals. The entry is slightly soft, but the wine is dry, though not austere. It is similar to wines from the neighboring region of Sancerre (sahn-sair) and is priced about $15 to $20 less.

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

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Situations Wanted

300 SITUATIONS WANTED BABYSITTERS

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Merchandise

409 GARAGE / YARD / RUMMAGE SALE

GARAGE & BBQ Sale
14111 Carlisle St.
Detroit
September 25 and 26
10am- 6pm
New Mac computer, used laptop, living room set, recliner couch, dishes, clothes, shoes, deep freezer, pictures, Christmas decorations and more.
Everything must go!

GARAGE Sale
344 Moselle Place
(Behind Brownell)
Thursday 9/24
12:00-6:00
Friday 9/25
10:00-4:00
Saturday 9/26
10:00 - 4:00
BOOKS - elementary through adult
Men's, women's, teen girl's clothes (Prom & HOCO dresses)
Costume jewelry
Sports equipment
Electronics
Furniture

409 GARAGE / YARD / RUMMAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE
361 Belanger,
Grosse Pointe Farms
• Household items
• Antique sports equipment
• Framed artwork
• Evening wear
• Garden tools
• Much more
Friday, Saturday
September 25, 26
9:00- 4:00

GIANT RUMMAGE SALE
Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church,
211 Moross Rd.,
Grosse Pointe Farms,
October 2, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
October 3, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Clothing, housewares, furniture, books, electronics, holiday items, toys, linens, sporting goods, collectibles and more!
No admission fee, but shoppers encouraged to bring a canned good for donation to the Immanuel United Methodist Church pantry.

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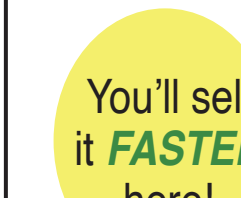
Automotive

604 ANTIQUE / CLASSIC



1995 Mercedes Benz C280 sedan
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classifieds
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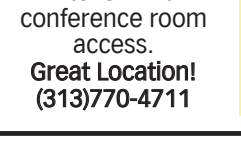
604 ANTIQUE / CLASSIC



2014 Chevrolet Camaro
V6 Automatic. Low mileage=25066. White with black cloth interior. 2nd owner. Excellent condition. $16,500.00.
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Full time residence or weekend retreat.
This property checks every box.
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$1,180,000.
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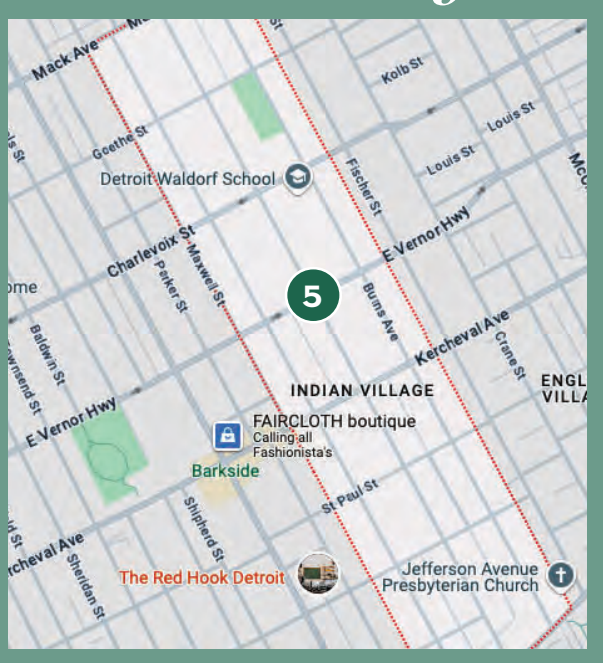
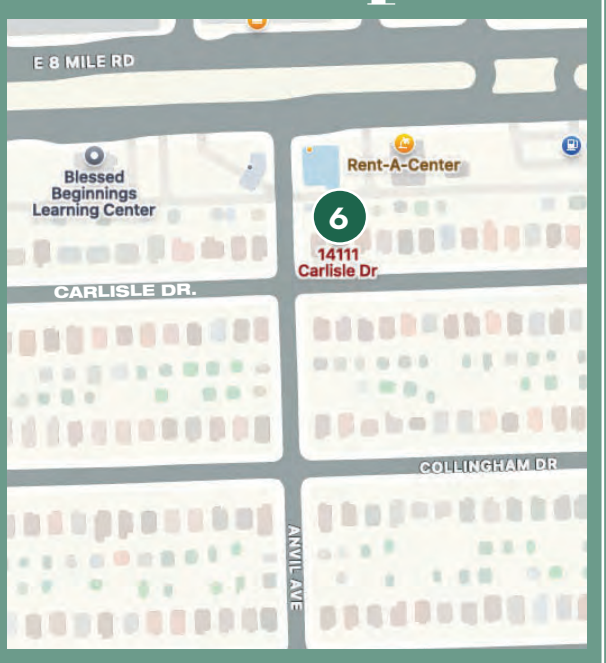
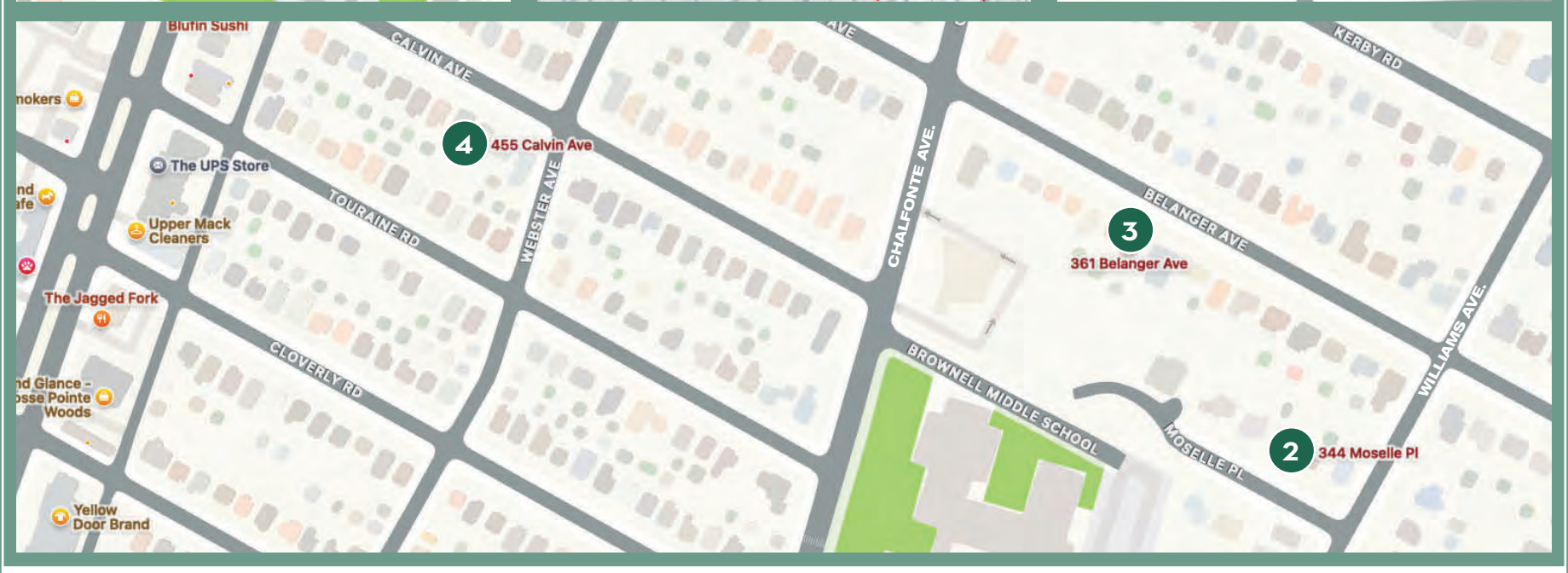
Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map









THIS WEEK: September 24, 2026

1. 211 Moross Rd., GPF
2. 344 Moselle Place, GPF
3. 361 Belanger Ave., GPF
4. 455 Calvin Ave., GPF
5. Indian Village, Det.
6. 14111 Carlisle Dr., Det.

● = YARD SALE ● = ESTATE SALE
See Classifieds for more details

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

9/17 Solution

9/24

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Pointe Word Search

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

BOLTS
CHAIN
HAZARD
INSPECT
KIDS
MONKEY BARS
PAINT
PATH
PLAYGROUND
SAFETY
SHARP
SLIDE
SWINGS
TRIP
WEAR
WOOD

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

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in PISCES.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, September 24, 2026: You're sensual, pleasure loving and need to love and be loved. You're considerate and empathetic. Make time to renew your spiritual or religious beliefs. Explore philosophies that give you better self-awareness and get you closer to the meaning of your life.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Keep your pockets open because money might come to you today. Or perhaps you'll receive favors, tips, an advantage or a gift. This is also an affectionate today that can promote flirtations and romance. Be patient with family. Tonight: Pleasant solitude.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

This is a lovely day to enjoy the company of partners, spouses and close friends, because you feel friendly and easygoing. Primarily, you're keen to work and be productive. However, make time to relax with loved ones. Tonight: Friendships.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

You make an attractive impression on your world today. Be aware that people see you as gentle, sensitive and caring. It's possible that you might use this image to work for you in some way. As the saying goes: "Be sincere! Even if you have to fake it." Tonight: Be modest.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

This is a truly romantic day for you, and some of you might be attracted to someone who is different from the kind of person you generally meet. This might mean a slight flirtation, or it could be a deepening of a prior attraction. Tonight: New discoveries.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

This is a romantic and affectionate day for you. However, you also might use this same energy to make where you live look more attractive and then invite people over to share your good feelings. Tonight: Check your finances.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today you feel pleasant and friendly with everyone! You might have an increased interest in the arts because your appreciation of beauty is heightened. Tonight: Be interested.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is a favorable day for financial negotiations as well as shopping for beautiful things. You also might attract money to you today. Certainly, it's a favorable day to discuss earnings that are work-related. Tonight: Work is rewarding.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

This is a lovely, romantic day for you because the Moon is dancing with fair Venus. It's the perfect day for a date. Make plans with your main squeeze. Tonight: Socialize.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This is a pleasant day to enjoy the privacy of your own home and just relax in pleasant surroundings. Choose your guilty pleasure to snack on. It's also the perfect day for a secret love affair or a mysterious rendezvous. Tonight: Enjoy time at home.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

RToday you have the gift of gab. You are charming, diplomatic and keenly tuned into the moods of others. It's also a great day for flirtations with friends, especially artistic types. Tonight: Informative discussions.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You can attract money to you today, which is why this is an excellent day for financial discussions. Make your pitch. Ask for a raise. You can't win if you don't buy a ticket. People admire you today. Tonight: Maintain your belongings.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

It's a lovely day! The Moon is in your sign dancing beautifully with fair Venus, making all your interactions with others charming and mutually rewarding. This planetary dance particularly favors romance and fun socializing. Tonight: You're in charge.

BORN TODAY

Actor Ryan Paevey (1984), screenwriter, actress Nia Vardalos (1962), writer F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896).

Contract Bridge

PLAN AHEAD

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 4 2
♥ A 9
♦ K J 10 9 8 3
♣ 6

WEST
♠ J 10 3
♥ K Q 8 7 6
♦ 7 5 2
♣ J 9

EAST
♠ 9
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ A Q
♣ Q 10 8 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 6 5
♥ 3 2
♦ 6 4
♣ A K 7 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Some deals remind one of the Sirens of mythology in that they can lure an unsuspecting declarer to his doom by appearing to present no danger.

Consider this case where South got to four spades and West led a heart. It may appear that there is no way declarer can be stopped from scoring at least 10 tricks, and that is precisely the attitude that led to South's demise. Indeed, many declarers might fall into the same trap that South did.

He won the king of hearts with dummy's ace and drew three rounds of trump. He then cashed the A-K of clubs, discarding a heart from dummy, before leading a diamond to dummy's eight. East won with the queen and returned the jack of hearts.

It was about this time that declarer began to realize he was in trouble. If he ruffed the heart with dummy's last trump, he would end up losing two clubs and two diamonds. So instead of ruffing the heart return, he discarded a diamond from dummy.

This merely delayed the inevitable, as East shifted to the queen of clubs. South ruffed in dummy, but when East regained the lead with the diamond ace, he cashed a club for down one.

Declarer had other options in the play, but there was actually a very simple way to make the contract. If declarer had not been in such a hurry to discard dummy's heart loser on a club, he could not have been defeated.

After playing the A-K-Q of trump, South leads a diamond to the eight, losing to the queen. East cashes a heart trick, but now a heart continuation can be ruffed by declarer in his hand, while a club return can be won with the ace. South then concedes a diamond to the ace, wins whatever East returns and ruffs a club in dummy to reach the established diamonds.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg September 24, 2026

ACROSS
1 Citric ___
5 Big name in '90s gaming
9 Inbox annoyance
13 It may start with a gunshot
14 "Go, me!"
16 Museo offering
17 Pinata material
19 Mottled horse
20 Camel features
21 Hamstring exercise
23 Iffy, as one's phone reception
25 Amateur broadcaster's set
26 Like some teddies
27 Michael of "SNL"
29 Greek goddess of dawn
30 Seek an answer
31 Harbor markers
33 Saudi's neighbor
37 Abbr. in many Quebec place names
38 Box for streaming "Severance" or "Ted Lasso"
40 Lithium-___ battery
41 "The Seasons" composer
43 "My mistake!"
44 Gateway Arch city: Abbr.
45 NFL units
47 ___-Wan Kenobi
48 "Don't leave me," for example
49 Analog scheduling aid
53 Quick
55 Jetsam's partner
56 Dots on a subway map
57 Care for
58 People's reading, watching and listening regimens ... or a hint to 17-, 25-, 38- and 49-Across?
62 They can't be returned
63 Like noble gases
64 Seize
65 Campsite sight
66 Postage-paid enc.
67 Alphabetical order?

DOWN
1 Joan of ___
2 Park it!
3 Sport for Kings and Senators
4 Second in command
5 Tot's drink holder
6 Memorable time spans
7 Political initials first printed in 1884
8 Fast Amtrak train
9 Humor that doesn't always come across over text
10 Like parents at a graduation ceremony
11 Big name in '80s gaming
12 ___ Park (site of Edison's lab)
15 Krispy ___
18 One trained in CPR
22 Cool, in '60s slang
23 / or \
24 Common trattoria fare
25 "Yo, check it out!"
28 Moves like a kangaroo
31 Quaint lodgings, informally
32 Certain Balkan native
34 Preferred spot for some air travelers
35 "Point taken!"
36 Bit of dental work
39 Pertaining to Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, e.g.
42 Diagnostic involving the injection of colored fluid
46 "Me too!"
48 Pumpkin seed
49 C sharp, by another name
50 Wonderland girl
51 Arcade "coin"
52 Black cats, to some
54 Peas-ful place?
56 Dames' counterparts
59 Part of the DOJ
60 Bout stopper, for short
61 "Oh yeah? ___ who?"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

M	M	M					B	R	A	T		R	E	F
T	O	U	C	A	N		A	U	R	A		E	A	R
V	I	S	H	N	U		M	E	E	T	C	U	T	E
		H	O	O	T	S		D	A	T	A	S	E	T
R	I	R	I		M	T	G			O	P	E	N	S
I	P	O		S	E	E	R		R	O	I			
P	H	O	T	O	G	R	A	P	H		T	A	R	P
C	O	M	E	M	O	N	D	A	Y		A	C	E	S
U	N	C	H	A	I	N	E	D	M	E	L	O	D	Y
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9/17 Solution

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North bounces back with win over Fitzgerald

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Everything seemed to be working against the Grosse Pointe North varsity football team in the buildup to its game against Warren Fitzgerald Friday, Sept. 18. Coming off their first loss of the season a week earlier, the Norsemen had to adjust to what was supposed to be a home game against Fitzgerald becoming a road game due to power issues at North's home stadium. Ultimately, North rallied against the adversity and came away with a 20-13 victory over the Spartans.

"I think I gave them every coaching cliche in the book this week," North football head coach Joe Drouin said following the win. "I told them that true champions overcome adversity and we need to just control the things that we can control. We can only control our effort. ... We were able to overcome adversity and it says a lot about these guys."



Peter Rheaume sprints to the end zone after catching a pass. Rheaume scored both of North's touchdowns in the team's 20-13 win over Fitzgerald.

Neither North nor Fitzgerald came out firing right away in last Friday's game. The two sides battled to a stalemate through the first quarter. It was not until midway through the second quarter that there was any movement on the scoreboard. The first points of the night were scored by the Spartans, with Angelo Lipscomb running into the end zone to give Fitzgerald a 7-0 lead.

North's offense finally got a spark late in the first half when senior quarterback Edward Macaulay connected with Peter Rheaume for a 42-yard touchdown that tied the game at 7-7 with less than two minutes to go before the break. North's defense made a quick stop that gave the offense the ball back with time to put up more points before halftime. The Norsemen got a 49-yard field goal from junior kicker Ben Savich as time expired in the first half to take a three-point lead into the locker room.

It did not take long into the second half for Fitzgerald to reclaim the lead, however. A mistake by Macaulay led to a pick-six for the Spartans defense that put Fitzgerald back on top 13-10 early in the third quarter. Later in the third, Rheaume once again made a big play for the Norsemen, returning a punt for 41 yards into the end zone to make it 17-13 with North back in front.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Grosse Pointe North senior quarterback Edward Macaulay drops back to pass against Fitzgerald Friday, Sept. 18.

"He can transform a game one way or another," Drouin said about Rheaume. "... He's a true leader and one of the best kids in the school. He's a great athlete and I can't say enough about Peter and what he brings to this team."

Special teams plays like Rheaume's punt return and the staunchness of North's defense made the difference in the end. The Norsemen kept Fitzgerald off the scoreboard in the fourth quarter and another Savich field goal in the final frame ended up being the last points of the night, extending North's lead to 20-13, where it remained until the final whistle.

The win improved North's record to 3-1 through the first four weeks of the season and marked the team's first MAC Gold Division win of the year. The Norsemen are on the road for their upcoming matchup in Week 5 against MAC Gold foe Lake Shore.

The Shorians enter the meeting with a 1-3 record for the season after a 59-8 loss against Lamphere last week. Kickoff between North and Lake Shore is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Kowalski thrives in net for South field hockey

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

In a sport like field hockey, good goalkeeping can be a true game changer. The Grosse Pointe South varsity field hockey team feels lucky to have a goalkeeper it believes is among the best in the state. That goalie is senior Harriet Kowalski, a veteran leader who helps set the tone for the Blue Devils both on and off the field.

Kowalski is the last line of defense for South in a position in which she has never shied away from. She may not have started as a goalkeeper when she began playing field hockey in sixth grade, but she quickly fell in love with the position once she gave it a try. The rest has been history and the four-year varsity player for the Blue Devils is now one of the most important pieces on what could be a championship-caliber team this fall.



"I learned that I really thrive under the pressure of being a goalkeeper," Kowalski said. "It's a big position on the team and I learned to enjoy it right away. ... I take a lot of pride in that pressure and I work hard every day to be someone that my teammates can trust."

Kowalski has earned that trust from her team. She was named first team All-State last season by the Michigan High School Field Hockey Coaches Association and has continued to play at a level worthy of accolades again so far this fall. Through nine games this season, Kowalski has recorded four shutouts and is allowing an average of less than one goal per game.

Blue Devils Brick Wall

- Recorded 4 shutouts
- Four-year starter and senior captain of South girls field hockey
- Committed to play college field hockey at Maryville University

While she entered the season already known among the state's top goalies, Kowalski said she feels the one thing that has helped her perform at a higher level and be a better leader has been her communication. Goalkeeper can be a very vocal position and Kowalski learned by playing with more experienced goalkeepers in the offseason that strong communication can make all the difference.

"I really found my voice over the past year," she said. "Being on travel teams with older goalkeepers who knew how to communicate, I always felt like I was a bit too quiet at my position. This year, I've really found my voice and everyone on the team just says that they can listen to me. ... It's great to be able to talk to them and control the field through my voice."

That improved communication is something Kowalski feels has made her an even better teammate. Doing whatever she can for the team has always been her top priority, which is why South made her a team captain. Her own accolades or statistics take a back seat to helping the team win no matter what. Kowalski knows her teammates share that same commitment and that strong chemistry is helping turn South into winners.

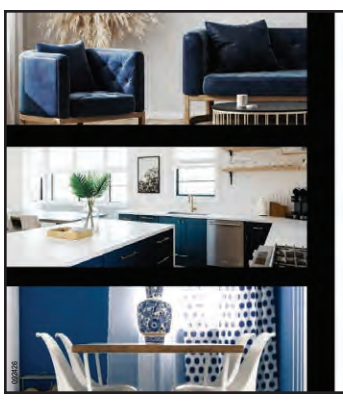


COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe South field hockey senior goalkeeper Harriet Kowalski calls out to her team from the net.

"Being on varsity for

See ATHLETE, page 2D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South football dominates Stevenson, improves to 4-0

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

So far this fall, nobody has stopped the Grosse Pointe South varsity football team. That trend continued Friday, Sept. 18. The Blue Devils hosted Stevenson in a MAC Red Division showdown where South improved to 4-0 with a dominant 38-0 win against the Titans.

"We felt like this was the most complete game that we've played in all phases," South football head coach Chad Hepner said. "It was a good indicator that we're improving every week and getting closer to the team that we want to be."

The Blue Devils seemed in control from the beginning, as shown by the fact South scored on its very first offensive play of the game. Senior quarterback Sam Rouleau found Kooper Richards for a touchdown that gave the Blue Devils the early lead.

South did not look back after that. The defense recovered a fumble that was followed by a touchdown run by Charlie Michelotti to extend South's lead. A field goal by Nadeem Haurani added three more points to the board in the first half before Richards caught his second touchdown of the game, giving South a 24-0 lead in the second quarter. The Blue Devils added more to the scoreboard with a touchdown pass from Rouleau to Nolan Gross and a rushing touchdown by Rouleau before the night was over.

Rouleau finished the game with 11 completions on 14 passing attempts for 186 yards and three touchdowns. Richards led the way in receiving with six catches for 100 yards along with his two scores. Michelotti was the leader on the ground, carrying the rock 17 times for 84 yards and finding the end zone once.

South's defense showed a dominant effort in the game, holding Stevenson to just 146 yards of offense. Throop Linnell, Alex Young and Henry Getz each recorded a sack. Liam Willson and Charlie Bedsworth each forced fumbles on defense as well.

While the win brought their record to 4-0 and into a tie at the top of the MAC Red Division, the Blue Devils will face perhaps their toughest test yet in Week 5. South travels to face Romeo, who also enters the game undefeated and is the team South is tied with atop the division standings.

"One thing that we have to focus on is the uniqueness of their offense," Hepner said about preparing for the matchup with Romeo. "It's difficult to replicate in practice all week, so we want to see if we can get a good look at their schemes and what they do on offense to best prepare ourselves."

Romeo currently is ranked No. 11 in the state, according to TheDZone.com, while South is No. 22. The Bulldogs are coming off a win over Dakota last week. Kickoff for South at Romeo is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South senior receiver Kooper Richards reaches the end zone on the Blue Devils' first offensive play of the game against Stevenson Friday, Sept. 18.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Senior running back Charlie Michelotti finds the end zone last Friday against Stevenson, in just his second game back from a preseason injury.



ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

all four years, I know that the team turns into a family so quickly every season," she said. "This year, there was something so special about the way that we would choose to show up for each other. Every team has a choice of whether they want to be excellent or not and everybody chose to show up this year to every game and every practice and put in the work."

Kowalski's play on the field and her abilities as a leader caught the eyes of college programs a long time ago, but her decision on where she would continue her field hockey career came just recently. Kowalski has committed to play Division II collegiate field hockey at Maryville University in St. Louis.

The decision came after a long recruitment process, but Kowalski ultimately felt Maryville was the right place for her to continue as a competitor.

"The communication and the coaching staff there were absolutely amazing," she said. "They gave me time to make sure that it was really where I wanted to be and I decided that it was. I met the team and all the girls are amazing. They're super competitive and I want to be somewhere with a team that's always ready to compete."

While Kowalski has some time left this season to help lead the Blue Devils to a successful fall, many feel she will continue to thrive at the next level once her high school career concludes. She has been around many of the same coaches during her time in field hockey. They know that the type of player and leader she is will put her in a position to do great things in the future.

"She has a passion for the game and has put in the work, both physically and mentally, to be a top goalkeeper in the state," South field hockey head coach Jessie Rouleau said. "... She leads with strength, confidence and determination and has that team-first mentality that makes her a great leader."



COURTESY PHOTO

Harriet Kowalski stands at the front of the South field hockey team during the national anthem.

Unbeaten North boys soccer keeps rolling against Fraser

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Winning streaks in sports are nice, but when the streak gets into double digits, that is when it starts to feel like something special is really happening. The Grosse Pointe North varsity boys soccer team is starting to get that special feeling this season.

After more than a month of games, the Norsemen have yet to see a mark in the loss column. The team extended its winning streak to 11 games Monday, Sept. 21, with another dominant effort on the road in a 4-0 win over Fraser.

"The boys keep getting better every single week," North boys soccer head coach Nino Maniaci said. "They're starting to move the ball with great urgency and starting to trend toward playing good soccer at the right time."

The Norsemen came out firing right away in Monday's match. Vinny Bonasso found the back of the net in the game's opening minute to put North ahead 1-0 from the jump. Matthew Eshman added another goal for North just a couple of minutes later to extend the lead. The 2-0 advantage lasted until halftime.

Up by a pair of goals entering the second half, the Norsemen added more before sealing the victory. Bonasso scored his second of the game and Dylan Hojara put one more on the scoreboard for North as the team marched to another win.

Monday's victory brought North's record this fall to 11-0 and was the squad's fifth win in MAC Blue Division play. It also was the second consecutive shutout for the Norsemen after beating Sterling Heights 8-0 in its previous game Wednesday, Sept. 16.

While the wins keep piling up for North, the team wants to remain focused on the next game and not look too far ahead. The coaches feel that the team's ability to take everything one game at a time is what has helped so far and that the players need to continue to embrace that mindset going forward.

"I'm really proud of how they're approaching the '1-0' mentality every single game," Maniaci said. "Our first goal was to win the division and we're making great progress with that. I love the way they're all celebrating each other's success. This is a great group to coach."

North visited Warren Mott after press time Wednesday, Sept. 23. After three straight road games, the Norsemen return home Monday, Sept. 28, hosting Marysville at 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Grosse Pointe North senior Matthew Eshman dribbles through a group of Fraser defenders. Eshman scored one of the Norsemen's four goals in a win over the Ramblers Monday, Sept. 21.

South field hockey still feels like contender as season rolls on

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity field hockey team entered this season believing it could be a serious state championship contender and over the past couple of weeks, some might say the Blue Devils are playing up to that caliber. South has faced some of its toughest competition of the season over the past week and earned a couple of big victories.

"It's been a great start for us," South field hockey head coach Jessie Rouleau said. "Our coaching staff is really proud of the work this team has put in every day in practice to elevate our game. ... This is a special group and it's been a privilege to coach them so far this season."

South hosted Liggett Tuesday, Sept. 15, and defeated the Knights 5-0. Hannah Agnone scored twice, while Madeline Roy, Terese Carron and Wells Webber all added goals as well. Harriet Kowalski notched the shutout in net for the Blue Devils — her third of the year so far.

The Blue Devils went on the road later in the week facing Cranbrook-Kingswood Thursday, Sept. 17. South continued its winning streak with a 6-0 win over the Cranes, this time led by a pair of goals from Webber. Agnone and Carron found the back of the net again, with additional goals scored by Evie Baer and Mia Rouleau.

The winning streak, which had reached five games, came to an end for South Monday, Sept. 21. The Blue Devils hosted Saline and fell 3-1, with Webber scoring the only goal of the night for South.

The loss brought the Blue Devils' record to 6-4 with a few weeks still remaining in the regular season. South hosted crosstown foe Grosse Pointe North after press time Wednesday, Sept. 23. The team is at home again Tuesday, Sept. 29, taking on West Bloomfield at 7:30 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

South junior Wells Webber winds up for a shot in a game against Rockford Sept. 12.

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BOILER & TEMPERATURE CONTROLS REPLACEMENT
PARCELLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, Wayne County, Michigan, will receive sealed bids for the Boiler & Temperature Controls Replacement at Parcells Middle School, 20600 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236. The work generally consists of:

- Removal of existing boilers, domestic water heater, water storage tank, piping, steam condensate return units, bucket traps, and other items identified in the contract documents.
- Removal of existing pool boiler (not to be replaced).
- Installation of new boilers, domestic water heater, water storage tank, piping, steam condensate return units, bucket traps, steam traps, pipe insulation, and other items identified in the contract documents.
- Installation of new temperature controls system including control valves, wiring, control panels, etc. as identified in the contract documents.
- Roof penetrations and associated flashings for new thru-roof penetrations.

Specifications and Bid Forms will be available to Prime Contractors beginning **Tuesday, October 6, 2026** by contacting the office of the Architect, Ehresman Architects, via email at architects@ehresmanarchitects.com. The Architect will issue the requesting company(s) electronic (.pdf) files of the Contract Documents including drawings and specifications. The cost of document reproduction will be the responsibility of the requesting party.

Bid documents will also be available for examination (no purchase) at the following locations:

- Ehresman Architects
- Construction Association of Michigan (CAM)
- Dodge Data & Analytics
- Construction Market Data (CMD)
- Construction Data Company (CDC)

A **Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid** meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 15, 2026 @ 3:30 p.m. (local time)** at the receiving area at Parcells Middle School, 20600 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236. If the contractor desires to visit the project site at other times, please contact the Building Engineer, Mr. Chuck Rose @ 313-432-4605 to arrange any site visit(s) to review the project conditions prior to the bid due date. It is the contractor's responsibility to review and become familiar with the job site, conditions, etc. prior to submitting its bid to the district.

Sealed bids will be due **Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. (local time)** at the Administration Building of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, 20601 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, at which time and place the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud.

The School Board will not consider, accept, or open a bid received after the date and time specified for bid submission in this advertisement for bid.

The bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond valued at five percent (5%) of the proposer's maximum bid amount.

The bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner(s) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education of the School District or the Superintendent of the School District. The Board of Education shall not accept a bid that does not include this sworn and notarized familial relationship disclosure statement.

The bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance - Iran Economic Sanctions Act representing and warranting that the Contractor (including its officers, directors and employees) is not an "Iran linked business" within the meaning of the Iran Economic Sanctions Act, Michigan Public Act No. 517 of 2012.

Grosse Pointe Public School System's Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, to waive any informalities or irregularities therein, or to award the contract to other than the contractor(s) submitting the best financial Bid Proposal (low bidder), in its sole and absolute discretion.

This project will not be funded by federal or state monies.

Please direct questions to:

- Marc Chamberlin, Senior Architect / Partner at 248-244-9710 (ext. 105) or marc@ehresmanarchitects.com

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Valarie St. John, Secretary (Grosse Pointe Public School System)

Published: GPN, September 24, 2026

THURSDAY COMICS

Grosse Pointe News

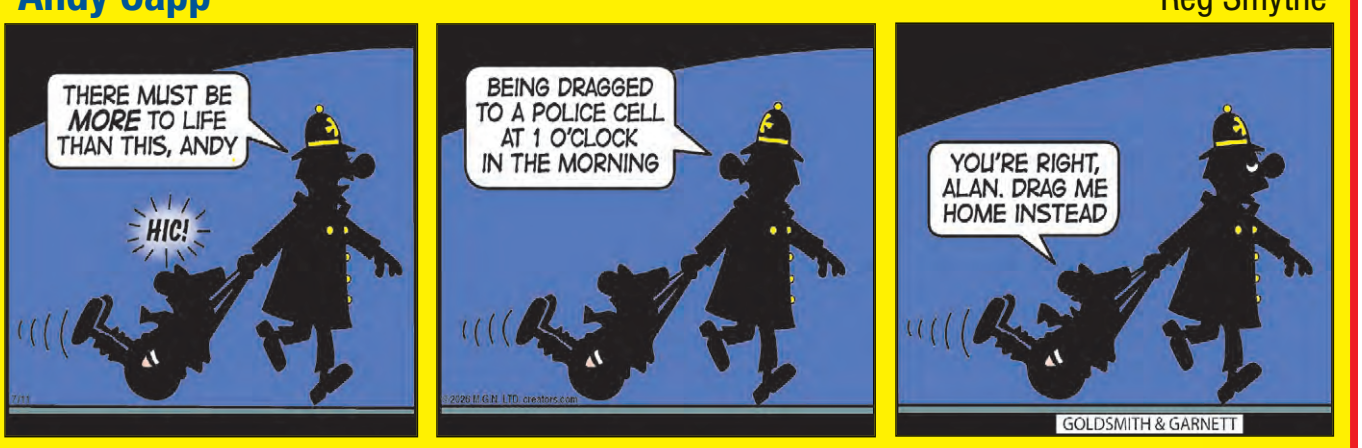
Peanuts — Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro — Dan Piraro and Wayno



Andy Capp — Reg Smythe



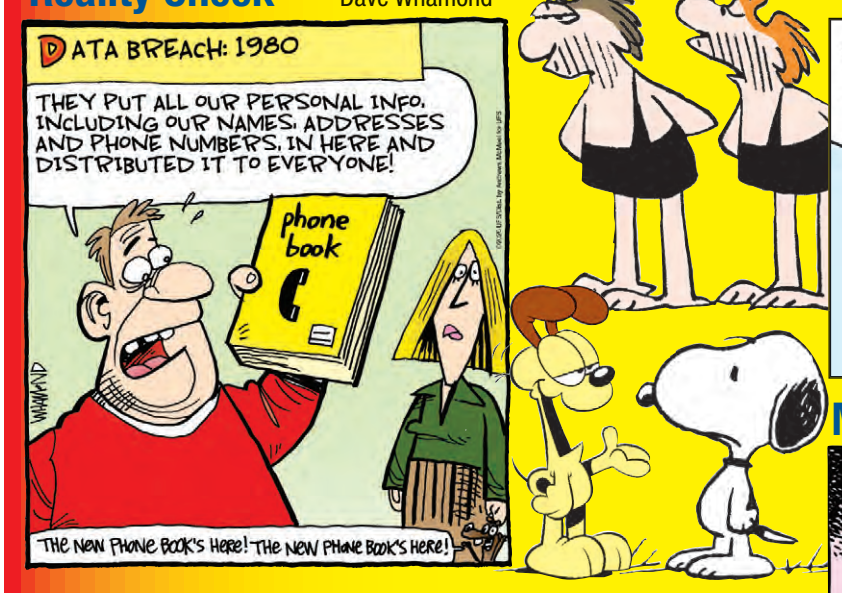
The Flying McCoys — Gary & Glenn McCoy



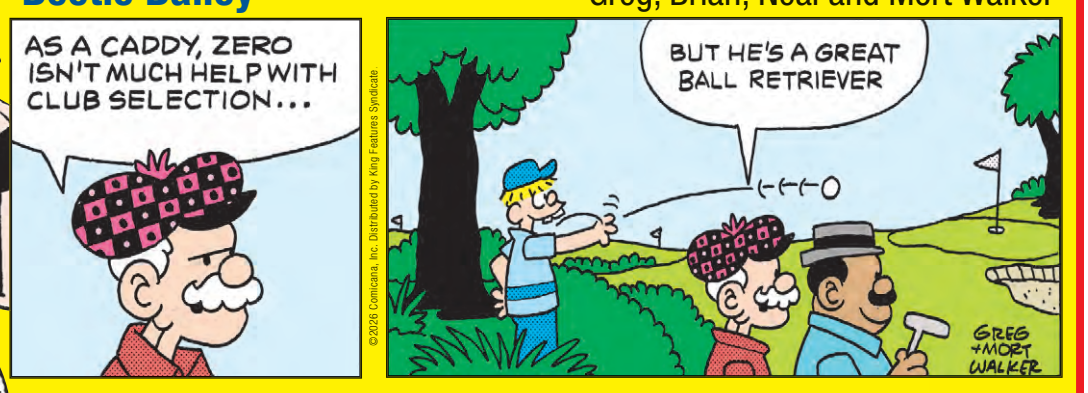
B.C. — Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check — Dave Whamond



Beetle Bailey — Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Mother Goose & Grim — Mike Peters



The Lockhorns — Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

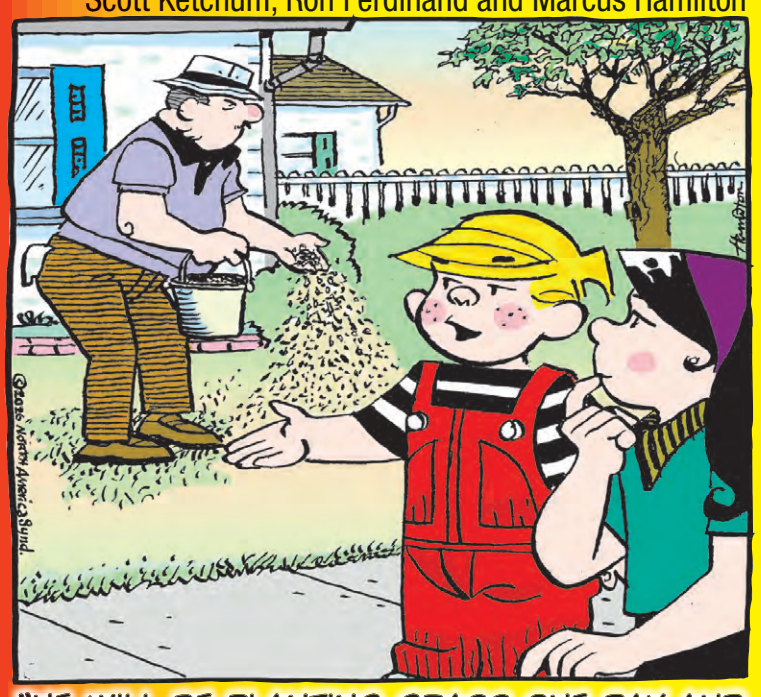


"LORETTA BLUDGEONED ME WITH HER CLUB SANDWICH."

Crankshaft — Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

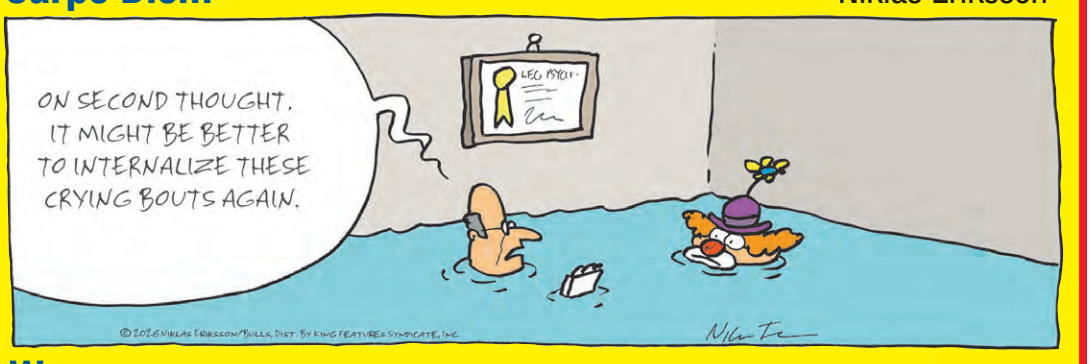


Dennis the Menace — Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



"HE WILL BE PLANTING GRASS ONE DAY AND COMPLAINING ABOUT HAVING TO MOW HIS LAWN THE NEXT DAY."

Carpe Diem — Niklas Eriksson



Wumo — Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Grosse Pointe News

THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis



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Hagar The Horrible

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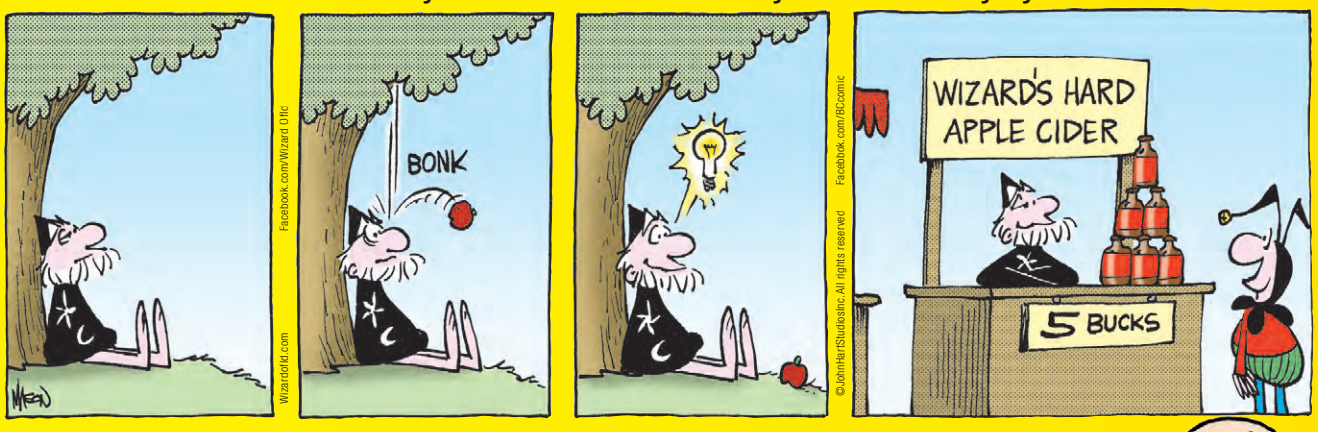

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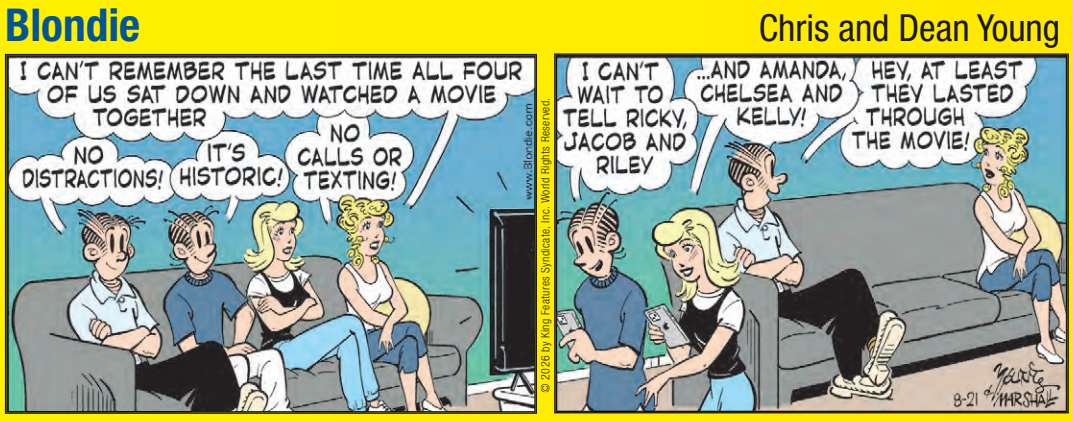

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"Once upon a time, there were no cats..."

Over The Hedge

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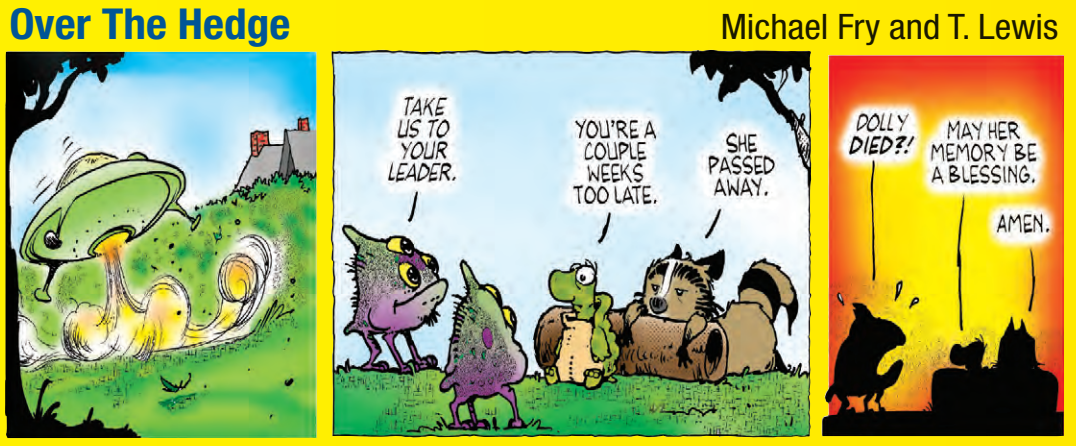

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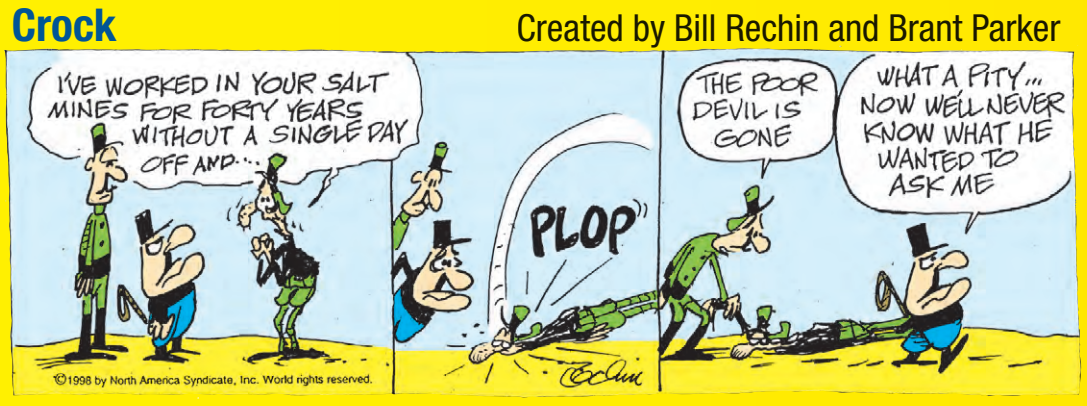

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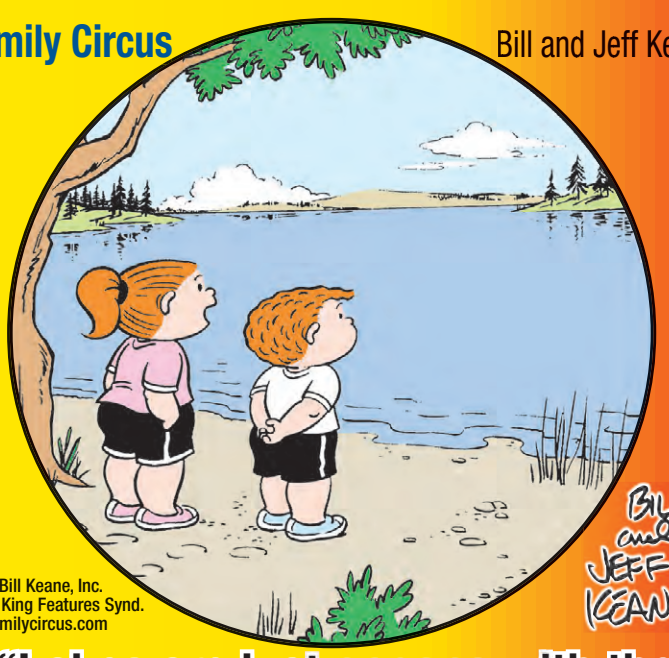

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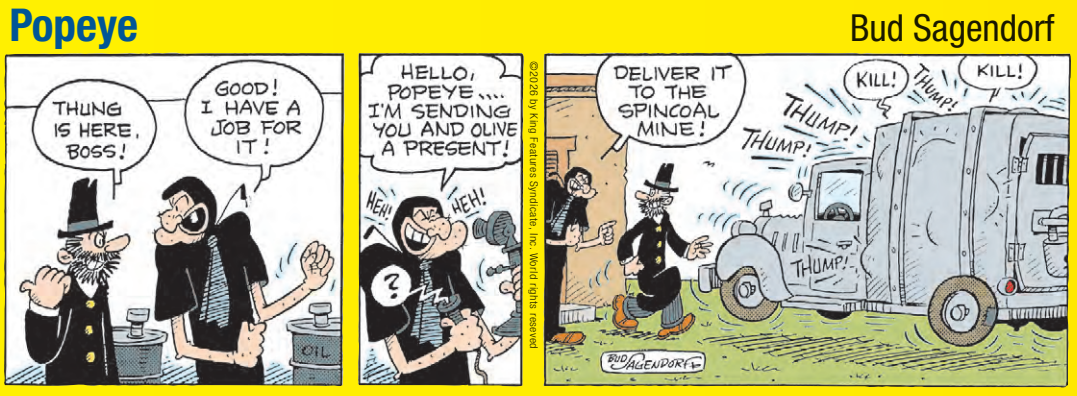
"Lakes are just oceans with the waves turned off."

Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



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F Minus

Tony Carrillo





‘Coach B’ celebrates 25 years of growing lacrosse in the Pointes

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

For 25 years, Ken Brubaker, known by many as “Coach B,” has been one of the leading figures in growing the game of lacrosse in Grosse Pointe and across the state of Michigan. His coaching journey began at the Neighborhood Club more than two decades ago. Since starting his own club lacrosse organization, which has blossomed into the successful 313 Lacrosse, Brubaker has helped generations of lacrosse players find a love for the game.

As 313 Lacrosse has grown bigger over the years, Brubaker’s goal of growing the game of lacrosse in Michigan has always stayed the same. In 25 years of coaching, he has built up a network of connections that has helped make 313 one of the most successful club lacrosse programs in the state. He also has helped put players from the Pointes and around Michigan in the national spotlight.

“My inspiration was to get these kids in front of college coaches wherever I could and start building a network,” Brubaker said. “That’s something that we’ve established that a lot of newer travel teams don’t have. … I think what we do that might be different than anybody else is that we focus on giving these kids honest evaluations of where they fit.”

It started with Brubaker coaching his son, Brice, at the Neighborhood Club 25 years ago. They eventually went on to form their first club team, Grosse Pointe Select, which became 313 Lacrosse after a few years.

Since then, Brubaker and his son have grown 313 into more than just a team, but also a lacrosse retail store in Grosse Pointe Woods and a brand that has become a staple in the lacrosse community across the region, hosting tournaments and showcases to get players to the next level.

Even after 25 years, Brubaker is not slowing down when it comes to coaching or even playing as a goalie on a 65-plus Past Legends division team. As 313 Lacrosse continues to grow, he wants to bring even more younger generations into the sport he loves.

“I still really enjoy it,” he said. “The longer I’ve done this, the younger I like to coach. We started 10U a few years back and just started 8U and we might even do 6U soon so that 313 Lacrosse can be teaching and growing the game as early as possible.”

Like any great coach, Brubaker also knows the lessons and opportunities he has helped provide through 313 Lacrosse go beyond what happens on the field. He has helped numerous athletes achieve their goals of college scholarships and has kept his program accessible for everyone, taking pride in never having turned away a player based on economic background.

“We want kids to get better at lacrosse and better at life,” Brubaker said. “That’s really what the whole thing is about in a nutshell.”



COURTESY PHOTO

313 Lacrosse founder Ken Brubaker, left, with his son, 313 Lacrosse director Brice Brubaker.



COURTESY PHOTO

South boys tennis clinches MAC Red

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys tennis team clinched its second consecutive MAC Red Division title Thursday, Sept. 17, with an 8-0 win over Henry Ford II. The Blue Devils finished league play unbeaten and had a record of 28-4 through individual flights. “Winning back-to-back MAC Red championships is something these guys should be really proud of, and we’re going to enjoy it,” South boys tennis head coach Brian Kean said. “But this team also knows we’re not finished. We have bigger goals in front of us, and hopefully we’re playing our best tennis when October gets here.”

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ZONING ORDINANCE VARIANCE
AND SPECIAL EXEMPTION REQUESTS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Park (as the acting Zoning Board of Appeals) will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, October 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall, Fourth Floor, 15115 E. Jefferson Avenue, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230 on the following matters:

A, Two variance requests related to the proposed construction of an outdoor basketball court at 902 Edgemont Park (as an accessory structure to the existing, single-family residence). The applicant is requesting the following variances from Section 3.07: Accessory Structures:

Required Side Yard Setback: 3’
Proposed Side Yard Setback: 0’
Side Setback Variance of 3’ Requested

Required Rear Yard Setback: 6’
Proposed Rear Yard Setback: 4.5’
Rear Setback Variance of 1.5’ Requested

B. Special exceptions from Section 6.06: Fences, to allow a 6’ in height, brick fence at 15450 Windmill Pointe. This includes the following special exceptions: (1) the proposed brick/masonry is not identified as a permitted fence material; (2) the proposed 6’ in height fence exceeds the applicable 4’ maximum height; and (3) the proposed solid masonry construction does not provide the required 50% transparency / open space.

Information concerning this request may be obtained from the Public Service Department during regular business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling (313)-822-6200 x273. Written comments concerning this request will be received by the Public Service Department prior to the public hearing or by the Planning Commission at the public hearing. Comments can be submitted via email at clerk@grossepointepark.org.

Bridgette Bowdler,
City Clerk

GPN: 9-24-26

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

GIRLS GOLF

The Grosse Pointe South varsity girls golf team lost a close match against Port Huron Northern Monday, Sept. 21, at Port Huron Golf Club. The Blue Devils fell by just three strokes, losing 198-201. Keira Leech had the best round of the day for South, shooting 48 over nine holes.

BOYS SOCCER

Grosse Pointe South varsity boys soccer lost 5-4 against Utica Monday, Sept. 21. Tommy Gorski, Aiden Pattie, Lukas Bukovec and Matteo Canevari all scored for South in the loss. The Blue Devils host Romeo Monday, Sept. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

University Liggett School varsity boys soccer improved to 8-0 this season with a 3-0 win on the road over Detroit Cristo Rey Monday, Sept. 21. The Knights are at home Thursday, Sept. 24, taking on Allen Park Cabrini at 4:30 p.m.