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Grosse Pointe News

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OCTOBER 1, 2026
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

GPPSS projects on tap for 2027

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Several upcoming projects that will be paid for by the voter-approved 2024 sinking fund millage and 2025 bond were discussed at the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting Monday, Sept. 21.

None, however, have prices attached as that information won't be known until design work is complete and bids are submitted.

Projects discussed included:

◆ Resurfacing the tennis courts and installing new lighting at Elworthy Field. Superintendent Roy Bishop said the district has reached out to the City of Grosse Pointe regarding cost sharing.

◆ Relocating the main office at Grosse Pointe South High School to be part of the secure vestibule entrance.

"Safety and security have been top of mind as we go through our planning efforts," Trey Meyer of The Collaborative — an Ann Arbor-based architectural firm — told the board.

◆ Reconfiguring the South media center to include a classroom to support the district's virtual school efforts.

◆ Turning the pool at Parcells Middle School into a STEAM area.

See PROJECTS, page 11A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

From left, Karen Neubauer, with architecture firm Quinn Evans; Amy Chesterton, past War Memorial board chair; Aaron Turk, War Memorial board chair; John Gillooly, Farms mayor; Maria Miller, War Memorial president and CEO; Andy Roy, owner's representative with The Roy Company; Nikki Charbonneau, War Memorial COO; and Maryanne Mandel, Rockford.

War Memorial breaks ground on theater

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Following years of community interest in reopening the Patriot Theater after its destruction in the flood of 2021, The War Memorial held a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony to kick off its reconstruction Tuesday, Sept. 22.

"This groundbreaking is five years in the making and it took a tremendous amount of hard work from everyone on stage and beyond to bring us to this moment," said Aaron Turk, War Memorial board chair. "We are so excited to bring this beloved community asset back to life."

The theater opened in 1962, as the Fries Auditorium, funded by William Fries.

Its stage was graced with the likes of George Romney, Henry Ford II, Bob Seger and Ted Nugent. It also was the longtime home of Grosse Pointe Theatre.

It was renovated in 2018 and reopened as the Patriot Theater, then shuttered in 2020, because of the pandemic and deemed a total loss in 2021.

"And here we are at this moment, Sept. 22, 2026, back to the future," said Maria Miller, War Memorial president and CEO, in a nod to the 1985 blockbuster, which was played on an outdoor projector following the ceremony.

Reimagined as the Veronica Alger Theater, the gathering space will feature films, performances, lectures and other shared experiences. Upon its projected opening next summer, The War Memorial team will trial the uses that work best within its already bustling campus.

"The War Memorial has always represented a very important part of

See THEATER, page 2A

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Home, gun and car safety freebies

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety is giving away smoke alarms and gun locks to residents.

Also being handed out are anti-car-theft steering wheel locks.

Smoke alarms

"Alarms are free of charge provided through a grant from the state of Michigan," Chief Jim Bostock said. "Anybody who wants or needs one, come and get it."

For the city to continue qualifying for the giveaways, recipients of smoke alarms must allow their address to be entered into a database. The purpose is to keep track of how many

See SAFETY, page 2A

Walk Your Wheels kicks off with giveaway

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — In exchange for signing a pledge to walk their wheels in The Village, local kids had the chance to enter a raffle to win bikes, helmets and locks during the Walk Your Wheels kick-off event Thursday afternoon, Sept. 24.

The fun, accompanied by a bounce house and bike safety checks with Bikes, Blades and Boards, was made possible via a state grant through the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods Crisis Intervention Team.

"Our department has been administering a regional crisis intervention team and community policing grant for the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods," said John Alcorn, City of Grosse Pointe public safety director. "The grant period is coming to an end and recently the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards reached out to

See WHEELS, page 3A



Lexi Lee and Arlie Ehrlich fill out their pledge slips promising they will walk their bike or scooter in The Village, be courteous and share the sidewalk safely.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

POINTES OF VIEW

What's on everyone's mind in Grosse Pointe?

Get in on the conversation.

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Section A

Pointer of INTEREST



Kelly Darlington
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Meet the principal and tutor who has helped students earn three perfect ACT scores

See story, page 4A

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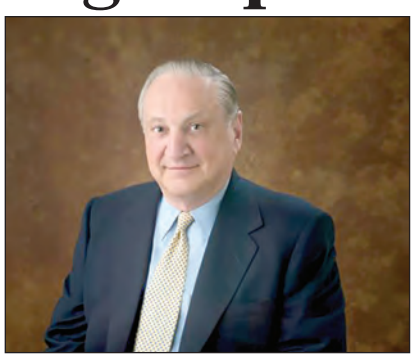
Richard Manoogian passes away at 90

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Business leader and philanthropist Richard Manoogian died Friday, Sept. 25.

Manoogian was the former chairman of the board and CEO at Masco Corp., a company his father founded, whose brands include Behr paint and Delta Faucet. Under his leadership, the company grew from $55 million in sales to more than $8 billion and acquired more than 100 other companies in the building and home improvement realms.



Richard Manoogian

"There are not enough words to adequately recognize the lifelong accomplishments, contributions and impact of Richard Manoogian," Jon Nudi, president and CEO of Masco, said in a press release. "Richard lived a long, successful life and leaves behind a legacy from his role at Masco and as a philanthropist, renowned art collector and community leader. His integrity, his commitment to excellence and respect and care for each person will forever be a part of Masco."

An avid art collector, Manoogian was chairman emeritus of the board of directors at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the art gallery at the Schaap Center for the Performing Arts is named for him and his wife, Jane. There also is an art gallery at University Liggett School named for them and the couple funded the Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum. Manoogian served 25 years on the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

"Richard Manoogian was the epitome of leadership in business at Masco, in his numerous civic roles, as a generous philanthropist and lover of the arts and culture, particularly at the Detroit Institute of Arts," said Gene Gargaro, a former DIA board chairman. "At the same time, he was a very humane and considerate individual who cared deeply for others and carried on his family's valued legacy of giving back for the benefit of many."

Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Michele Hodges said Manoogian loved the Pointes and the people living here.

"I am especially grateful for the way Richard and Jane invested in our community," she said. "They opened their home to countless nonprofit and community gatherings, supported our local organizations generously, showed up for fundraisers, chaired Grosse Pointe Park Foundation events and were always willing to help make our community a little better."

Hodges also recounted a story she said made the Manoogians one of a kind.

"They genuinely enjoyed each other and had fun together," she noted. "They would come into Full Circle every Saturday, find something they loved and sometimes leave wearing matching socks or pieces of clothing they had discovered and would later wear at a community event. Those little moments said so much about them

See MANOOGIAN, page 3A

South, Richard put in secure mode as warrant executed

GROSSE POINTE CITY AND FARMS — Grosse Pointe South High School and Richard Elementary School briefly were placed into secure mode around 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, while the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team executed an arrest warrant at a home in the City near the Farms border.

During secure mode, which is separate from lockdown, no one is permitted in or out of the buildings until it is lifted. In the meantime, learning and transitions between classes continue as normal.

The situation was initiated due to a court-approved Extreme Risk Protection Order, following an investigation that involved escalating domestic disturbances and reported threats involving firearms.

"We tried making contact with the resident and made numerous attempts to handle this with cooperation and when that didn't happen, we tagged in the SWAT team," said John Alcorn, director of public safety for the City of Grosse Pointe. "It was highly successful. The resident wasn't harmed. None of our officers were harmed."

The resident was transported to a local hospital for evaluation and the firearms were secured pursuant to the court order.

Because of the home's

See SECURE, page 5A

SAFETY:

Continued from page 1A

alarms have been distributed.

"We get boxes of alarms," Bostock said. "When we start running low, we request more, as long as we stay up on our audit and they know where they're going."

Residents can get help installing the devices.

"In some cases, if somebody doesn't know how to install them or needs help, we've helped them put them in," Bostock said.

Gun locks

Gun locks are supplied to the city by Project ChildSafe.

"Project ChildSafe is the largest and most comprehensive firearm safety education program in the U.S.," according to the group's website, projectchildsafe.org. "Launched in 1999, it is the official firearm safety program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearm industry."

Gun locks look like small bicycle locks. A key-activated locking cylinder anchors both ends of a cable.

For semiautomatic pistols, the cable is fed through the empty magazine well and ejection port.

For revolvers, the cable goes through the opened cylinder chamber.

"A secure, stored firearm can help prevent unauthorized access, accidental injuries and theft," Bostock said. "We encourage anyone who owns a firearm to take advantage of this free safety resource to keep your firearms secure."

Earlier this year, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy initiated a public awareness campaign to curb child injuries and deaths linked to unsafe firearm storage.

"This is an issue very dear to my heart," she said at the time. "Children have a magnetic attraction to guns for some reason. They always want to pick them up. They always want to play with it. They always want to shoot it."

"At the end of the day, the responsibility lies with the gun owner," Bostock said. "No matter which way you cut this, the responsibility lies with the gun owner."

Anti-car theft

The department also provides residents anti-theft steering wheel locks (See story, page 3A).

Police said the devices are highly visible and deter criminals seeking easy pickings.

THEATER:

Continued from page 1A

our community's identity," Farms Mayor John Gillooly said. "It's a place where people gather, learn, celebrate and connect and undoubtedly, the new Alger Theater will build upon that proud tradition while opening the door to new possibilities.

" … We look forward to watching the Veronica Alger Theater take shape into the many outstanding performances and events that will take place within its walls."

Reviving the theater would not have been possible without the generosity of Fred Alger, who is funding nearly the entire project. It will thus be named for his wife, Veronica.

Though the couple could not attend the groundbreaking ceremony in person, they sent the following thoughts:

"It is an honor to support the restoration of the theater at The War Memorial. We believe in the importance of community and the power of bringing people together.

"There is something special about gathering in one place to share a film, experience a performance, hear an inspiring speaker or simply enjoy a meaningful moment together. The War Memorial's theater has played a vital role in creating these experiences and we know our community has missed it.

"This project is about more than restoring physical space. It is about bringing back a place where people can connect, learn, be entertained and create memories together.

"We are proud to be part of this next chapter and we are excited for the many generations who will enjoy the theater in the years ahead."

Reconstruction of the theater will be led by Rockford, providing construction services; Quinn Evans, leading the architectural work; and The Roy Company, providing project oversight.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Above, Farms Mayor John Gillooly speaks during the groundbreaking ceremony. Below, a DeLorean was on display outside The War Memorial. "Back to the Future" was played on an outdoor projector following the groundbreaking ceremony.





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Public safety open house Sunday

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Everything from fingerprinting to firefighting is on the agenda for Sunday's Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Open House.

The event is 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 4, in and around public safety headquarters on the corner of Jefferson and Maryland.

"We'll have something for everybody at the open house," Chief Jim Bostock said. "We're going to have, as we had in the past, a big set up."

Every year the department hosts an open house for the public.

"The open house is a great opportunity for us to engage with the community and for the community to engage with us one-on-one and see us as more than just police officers and firefighters," Bostock said. "We feed off the support of the community. It makes it easy for us to go out and do what we do. We know we have support."

Detectives will show how to take fingerprints and collect evidence.

"We'll have a station set up with different textures and objects to touch and do a quick tutorial on how to dust and go from there," said Detective Sgt. Paul Pionk, head of the investigative unit.

"Detectives will show children how it's done," Bostock said. "They'll have them put their finger on something, put dust on it and work the magic."

"Children see fingerprinting in movies and TV shows, but now it's right in front of them," Pionk said. "They get to see how it really works. In previous years, it's been a big hit."

Park public safety officers are cross-trained in law enforcement and putting out fires. During the open house, they'll let residents get a feel for handling a working fire hose by shooting a stream of pressurized water through a target.

"They knock down a spring-loaded cutout of flame through a window," Bostock said.

Hose demonstrations are done at low pressure. The real thing would be too tough for a youngster to handle.

"They turn it on and love to shoot the water," Sgt. Stephen Thiel said.

Water pressure and the volume being sprayed is controlled on the fire truck.

"We dial it way back for the public safety open house, but they'll feel a little kick," Thiel said. "We never use top pressure, because it's too much for one firefighter to hold."

During real fires, officers set the pressure between 100 and 110 pounds per square inch, he said.

"If you let go of the hose when it has all that pressure going into it, that hose becomes a wild hose," Thiel said. "It's very difficult to handle. You have to jump on it. A hose that's not corralled goes everywhere. Those noz-

See OPEN, page 5A

WHEELS:

Continued from page 1A

us on a few opportunities to seize the remaining money."

Split among the six departments, the $30,598.20 in grant money was used to purchase 48 bicycles of various sizes, 120 helmets and 180 bicycle locks from local business Bikes, Blades and Boards.

Each community will receive eight bicycles, 20 bicycle helmets and 30 bicycle locks.

"These resources will be used for community events, including bicycle safety education and positive engagement between our officers and the communities we serve," Alcorn said, with educational efforts focusing on helmet use, visibility, safe operation, traffic laws and responsible riding practices.

Though the CIT grant period is ending, "CIT is here to stay," Alcorn said. "The format will evolve."

— *Laurel Kraus*



Bikes are raffled off thanks to a grant secured by the public safety department.



From left, City of Grosse Pointe Lt. Christopher Saunders, Officer Andre Jones, Director of Public Safety John Alcorn, Sgt. Jacob Carpenter and Officer Randy Perry help attendees register and give out information about the Walk Your Wheels campaign in The Village.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Director of Public Safety John Alcorn "polices" the entrance of the firehouse bounce house to make sure the kids get in and jump safely.

MANOOGIAN:

Continued from page 2A

and the love they shared together.

"We knew Richard and Jane as neighbors, friends, generous supporters and people who wanted nothing more than to strengthen the community and inspire the next generation of philanthropists," she added. "Our community is better because they chose to make it part of their lives. Richard will be deeply missed, and we are grateful for his friendship, his generosity and the joy he and Jane brought to the Park. Jane will be our forever connection to Richard and I hope she knows how loved, honored and cared for she is."

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, OCT. 5

- Grosse Pointe Woods Election Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education regular meeting, 7 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7

- Grosse Pointe Woods Community Tree Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 10

- Electronic Waste Drop-Off Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Osius Park. Open to residents of Grosse Pointe Shores, City, Farms and Park.
- Grosse Pointe Woods Hob Nobbin' with the Goblins, 4 to 8 p.m. at Lake Front Park.

Steering wheel lock giveaway

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — You're a street thief prowling a residential neighborhood at night. You walk an easy route to stealing one of the softest targets possible: an unlocked car parked with the ignition key or fob inside.

"When these thieves are out here walking around, they're looking for a quick, effortless target," Sgt. Stephen Thiel said, "something that they can get in and out with quickly."

"We get people walking around checking car door handles until they get lucky," Detective Sgt. Paul Pionk said.

Thiel works the midnight shift. Reports of stolen, unlocked cars are part of his routine.

He said crooks have a name for people who don't lock parked cars: "Easy targets."

Thiel and fellow patrolmen gather evidence of thefts and pass it for investigation by the detective bureau headed by Pionk.

Last year, only 16 cars were stolen in the Park. "Only" is relative and applies mainly to people whose car wasn't stolen.

The five-year total, from 2021 to 2025, for auto theft in the city was 144, an average of 28.8 annually, with a high point of 57 thefts during 2023. Data comes from department annual reports.

A decade earlier, the numbers were higher overall. From 2011 through 2015, there were a total of 206 autos reported stolen. The five-year average of 41.2 was topped with 56

See LOCK, page 9A

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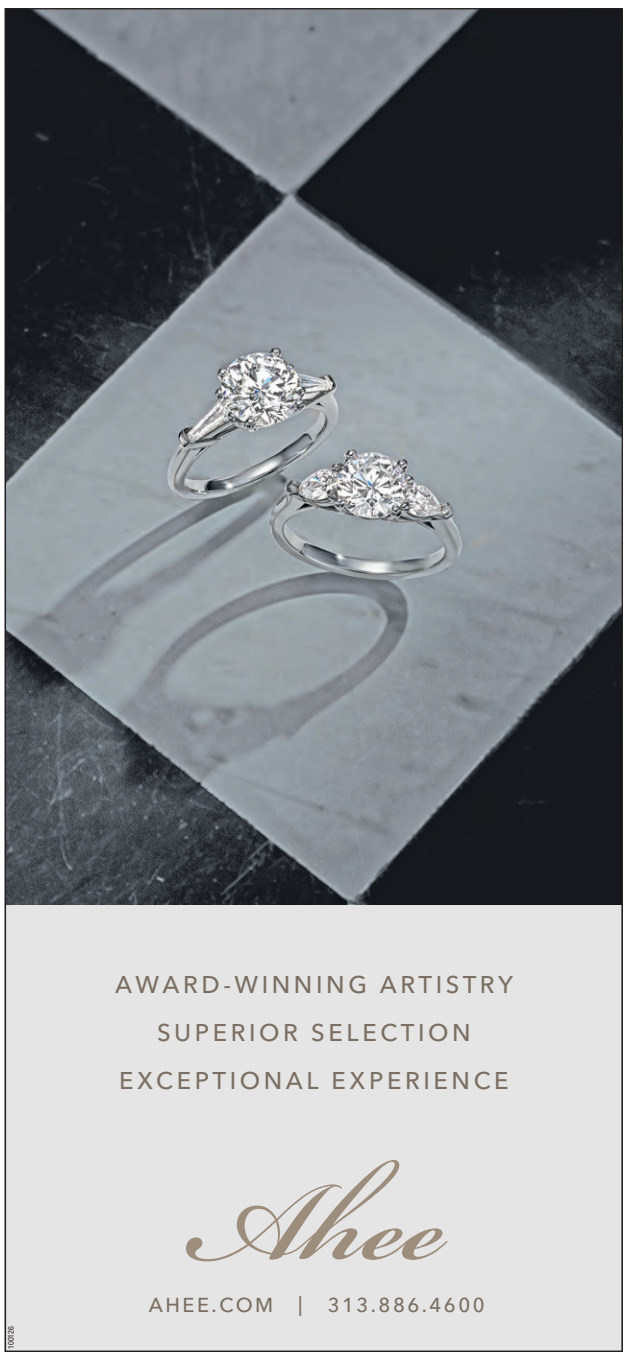

Helping students find their confidence more than 25 years

By Anne Gryzenia
Publisher

As fall settles in and students return to classrooms, another familiar season is underway: testing season.

For many high school students, preparing for the ACT or SAT can bring a mixture of anticipation, pressure and uncertainty. But for Grosse Pointe resident and longtime educator Kelly Darlington, helping students navigate those tests has been a passion for more than 25 years.

Darlington's love of teaching, however, began long before she became an ACT and SAT tutor.

"I have known I have wanted to be a teacher since I was in fifth grade," she said.

A teacher at that age made a lasting impression on Darlington, showing her just how much of an impact an educator can have on a young person's life. Then, in seventh grade, an English teacher recognized something else in her.

"He told me he believed I had a high level of grammar skills," Darlington recalled.

That encouragement helped ignite a lifelong love of English.

After graduating from Hillsdale College, where she triple-majored in English, French and education, Darlington moved to Grosse Pointe in 1998 and began her teaching career at University Liggett School.

Her interest in English grammar and literature eventually led her to conferences and classes focused on ACT and SAT tutoring. She has been tutoring students — more than 1,000 of them, in fact — for both tests ever since. Three of them have earned perfect scores.

She's had students gain 14 points on the ACT in eight weeks of preparation. On average, her students have increased six points in English and five points overall. She keeps meticulous records of scores and enjoys being part of the entire process and watching students thrive.

While Darlington has spent more than two decades tutoring teenagers, her professional career has included students of all ages.

She taught for 18 years, across grades ranging from Young Fives and kindergarten through fifth. After three years at Liggett, she spent 15 years teaching in L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. For the past 11 years, she has served as principal of Donald J. Yacks Elementary School in the L'Anse Creuse district.





COURTESY PHOTOS

Left, The Darlington family: Josh, Kelly and their children, Michael and Elizabeth. Right, Darlington, after completing the 2025 New York City Marathon.

For Darlington, whether she is working with a young elementary student or a high school senior preparing for a college entrance exam, the most rewarding part of education remains the same.

"The most satisfying part of teaching is seeing a student's face when he or she lights up with a smile after grasping a new concept taught," she said.

That same feeling is at the heart of her tutoring.

Darlington works with students on grammar, reading comprehension, test-taking strategies and pacing — skills that can extend well beyond a single standardized test. She believes understanding grammar, for example, gives students tools they can use when writing essays, resumes and professional communications throughout their lives.

The work also can have a significant impact on a student's confidence. Some students are looking to make a small improvement. Others are working toward a particular score that could strengthen a college application or open the door to scholarship opportunities.

Darlington has experienced memorable successes along the way. One of her favorite moments came last spring, when a Grosse Pointe South student texted her with the news that he had earned a perfect 36 on the ACT.

"He was elated and understood that score would open so many doors for him, along with his great grades and other accomplishments," Darlington said.

She was just as proud of another kind of success — watching students who work diligently raise their scores by several points and gain the confidence to apply to colleges and universities they may once have considered out of reach.

Darlington said she can be nearly as anxious as her students while they wait for their scores.

The landscape surrounding college admissions continues to change, including the role of standardized testing. Some colleges remain test-optional, while others have reinstated testing requirements. Darlington also points out that ACT or SAT scores can play a role in scholarship opportunities.

For students who take the tests, she believes preparation is about more than simply learning how to answer questions.

"It's about giving students the tools and confidence to show what they know," she said.

That philosophy carries into Darlington's work as a principal, where she finds joy in the everyday moments that make school special. One of her favorite parts of being principal is interacting with students outside the classroom. During the holidays, she has dressed as an elf and sat on the school roof to greet students as they arrive. She also enjoys running with students after school as part of its Run Club.

Those moments may seem far removed from ACT and SAT preparation, but they reflect the same reason Darlington has been drawn to education since childhood: She genuinely enjoys being around students and watching them grow.

Her connection to the Grosse Pointe community extends beyond education.

Darlington moved to Grosse Pointe nearly three decades ago and has come to appreciate the community's parks and beautiful streets, particularly along Lakeshore, where she enjoys running; she has completed more than 10 marathons.

She also is grateful for the education her own children have received and the many friendships she has developed in the community.

With a full-time job as a principal, a busy tutoring schedule and her children's sports and extracurricular activi-

See POINTER, page 5A

It's time again for us to search for the reader photos that best capture the spirit of the Pointes — for our upcoming 2027 calendar!



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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Grosse Pointe Farms

Loud exhaust

After being pulled over at Mack and Moross for loud exhaust at 1:45 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, a 38-year-old Highland Park woman was arrested for driving without a license or vehicle insurance.

Ransacked

At some point within the last few weeks, a vacant rental house on Elizabeth Court was broken into and ransacked. A broken window with a landscaping brick lying inside was discovered Friday, Sept. 25, when the property owner came to mow the lawn.

Threats

A 29-year-old Detroit woman repeatedly told an officer she was going to get him if it was the last thing she did, while her vehicle was being towed for multiple violations at 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

She had several warrants from other jurisdictions for driving with a suspended license. The same officer previously had pulled her over and given a warning for illegal window tint, which was not corrected.

Spray paint

A Mary Street resident went to leave for work around 8 a.m. Monday, Sept. 28, only to find someone had spray-painted red paint across his truck's windshield.

The man was able to clean the spray paint off his vehicle and therefore did not wish to press charges.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Men overboard

Two Grosse Pointe Farms men, ages 79 and 28, were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard and Michigan Department of Natural Resources after falling out of their boat on Lake St. Clair around 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

They were taken to the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and transported to Henry Ford St. John Hospital by the Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety Department and MedStar EMS for hypothermia treatment.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Porch pirate

Public safety officials are looking for a white woman with purple hair, approximately 50 to 60 years old, who is suspected of stealing three packages from a porch in the 19000 block of Wedgewood just minutes after they were delivered the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 20, and a package from the porch of a home in the 600 block of Oxford a short time later.

She was last seen driving a black Dodge Ram.

Fraud

A resident in the 2100 block of Ridgemont filed a report around 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, after being contacted by text and telephone over two days from someone claiming to be with the fraud division of her bank.

The suspect convinced the woman to download an app called "Triumph" on her cell phone that may have led to her Apple Wallet being hacked.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Tools taken

Between 11 a.m. and noon Friday, Sept. 25, an array of powered lawn equipment worth $1,000 was stolen from a trailer parked in the 1000 block of Three Mile. The victim was working in a nearby yard.

Taken were a RedMax edger and backpack leaf blower, plus a Stihl backpack blower.

Plate taken

Someone took the license plate off a Nissan Versa parked behind a residence in the 1200 block of Wayburn overnight Sunday, Sept. 27.

— Brad Lindberg

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Bad week

A 45-year-old homeless man was arrested for stealing five bags of Doritos from a store in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 8:40 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21.

Police said a black woman with long black hair and wearing a black jacket and gray pants stole $400 worth of beauty products from the same location at 9:20 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22.

The Village store was targeted a third time at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, when a 56-year-old Detroit man was arrested for stealing about $200 worth of candy and bandages.

Vandalism

Someone entered a vacant home on Washington through an unlocked rear door at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, and sprayed dry chemicals from a fire extinguisher throughout the first floor. Smashed Oreos also were left scattered throughout the house.

— Laurel Kraus

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

OPEN:

Continued from page 3A

zles are heavy."

Another attraction scheduled for the open house is the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team vehicle, a former military vehicle.

"That's always a big hit," Bostock said. "Technically, the vehicle is an MRAP, which stands for Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected. Basically, it's a heavily armored personnel carrier."

Members of the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Foundation will be present.

"It's a great opportunity for us to connect with the community and promote the foundation," foundation President John Wolski said. "We're excited to be part of this annual event."

The foundation is a tax-exempt philanthropic organization.

Members have raised funds for the department to purchase officer protective vests, body and patrol car cameras, radios, fingerprint scanners, lifesaving airway clearing devices, AED monitors, active shooter kits and a tactical drone.

"The drone will be out and working for the open house," Bostock said. "We'll also have a bounce house, light food and refreshments."

SECURE:

Continued from page 2A

proximity to the two schools, secure mode was put in place out of an abundance of caution, Alcorn said.

The department chose to wait until after South's lunch periods — due to its open campus — to execute the order, but needed to move quickly. The schools were in secure mode less than 30 minutes.

"With extreme risk orders, we want to move on them as soon as possible," Alcorn said. "There's never a perfect time, but there's better times."

— Laurel Kraus

POINTER:

Continued from page 4A

ties, organization is essential. Her indispensable tool? A Lilly Pulitzer Daily Planner.

"I can't live without it," she said.

And then there's the gift that may best capture what Darlington's work means to her.

One of the most memorable gifts she ever received from a student was a book written by a first grader explaining all the reasons he believed she was the best principal ever. For an educator who has spent her life helping students discover what they can do, it's hard to imagine a more meaningful review.

As another school year gets underway — and another group of students begins preparing for the tests that may help shape their next chapter — Darlington continues to do what she has loved since fifth grade. She teaches, encourages and helps students believe in themselves.

Darlington lives in Grosse Pointe Woods with her husband, Josh; daughter, Elizabeth; and avid running partner and beloved dog, Stella. Her son, Michael, is a sophomore studying finance at Butler University.

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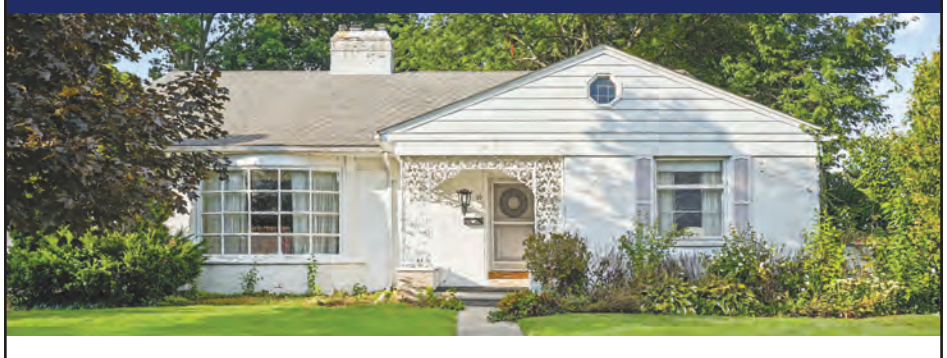

Originally built in 1948 & owned & lovingly maintained by the current seller since 1988, this sensible 1,902 square foot, 2-bedroom, 1-bath Shores ranch is ready for new residents! The house could also be modified into a Cape Cod by converting the attic into living space. Other recent updates & improvements include a new sink & vanity in the bathroom, a new window in the family room, & a relatively new furnace. The partially-finished basement features an additional bedroom. As is the case with any other property, location is paramount & this home is certainly no exception, being situated just one house away from Lakeshore Road. Practically immediate access to the Grosse Pointe Shores municipal offices, city parks (which offer swimming, boating, tennis, pickleball, & much more), the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, & Lake Saint Clair itself all await. The current seller purchased this home all those years ago without even looking inside the house & it's not hard to see why! **$449,900**



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When It Comes to Women's Health, Don't Forget the Heart



By Simone Cowan, DO, FACC

When we talk about women's health, conversations often focus on breast cancer, reproductive health, and menopause. Yet the greatest health threat facing women is one we sometimes overlook: heart disease.

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death among women in the United States. Despite this, many women still underestimate their risk. Part of the challenge is that cardiovascular disease may look different in women. While chest discomfort or pressure remains an important warning sign, women may also experience shortness of breath, unusual fatigue, nausea, back or jaw discomfort, dizziness, or simply a feeling that something is not right.

Prevention should begin long before symptoms appear. Knowing your blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, weight, and family history provides a powerful starting point. Regular physical activity, nutritious food choices, avoiding tobacco, maintaining a healthy weight, managing stress, and getting adequate sleep can significantly influence cardiovascular health. Women also experience unique periods of cardiovascular risk. Pregnancy complications such as preeclampsia, gestational hypertension, and gestational diabetes can signal a higher risk of heart disease later in life. Menopause brings additional changes, including shifts in cholesterol, blood pressure, body composition, and metabolism. These are important opportunities to reassess cardiovascular risk rather than simply accepting these changes as part of aging. Perhaps most importantly, women should feel empowered to advocate for themselves. Pay attention when your body feels different. Ask questions. Know your numbers. Discuss your family history and pregnancy history with your physician.

Heart disease is not simply something that happens later in life. Prevention is a lifelong process, and many cardiovascular risk factors can be identified and treated years before disease develops.

As women, we spend so much of our lives caring for everyone around us. In taking care of your health, don't forget your heart.

Dr. Cowan is a Board-Certified cardiologist with special interest in Preventative Cardiology and Women's Health. She rounds at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, with her partner Dr. Basil Dudar. Her clinic is located on the hospital campus, at 16815 E. Jefferson Avenue, Suite #110 in Grosse Pointe, (313) 640-7220. Dr. Cowan and Dr. Dudar are currently accepting new patients.

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POINTES OF VIEW

GROSSE POINTE PARK | GROSSE POINTE WOODS | GROSSE POINTE SHORES | GROSSE POINTE FARMS | GROSSE POINTE CITY

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Trombly troubles

As our story on page 1A explains, the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education heard an update at its meeting last week about upcoming sinking fund and bond projects.

We were disappointed to hear the plans for the future of Trombly Elementary School.

The district plans to convert eight first-floor classrooms to preschool classrooms, make the gym into a playroom to meet licensing requirements and turn the second-floor library into a community meeting space.

The second floor also will house a CTE (career and technical education) classroom.

We think this is a mistake on several levels.

First off, there was no discussion at the meeting about whether or not there is enough interest to fill eight more preschool classrooms. There currently are 193 students enrolled in GPPSS preschool, including 145 in the tuition-based program and 48 in the Great Start Readiness Program. There are 11 children on the waiting list for the tuition-based program at Barnes Early Childhood Center and four at Richard Elementary School, with another seven on the waiting list for GSRP.

We are unsure why the board thinks it could fill an additional eight classrooms in a building at the extreme end of the district. It is unlikely that families in the north end of the district who might be sending their children to preschool at places like Assumption Greek Orthodox Church or Grosse Pointe Nursery School would travel all the way to Trombly twice a day just because it is being run by GPPSS. There also are plans for a new childcare center in the former JOANN's store on Mack near Moross that will have room for 200 students.

We also question the logic of having high school students present in the same building as preschoolers. Not only are there safety issues to worry about during the school day, but also at arrival and dismissal times. We all know teenagers are not the safest drivers, which is why their vehicle insurance is so expensive.

As we have stated in this space before, we believe Trombly should be reopened as an elementary school.

Readers may recall a survey GPPSS commissioned in 2025 that showed 396 children birth to age 9 living in 227 houses in the Trombly catchment area. Of those 227 households, 48 percent said they had two children 9 or younger. Another 24 percent had one and 21 percent had three.

Some 64 percent of those children were below kindergarten age, while 51 percent of them attended a private preschool.

Among parents of children 4 and younger, 60 percent said they would eventually send their children to Defer Elementary School if Trombly was not an option by then. Of those who said they would not, half said it was due to overcrowding issues. Another 28 percent said they preferred private or parochial schools.

Among children ages 5 to 9 in the Trombly catchment area, 20 percent attend either a private or parochial school or are homeschooled. Of those, 70 percent said they would choose Trombly if it reopened as an elementary school. Of parents with children attending Defer, 71 percent said they would switch to Trombly.

A group called Trombly United crunched its own numbers and presented those findings at a townhall meeting in May 2025.

"We estimate there are 93 additional households with children kindergarten through fourth grade at Defer Elementary School the survey didn't catch," said Matt Kahl, a software engineer who lives in the Park and helped analyze the survey findings along with Luke Donahue, who works in data analytics.

The pair said they believe the district could capture between 236 and 342 new students if Trombly reopened as an elementary school, including a preschool offering.

"To be as conservative as possible, we gave ourselves a 25 percent margin of error on the low end," Donahue said. "That leaves us with 177 new students."

The district previously had said it would require 174 new students to reopen in a revenue-neutral setting.

If the Board of Education believes there is more demand for preschool than the numbers show, it should consider expanding offerings at each elementary school to maintain the district's history of being walkable and bikeable.



Pure GP

The moody clouds. The calm lake. The last of summer's flowers. Each of these contribute to the layers of beauty in this photo.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

GUEST VIEW By Benjy Hamm

Celebrating National Newspaper Week

When the Declaration of Independence was signed 250 years ago, newspapers throughout the colonies shared the life-changing news with their readers.

With all the enormous changes in this country and media since 1776, it's noteworthy that more than 5,000 newspapers are still informing their communities about what their leaders are doing and how those actions affect them.



Often, newspaper reporters are the only journalists who cover the actions of the local school board or city council or youth sports teams. The 2025 State of Local News report by Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism revealed that there are more than 1,500 counties in the United States served by only one news media outlet. In almost all of those counties, the news source is a local newspaper.

It used to be hard to imagine how different communities would be without local news sources. But in recent years, the changing business models for news organizations have led to an increasing number of news deserts — places where residents don't have access to independent coverage of their communities.

Research shows the lack of news coverage can lead to a number of problems: fewer people voting, more corruption, higher costs of government and a reduced connection among residents.

One of this country's most famous founders, Thomas Jefferson, wrote, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

The founders understood this nation needed guarantees to protect vigorous discussions and disagreements, particularly about the government. So, they created the Bill of Rights in 1789, starting with the First Amendment that ensures free speech and a free press.

Sustaining a free press isn't free, nor is it easy. The type of news coverage that helps to change laws and change lives — including exposing problems and wrongdoing in communities that some would prefer to keep hidden — can be difficult, time-consuming and expensive.

Some critics have been predicting the death of newspapers since at least the invention of radio, and those predictions have increased with the creation of television, the internet and social media. Yet, newspapers have persevered, adapted their business models and remained as essential institutions in their communities.

In this time of another upheaval of the media business model, newspapers are yet again adapting for the future. Their news is shared not just in print as it was in 1776, but also to millions of readers online and through social media by the news organizations themselves and countless other people.

Surveys that cite how many Americans receive news from their "phones" these days don't consider where those phones get their news and information. Many readers don't know the origin either. But much of the commentary and sharing of news that is abundant online and in social media can be traced back to the original sources: journalists.

As we celebrate National Newspaper Week Oct. 4 to Oct. 10, it's important to reflect on why the founders believed so strongly in the need for a free press to cover this nation without gov-

See GUEST, 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.

No trust

To the Editor:

For several years, I've heard district administrators and trustees say, "We have to understand why parents are not choosing Grosse Pointe Public Schools." Well, they must not be trying very hard, because many young parents who have moved into the district could readily tell them.

The fact is, lots of these young parents don't trust public schools. They are well aware of all the ills that have befallen public education, be it union activism, parental rights, bringing politics into the classroom or lower standards. Not having been raised in Grosse Pointe, they assume the worst of our public schools. I know because the vast majority of young adults, be it family members or children of friends, have told me they are not sending their children to public schools.

One of the candidates running for GPPSS Board of Education said parents must trust the teachers. The sad truth is these young parents do not trust public school teachers or administrators. They have watched board meetings. They have read about what happened during the WeGP pride celebration at Maire Elementary. They simply do not trust any public school.

JODY BRUCE
Grosse Pointe Park

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST October 1 – 7 — LOCAL 4 Expect More.

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Chance Rain	Chance Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Clear	Cloudy
30%	50%	30%	20%	0%	0%	10%
SUNRISE 7:29 am SUNSET 7:13 pm	SUNRISE 7:30 am SUNSET 7:11 pm	SUNRISE 7:31 am SUNSET 7:10 pm	SUNRISE 7:32 am SUNSET 7:08 pm	SUNRISE 7:33 am SUNSET 7:06 pm	SUNRISE 7:34 am SUNSET 7:04 pm	SUNRISE 7:36 am SUNSET 7:03 pm

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

I SAY By Jody McVeigh

‘Septober’ in Salem



My friend’s husband was sitting at home, minding his own business, when he heard a loud bang from the second floor.

Both of their pets were lying right there where he could see them. When my friend got home from work and went upstairs, she found one of the books she’d bought on our trip on the floor. It wasn’t near the bookshelf where she’d left it; it was in the middle of the room.

It was the latest in a string of strange things that followed us home from Salem, Mass.

Early last month, during what the locals call “Septober,” two friends and I spent three days fitting in as many spooky sights as we could.

The kitsch was fun. Costumed ghouls lined Essex Street, outnumbered by the costumed tourists gawking at them. There was shop after shop of Witch City merchandise, and palmists and seers promised a peek at the unseen. But it was the town’s history that held me.

We wandered through centuries-old cemeteries and their crumbling headstones. We slowed down to read the stone benches at the Witch Trials Memorial, each one etched with the name of one of the 20 people executed. We walked to Proctor’s Ledge, where the hangings are believed to have happened and where a memorial now stands.

We heard the story of 1692 on repeat: on a “haunted” walking tour, at the Witch Museum, the Witch House and the Witch Dungeon. Some stops even had relics from the trials themselves. We also dared to walk through the Haunted Warren Museum, a collection gathered by paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren, whose case files inspired “The Conjuring” films. Among the items was Annabelle, the supposedly demon-possessed doll that got a movie series of her own.

It was fun to see the sights, hear the stories and learn the lore, but I don’t give much credence to ghosts or demons or hauntings.

If I did, I might say the omens started before we’d even cleared Detroit.

We were in my friend’s car on one of those 100-degree early September days when the A/C gave out. We sweated through the first four hours with every window down. Then it started raining, so we rolled them up and spent the next four hours driving through an escalating storm system that eventually prompted tornado warnings.

Salem itself was lovely and the drive home was mostly uneventful. Then we got home.

I got sick the day we got back. The next day, my husband had an accident at work that could have severely injured him.

The day after that, a book ended up in the middle of my friend’s floor.

Did we bring something home with us?

If I believed in that sort of thing, I might think so.

But Salem still tells the story of what happens when fear decides what people believe. I spent three days hearing it. What I brought home wasn’t a curse. It was a reminder of where my own beliefs lie. My husband prayed the blood of Jesus over us during that trip and that’s where I put my faith.

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

ernment control, without fear or favor and without undue influence from powerful people.

The value of a free press is not simply to protect the press, but to protect democracy. It’s based on the belief that a better-informed citizenry is essential for the United States to not only survive, but to thrive.

In today’s crowded media market, where misinformation and disinformation are abundant, it’s crucial that newspapers continue to serve in their role as watchdogs and as trusted sources to inform, inspire, educate and connect the communities they serve.

There’s no way to predict how the United States will change and evolve over the next 250 years. But it’s certain we will continue to need a free press and independent journalists to document those changes and provide the important news coverage that is vital for this nation’s future.

Benjy Hamm is director of the national Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues and an associate professor at the University of Kentucky’s School of Journalism and Media.

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LIBRARY

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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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100128

Lululemon says goodbye to Grosse Pointe

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Lululemon in The Village shuttered its doors Sunday, Sept. 27, bringing an end to what initially was intended to be an 18-month pop-up location.

It opened in summer 2023, at which time the possibility existed for a longer term lease.

"My understanding is that 80 percent of their pop-ups turn into long-term relationships," said Jim Bellanca in 2023. Bellanca manages Kercheval Company LLC, which owns the building.

The company's departure is bittersweet. It was a popular apparel destination within the community, particularly with youth, but also carried a reputation of drawing crime to the downtown area, due to corporate policies that prohibit employees from engaging with thefts in progress.

Beginning the week it opened, the shop became a target for thieves who would walk out with thousands of dollars worth of merchandise in one go.

So exuberant were the thefts that they led to Detective Mike Narduzzi being recognized by Attorney General Dana Nessel for taking down a Lululemon theft ring in December 2023.

The situation also prompted Public Safety Director John Alcorn in July 2024, to submit a guest editorial inviting community members to contact Lululemon's CEO with a request to revisit corporate policies.

"Unfortunately, the lax corporate policies toward theft, which are apparently designed to emphasize the safety of those in the store, have the counter-effect of incentivizing and increasing thefts at these locations," he wrote. "… As the chief of police, there is not a single crime that happens in Grosse Pointe City that I find tolerable and the thefts at Lululemon are unacceptable and unsettling."



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Lululemon was located at 17101 Kercheval.

Due to a concerted effort by public safety, thefts from the location decreased as time went on. Those who did try, more often than not, were identified and charged after the fact.

The popular athleisure retailer also positively drew younger crowds to The Village, where they would then wander into other small businesses.

"Every tween that comes into my store has a Lululemon bag," said Kasey Malley, co-owner of Small Favors.

Representatives for Lululemon did not respond to an interview request regarding the location's closure.

"I think the store was doing very well actually," Bellanca said. "They didn't close because they didn't have enough business. They didn't close because of the theft problem that existed, because the city has done a great job of monitoring that situation.

"I don't think it had anything to do with Grosse Pointe," he continued. "I think it was a corporate decision that's affected other locations at least in Michigan and I've heard in other places around the country."

Bellanca said he has listed the location with a national broker and intends to find a business that is an equivalent of a national tenant.

Exchange plants this Saturday

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission's Fall Plant Exchange is 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park at the foot of Windmill Pointe Drive.

The exchange is free and open to the public. It takes place rain or shine. There's no requirement to donate plants, garden tools and equipment in order to pick something up.

Eligible for exchange are healthy, non-invasive plants that are wrapped, potted and labeled with as much detailed information as possible. No sick or invasive plants allowed.

It's common for gardening books to be part of the swap meet. Also exchanged are garden knowledge, tips and techniques.

— Brad Lindberg

Woods approves golf simulator business

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — City council approved a special land use permit at its meeting Monday, Sept. 21, allowing for an indoor golf simulator business at 20439 Mack.

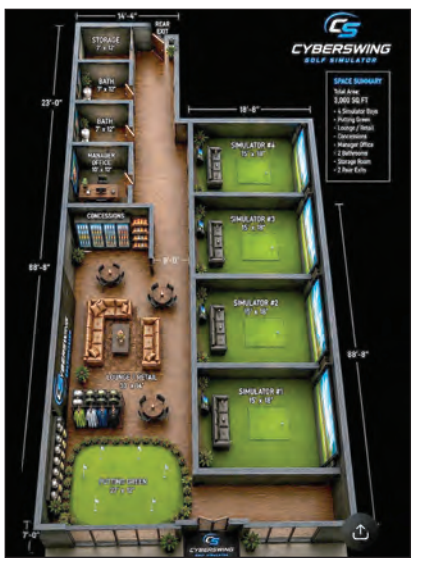
It will be located in a 3,000-square-foot building on the west side of the street between Fleetwood and Lancaster that previously was a real estate office.

"We're really excited," said owner Tyler Walker. "We're hoping to be open sometime in January or February."

Called Full Send Golf Simulators, it will offer four bays and a putting green and will be open around the clock.

"I'm thinking we might get some business at odd hours from people who work a late shift or just feel like hitting some balls late at night," Walker said.

Walker, a CPA, said he originally looked into a franchise model but decided against it.



A rendering of what the interior of Full Send Golf Simulators will look like.

"I did some research, but then figured with my background we could do it on our own," he noted.

He got the idea for the business after taking his kids to the indoor golf simulator at C.J. Barrymore's in Clinton Township last winter.

"The wait was three hours, so I knew there was a market for this kind of thing," he said. "I told my wife and kids and they absolutely loved it."

Vending machines for snacks and drinks will be available and customers can bring in food.

"Outside food is allowed, but no alcohol," Walker added. "That was one of the stipulations from the city because there won't be any staff on site. There's a Domino's next door, so we're hoping to work something out with them."

Although staff won't be on site other than for cleaning and routine maintenance, the interior will be monitored by 24-hour surveillance. Anyone who breaks the rules will lose access to the simulators and be asked to leave.

Customers who book a tee time will receive one code for the entry door and another for a simulator.

Instructional clinics and tournaments are limited to the hours of 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., with a maximum occupancy of 20 people at all times.

Walker said he's still working out the pricing, but it will fluctuate based on the time of year and time of day.

"I'm thinking probably $30 to $65 for an hour and $175 to $400 a month for a membership," he said. "Prices would be lower in the nicer months when people can get out and golf and higher in the winter when there would be more demand."

Customers will be able to choose from among more than 300 courses to play, such as Augusta National, where the Masters is held, and the Old Course at St. Andrews, which hosts The British Open roughly every five years.

"I went and did a demo with the supplier and it was incredible," Walker said, laughing. "I didn't want to leave. There's also some games for kids that are sort of like Angry Birds."







Pump station construction begins at Moross, Chalfonte

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Excavation is beginning this month on a new pump station at Moross and Chalfonte, which upon its completion will be responsible for pumping stormwater from the northwest quadrant of the inland district out to Lake St. Clair.

A major component of the Farms' overarching sewer separation project, construction will last approximately two years and cost $18.7 million.

"Construction is expected to continue through the winter as weather conditions allow," said John Bergsma, project manager with Hubbell, Roth & Clark, via email. "Work schedules may be adjusted as needed to maintain safety and project quality."

Following excavation work, crews will install underground structures and piping, then begin construction of the pump station building and installation of the equipment.

After testing is completed, the site will be restored and landscaped.

"Residents may notice construction vehicles, equipment and periodic delivery traffic near the project site," Bergsma said. "The project team will work to minimize impacts to the surrounding neighborhood.

"No long-term street closures are currently anticipated, although short-term traffic adjustments may be needed for specific construction activities," he added. "Advance notice will be provided if any traffic impacts are required."

The exterior design of the pump station is intended to appear as a Cape Cod-style house to blend in with the surrounding neighborhood.

It incorporates a stone base, lap board siding, rooftop dormers, a covered porch with railings and double-hung windows with shutters — though the windows are just for show and will be backed by a solid wall behind them.

— Laurel Kraus

Woods ready for the season

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Events the first two Saturdays of October kick off autumn for residents and their guests.

First up is Fall Fest 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at city hall. It will feature music by Sonic Freeway, which plays cover songs ranging from classic rock to country to current hits. Complimentary hot dogs, chips and pop will be available courtesy of National Coney Island.

The Cook Schoolhouse will be open for tours 5 to 7 p.m. hosted by the city's historical commission.

Saturday, Oct. 10, is Hob Nobbin' with the Goblins at Lake Front Park and will feature hayrides, pumpkin decorating, cider, doughnuts and trick-or-treating. Attendees can choose from two sessions, 4 to 6 or 6 to 8 p.m. Tickets are required for adults and children and are $8 for residents. A limited number of guest tickets for non-residents are available for $10, but must be purchased by a Woods resident at the community center prior to the event.

Resident tickets are available at secure.rec1.com/MI/grosse-pointe-woods-mi/catalog.

The Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation, meanwhile, is raising funds after city council requested a $35,000 grant for a new pavilion at Ghesquiere Park. It will house eight picnic tables and be located near the playground and restrooms. Gifts of $1,000 or more will be recognized on a plaque at the pavilion.

See gpwfoundation.org for more information.

In addition, the Woods Public Safety Department will host its annual open house noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, to kick off Fire Prevention Week. K-9 Officer Arcos and his handler, Officer Duncan Gill, will be on hand noon to 1 p.m., with a demonstration at 12:30 p.m. The Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Department drone will be there, as well as a fire prevention smoke house.

—Ted O'Neil

LOCK:

Continued from page 3A

thefts during 2013.

Theft not only causes economic loss. There can be emotional costs.

"Burglary victimization is a potentially traumatic experience, because most people consider their home as an extension of the self and a place where the self is protected against others," according to a 2023 study posted on the National Library of Medicine. "Intrusions to such a highly valued place are therefore considered attacks to both one's personhood and one's safety and privacy and may render victims at risk of psychological distress."

Although the study focused on psychological distress among domestic burglary victims, common sense can apply it toward the loss of the family car.

"The deterrent is common sense," Pionk said. "Lock your car. Don't leave key fobs in the car. That's usually the No. 1 problem we have, people leaving key fobs in the car."

It's a refrain in the law enforcement community.

"The biggest thing residents can do is take their keys out of their car," Thiel said. "A lot of our thefts deal with fobs left in the car. So, the thieves just walk up, open the door, get inside the car, hit the brake and start button. If it starts, they're like, 'We got a car.' It's as easy as that."

Park police want to put the brakes on car theft by giving residents anti-theft steering wheel locks.

The drive is nothing new, just rejuvenated.

"The first one we rolled out stemmed from when we were having a rash of thefts of Kias and Hyundais," Chief Jim Bostock said. "We secured a number of anti-theft devices directly from Kia. They gave them to us. Originally, we would set them aside for residents with a Kia or Hyundai. After a while, that interest wound down. We had some left over, so we opened it to any resident who was interested."

"These anti-theft devices have been exceptionally effective in safeguarding neighborhoods against these opportunistic auto thefts," Thiel said.

The device is a brightly colored long bar that attaches to the steering wheel and prevents the steering wheel from being turned.

"With this highly visible steering wheel lock, it immediately signals to them that the vehicle's owner has hardened the target and causes them to walk on by," Thiel said. "They figure it will take them too long to steal the car and will go on to the next one."

"I would never suggest that anybody leave anything unlocked," Pionk said. "Most crimes we have here are crimes of opportunity — garage doors left open, car doors open."

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Woods getting access to school cameras

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — City council and the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education signed a memorandum of understanding at their respective meetings Monday, Sept. 14, that will give the Woods Department of Public Safety access to the district's security cameras.

Grosse Pointe Park, which also handles dispatch duties for the City of Grosse Pointe, and Grosse Pointe Farms signed the MOU earlier this year. The Woods also handles dispatch duties for Grosse Pointe Shores.

Attorney John Kava, from the Collins and Blaha law firm, told the board there were a few changes in the document the Woods requested.

"It previously said the cameras could only be accessed by a law enforcement officer," he explained. "The Woods asked that it be changed to read 'designated, authorized public safety employees.' That's because at times, dispatchers might be viewing the cameras if all the officers are at one of our locations responding to an emergency, but their dispatchers are not certified law enforcement officers."

The new MOU also combines Tiers 1 and 2, giving the Woods immediate access in certain situations. It previously said under Tier 1, police could automatically access the cameras in the event of an active shooter, a kidnapping or a bomb threat. Tier 2 needed prior approval from the superintendent or a designee in cases of threats, missing or endangered persons or ongoing acts of violence at a school.

Superintendent Roy Bishop said the new MOU also would be offered to the Farms and Park. All three departments will undergo regular training to familiarize themselves with which cameras in which schools focus on particular areas.

Finally, if a department notifies the district it intends to obtain a subpoena or warrant to use recordings for an investigation, the district will preserve that footage longer than the 30 days it now keeps footage before it is erased.

Each activation must be documented by law enforcement and provided to the district within 48 hours. Logs shall include:

- date, time and school site,
- cameras viewed,
- name and agency of the authorizing official and all viewers,
- rationale for access and
- outcome or deactivation time.

City awards 5 houses for beautification efforts

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer



From left, commissioners Gregory Jakub and Scott Hensler, Commission Chair Jeff Swantek, Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak, award winners Tim and Susie Vaneckoute, award winners Greg and Chin Rivard, Councilwoman Maureen Juip and commissioners Karen Yoo and Nicole Pressotto with Oakley Dauch.

PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — "A Tudor deserves whimsy," said Susie Vaneckoute, as she and her husband, Tim, accepted a beautification award for their home at 24 Village Lane.

The City of Grosse Pointe held its annual Beautification Awards ceremony Thursday evening, Sept. 24, celebrating five properties for the landscaping, maintenance and architectural style of the homes.

"It was a very dry, hot summer," noted Jeff Swantek, chair of the beautification commission. "A lot of our nominations petered out when we looked at them a second time."

This year's winners are:

- 10 Dodge Place, Kenneth and Patricia Fruehauf
- 653 Lincoln, Felicia and Marlene Paluzzi
- 512 Rivard, Greg and Chin Rivard
- 305 University Place, Rick and Kristin Whitney
- 24 Village Lane, Tim and Susie Vaneckoute


305 University Place


10 Dodge Place


653 Lincoln


512 Rivard

"The nice thing that I love about the way this commission operates in its present form is that they are very selective," Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said. "If they don't find houses that are worthy of an award, they don't give them. It has to hit a certain bar and certain criteria in order for them to say, 'Yes, this deserves an award,' so this is not a light award."

The properties at 10 Dodge Place and 653 Lincoln both are previous award winners. Homes are eligible once every five years.

"I understand the daughter inherited it from her father," Swantek said of 10 Dodge Place. "She's done a wonderful job maintaining it."

Backer Landscaping had a role in the success of 512 Rivard, as it relandscaped the front and back of the property three years ago.

"I grew up at 687 University, so I didn't go very far," Greg Rivard said, "but when we moved here, there were 33 children under 18 years old on our block alone. And in fact, five of the residents on the block graduated from South with me, so it's like one big family, really. We've really enjoyed living there."

It's a similar story at 24 Village Lane, where the Vaneckoutes lost a large maple four years back and decided to bring the landscaping down and around the front yard for a more open feel while they spend time on the front porch.

"There's 14 houses on the street and seven of us have keys to each other's houses," Tim Vaneckoute said.

Campaign office grand opening is today

Pointers launched a Republican Victory Office last week and will formally celebrate with a grand opening 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1.

Serving northeastern Wayne County and southern Macomb County, the office is located at 20778 Mack, at the corner of Anita in Grosse Pointe Woods — the former Schummer's Ski Shop.

Planners for the event said attendees can expect to meet candidates and "like-minded patriots," pick up yard signs and enjoy food and

See OFFICE, page 12A

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University Liggett School seniors earn National Merit Scholarship recognition

University Liggett School recently announced that three members of the Class of 2027 have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program for their academic achievement on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The students are Maisy Huebner, a National Merit Semifinalist, and Evie Goerlich and Liliana Haladjian, who have been named Commended Scholars.

The National Merit Scholarship Program, conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corp., is a highly competitive academic program that narrows down approximately 1.3 million entrants to roughly 7,500 scholarship winners each year. High school students enter the competition by taking the PSAT/NMSQT, usually during October of their junior year. Students are evaluated based on their qualifying test scores, with the highest-scoring participants advancing through the program.

"We're thrilled to see these students recognized for their hard work and achievement," said Elizabeth Jamet, director of college guidance.

For Huebner, of Grosse Pointe Park, being named a semifinalist is both an academic honor and an encouraging step as she prepares for college.

"I was so excited and proud when I found out about this honor," Huebner said. "It is incredibly rewarding to see my hard work recognized."

Goerlich, of Macomb, said the recognition has given her an opportunity to reflect on the support she has received throughout her time at University Liggett School.

"It's an honor to have my hard work recognized," she said. "I'm grateful for the support I've received at ULS from teachers who helped me grow into the student and person I am today."

For Haladjian, of Grosse Pointe Shores, being named a Commended Scholar is a source of personal pride and a reminder of the work I've put into my academic efforts.

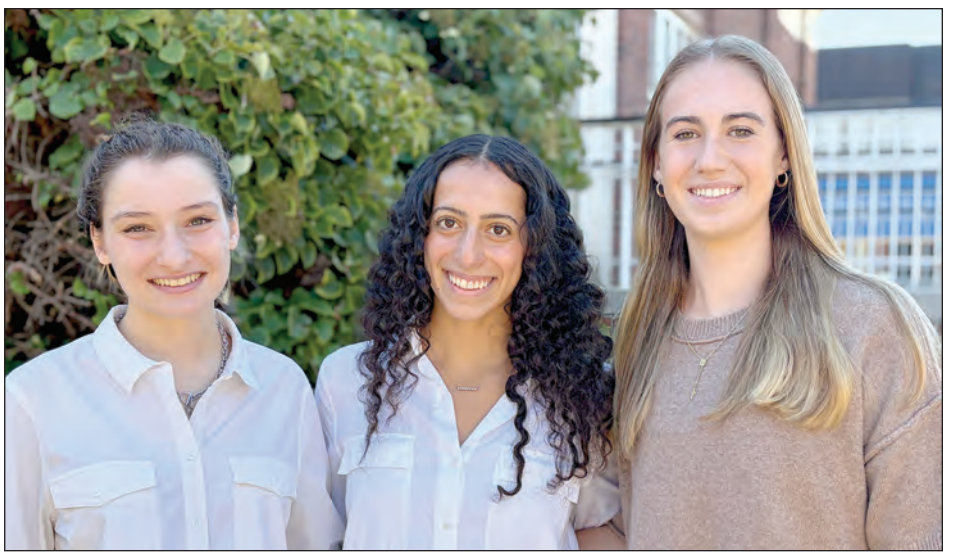

PHOTO COURTESY OF ULS

From left, Evie Goerlich, Liliana Haladjian and Maisy Huebner.

"Being named a Commended Scholar is something I'm really proud of," she said. "It's a testament to the value of her academic efforts.

"Being named a Commended Scholar is something I'm really proud of," she said. "It's a reminder that the work I've put into my academics has made a difference and I'm excited to carry that accomplishment with me into the next chapter."

As a National Merit Semifinalist, Huebner may continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships. Finalists are selected from the Semifinalist group and scholarship recipients are announced at a later stage of the program.

PROJECTS:

Continued from page 1A

◆ Reconfiguring the aisle locations and replacing seating in the Christian A. Fenton Performing Arts Center at Grosse Pointe North High School.

◆ Converting eight first-floor classrooms at Trombly Elementary School for preschool use, including adding air conditioning. The current gym will be turned into a playroom, which Meyer said is necessary for licensing as an early childhood center.

The entrance to the building will be moved to the north end, closest to the parking lot.

"This will be a secure vestibule for parent drop-off and pickup, or if a parent needs to come in for a meeting without having access to the rest of the building," Meyer said. "It will be set up just like Barnes (Early Childhood Center)."

Trombly's library will be converted to a community room to host meetings and a CTE classroom will be added to the second floor.

Bishop said the classroom will focus on GPPSS students who want to pursue a career in teaching.

Correction

A story on page 9A in the Sept. 24 edition should have said Michelle White's campaign website is michellewhiteforgpschools.com.

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Village Palm

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Logic and Accuracy testing scheduled

As Election Day approaches, community members have an opportunity to witness an important step in the election process: Logic and Accuracy (L&A) testing of voting equipment.

Before every election, local election officials conduct L&A testing to verify that voting machines are programmed correctly and accurately record and tabulate votes. This public process helps ensure equipment is functioning as intended before ballots are cast.

Michigan residents are encouraged to attend these tests in their communities. Observing the process provides a first-hand look at the care and transparency that go into administering elections and helps build public confidence in the electoral process.

Local city clerks have set the dates and times for their testing:

Grosse Pointe Park:
Bridgette Bowdler, City Clerk
15115 E. Jefferson
1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6

City of Grosse Pointe:
Christopher Hardenbrook, City Clerk
17147 Maumee
2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15

Grosse Pointe Farms:
Derrick Kozicki, City Clerk
350 Lakeshore
2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15

Grosse Pointe Shores:
Courtney Smith, City Clerk
795 Lakeshore
2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15

Harper Woods:
Leslie Frank, City Clerk
19617 Harper
2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15

Grosse Pointe Woods:
Paul Antolin, City Clerk
20025 Mack Plaza
1:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16

Information provided by Lynne Pierce, president of the League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe.

Plot a fire escape route

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — "Keep the Home Fires Burning" is a British patriotic song from World War I about a patriotic silver lining turning dark clouds inside out till the boys come home.

The lyrics stay true as inspiration for strength through unity. But if the home really is on fire, it's time to go.

"With fire safety, make sure your family has an escape route planned to get outside the house," Detective Sgt. Paul Pionk said.

No one outside the firefighting trade realizes how fast flames spread and how dense smoke gets, he said.

"Fire might be in the kitchen, but smoke could be billowing throughout the whole house," Pionk said.

"Your ability to get out of your home during a fire depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning," according to an article titled, "Home fire escape planning," on the National Fire Protection Association website, nfpa.org.

"Residents could have less than two minutes to escape a home fire once the smoke alarm sounds," according to "Home Fire Escape Plans," on the U.S. Fire Administration website, usfa.fema.gov.

Smoke is disorienting and deadly, cutting off vision and oxygen.

Escape routes are something the Pionk household not only plans, but rehearses.

"I practice it with my kids — how to feel the wall to get out of the house if it's all smoky," Pionk said. "If something's all smoked-out, you can't see. Put your right hand on the wall and follow your pattern that you've already figured out."

Both the National Fire Protection Association and U.S. Fire Administration have step-by-step instructions on their websites about establishing escape plans.

The NFPA also features downloadable grids for drawing floor plans and routes.

According to the administration:

◆ Draw a map of your home. Include all doors and windows.

◆ Find two ways out of every room.

◆ Make sure doors and windows are not blocked.

◆ Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home.

◆ Practice your home fire drill with everyone in the home.

◆ Push the test button to sound the smoke alarm and start your home fire drill.

◆ Get outside to your meeting place.

◆ Once you're out, stay out, according to the association. Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.

OFFICE:

Continued from page 10A

festivities. Voters, elected officials, candidates, volunteers and anyone interested in helping elect Republicans are invited to attend.

Kim Tocco, volunteer coordinator for the center, said, "The center's volunteers are available to provide signs, candidate literature, general voter information and, most importantly, comprehensive voter guides to ensure that voters are informed about all races, both partisan and nonpartisan.

"The November 2026 General Election is crucial for our state and local communities," she added. "The victory office will serve as an accessible hub for voters throughout the election season, as we work to achieve Republican wins up and down the ballot."

Hours, which are subject to change, are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. In addition to metered, on-street parking, there is off-street parking in the rear for visitors.

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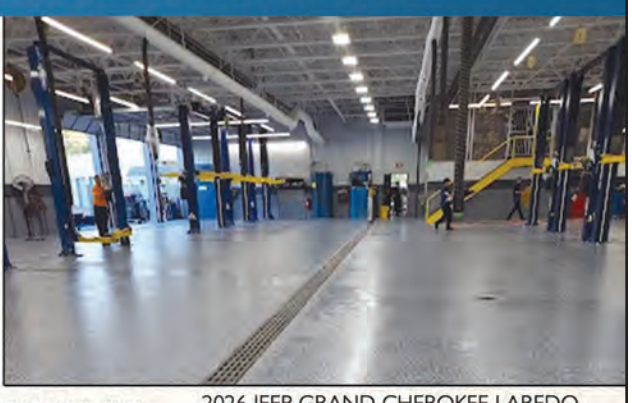

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Haunted Garage brings big thrills weekends in October

By Jody McVeigh
Editor





Ghouls, ghosts and goblins of all shapes and sizes are ready to greet visitors to Haunted Garage Productions.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Weekends in Grosse Pointe Farms are about to get a little spookier as Haunted Garage Productions opens for its 19th season.

The haunted attraction offers family-friendly frights spanning Glen Williams' yard and his parents' property next door.

"Every year we attempt to change the show 25 percent," Williams said. "Our return customer base is huge, so I want to give them something different. As we design the show, we attempt to bring in new attractions, too."

A new attraction this year is a wasp enclosure where Williams guaranteed "nobody is going to get stung; they're not real beehives and wasp nests."

A new raptor also has been added to the Jurassic Park scene.

"We searched the country for a raptor that's the same as the one you see in the Universal Studios commercial," Williams said. "It arrived in April in a crate and we have unleashed it. I think everybody will enjoy that raptor encounter as they walk through the Jurassic Park scene, which is ever-changing."

Tried-and-true favorites return to the haunt as well, including the haunted forest, pumpkin patch, alien encounter and cornstalk walk.

Costumed actors are part of the frightening fun, but for those who want to walk the site without jump scares, no-scare blinking lights are offered. The option makes it an ideal outing for young children while still entertaining folks of all ages.

"There's no blood or gore in our haunt," Williams said. "Our actors are trained not to touch, not to pursue, not to scream. It's family entertainment."

Family is key to Haunted Garage Productions. Williams' parents for years were a part of the production. His father, Ray, hung out in the spider scene, while his mother, Joan, lingered among the witches. Ray Williams was a month shy of his 98th birthday when he died early this year.

"Losing Dad in the show, every day is difficult because he's not here," Williams said. "He was involved quite a bit until the last couple years. Dad loved being in the spiders. He lived so many childhoods dropping those spiders."

Joan Williams, 98, said she hopes to be part of the action again this season; she tried on her witch hat last week to make sure it still fit.

"We spend thousands of hours to make this the best experience for customers and make it as fun as possible," Williams said. "It's a commitment to help charity and to keep old-school Halloween alive.

"… We're a fundraiser first," he added. "People want to come to the show and that tickles me, but we can't lose sight of the fact it's a fundraiser."

Local schools and other charities benefit from Haunted Garage proceeds — the sole reason Williams started it nearly two decades ago.

"I saw how the PTOs were struggling," he said. "I had a haunted collection and made the decision to go semi-professional with it. I didn't know what a haunted production was in 2008. I set everything up in the garage. Then as other schools joined, I started using more property. I can't expand anymore."

Haunted Garage Productions truly is a production. It takes 70 days of hard labor setting up tents, assembling and staging various props, perfecting lighting and testing out sound effects, Williams said.

"There's lots of setup work," he added. "It's hard work — brutal work. Anybody helping, it's brutal for them, too. But when the first customer comes through the door, I think, OK, this is what I do this for. I love when I see their faces light up. It makes it all worth it."

Many of those smiles appear toward the end of

See THRILLS, page 8B



Duo exhibition 'What We Notice: Living in Art' runs Oct. 2-23

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Grosse Pointe artist Ashley Menth already knew Detroit artist Tzu Poré through their shared membership in the Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club. But it was seeing his work for the first time, at one of his exhibitions, that stopped her.

"His work is multilayered and so interesting," she said. "I realized there were images within images and became completely aware that this is a master artist.

"I'm an inquisitive person on a journey to be a great American painter," she continued. "I find experts in the field and glom onto them. So I started messaging him on social media."

A friendship formed and Poré eventually hosted an exhibition of Menth's work at his Detroit gallery. Shown alongside a few of his pieces, their intermingled work caught the eye of Michelle Boggess-Nunley, owner of Posterity Gallery in The Village.

Now the two will showcase their work together in "What We Notice: Living in Art," which opens Friday, Oct. 2, and runs through Friday, Oct. 23, at the gallery, 17005 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. An opening reception takes place 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, and features small bites, music and the artists, both of whom are eager to talk about their work.



COURTESY PHOTOS

"Ethereal Material," by Tzu Poré



"Dominion: Static Equilibrium," by Tzu Poré

Poré will show 12 pieces to Menth's 15.

A material truth

"I've been an artist my entire life," said Poré, who is largely self-taught but also educated at College for Creative Studies and Wayne State University. "I'm not classically trained, so I break all the rules. My practice is largely materially formed. I work with tactile information. I call it vibratory frequency awareness — being sensitive to the frequencies around me."

The contemporary fine artist and curator works primarily in oil painting and mixed media, building images through multiple layers inspired by "history and correlations to what I notice now, living as what most would call an artist," he said. "It's the movements of people, the relationships we create, my lineage."



"Inherited Pincushion Lilies," by Ashley Menth



"Walking in Snowfall," by Ashley Menth

Poré is of Caribbean, Haitian and Geechee descent, and that lineage shows in his canvases. Haitian art is rich, he said, saturating the entire canvas with color.

"It's done intentionally, with purpose, not haphazardly," he added.

That work is informed by his life beyond the studio: regenerative gardening, land stewardship, barbering, mentoring and community cultural work.

"I'm an urban farmer," he said. "I'm the founding member of several community gardens and a participating member within the local urban farming movement here in Detroit. I grow food, do art and cut hair, and I'm a full-time student."

Those threads come together in his guiding philosophy, "Hair Is the Garden We Wear." Poré approaches materials as active agents that carry memory, tactility and human experience. His mixed-media works incorporate minerals, fibers, handmade substrates and layered glazing that build depth through slow, intentional accumulation.

"My house became a homestead accidentally," he said. "I have 30 birds at my house. To my neighbors, I'm an artist, a grower and a barber."

Poré is the founder of EMB Contemporary Collective and Muur Herb & Pharm. In 2026, he was selected as a Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund awardee, supporting his cultivation and stewardship of four lots at Canfield and Dickerson on Detroit's east side. The land grant, through a coalition of Detroit Black Community Food Security Network,

See DUO, page 8B

East Side Youth Sports Foundation hosts shoe drive fundraiser through Nov. 14

The East Side Youth Sports Foundation is conducting a shoe-drive fundraiser now through Nov. 14, to raise funds for the Detroit Bulldogs Hockey Club.

East Side Youth Sports Foundation will earn funds based on the total weight of the gently worn, used and new shoes collected; Funds2Orgs will issue a check for the collected shoes. Those dollars will benefit the Detroit Bulldogs Hockey Club.

Anyone can help by donating gently worn, used and new shoes at ESH Ice Arena. All donated shoes will be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of microenterprise and small business partners. Funds2Orgs works with microentrepreneurs in helping them create, maintain and grow small businesses in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited.

Proceeds from the sales of the shoes collected in the shoe drive are used to feed, clothe and house families. One budding entrepreneur in Haiti eared enough to send her son to law school.

"We are excited about our shoe drive," said Brian Francis, president of the foundation. "We know that most people have extra shoes in their closets they would like to donate to us. By doing so, we raise money for the Bulldogs and we have the chance to help families in developing nations who need economic opportunities. It's a win-win for everyone."

The East Side Youth Sports Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the growth of youth sports on the east side of metro Detroit.

For more information, call (586) 343-8360.

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Rotary Club President Dave Colton, left, and Connie Boris.



COURTESY PHOTO

Preserving the Sibley Prairie

On Sept. 2, Connie Boris, executive director of the Wayne County Conservation District, spoke to the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe about the importance of preserving the Sibley Prairie.

Boris has spent most of her career working to protect water quality and natural resources, including teaching at the University of Michigan to educate others on the importance of preserving nature and working with the Environmental Protection Agency on policies to protect the nation's waterways.

Sibley Prairie is a 440-acre natural area in Brownstown Township, around 15 miles from downtown Detroit. It is currently the largest remaining lakeplain prairie in Michigan and provides a rare habitat for hundreds of native plants, wildlife, birds and pollinators. More than 99 percent of Michigan's original lakeplain prairie has been lost, making Sibley especially important to protect.

The Save Sibley Prairie Coalition is working to permanently protect this land before it is lost to development. The message is simple: "Save It, Don't Pave It." The campaign is an all-volunteer effort bringing organizations and community members together to raise awareness, funds and support.

Visit savesibleyprairie.org/donate to help fund the project.

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Freedom to stay on-the-go is available for Pointe seniors

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

A recent article about seniors' most nagging concerns included the fear of not being able to get where they need to go once driving becomes an issue. Senior website oldernbetter.com cited transportation worries among the top 10 challenges of aging members of society.

Retirement life requires much adaptation and change, so it's good to know that the freedom to get to appointments and social activities need not be thwarted. Maintaining autonomy and independence is good for physical and mental health as we age. The Pointes offer a variety of transportation services in the area. Here are some options for Grosse Pointe seniors who want to stay on-the-go.

PAATS

Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Service (PAATS) provides handicapped Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods seniors (60+) with transportation anywhere in the area bounded by 11 Mile Road, Gratiot, Alter Rd, and Jefferson. This transportation service also travels to the following locations outside of the standard boundaries: St. John Surgery Center, Henry Ford Main Campus, Detroit Medical Center, VA Hospital, City-County Building and The New Center.

Call (313) 394-9712 Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for more information or to schedule a ride. They book up quickly, so it's recommend to call in advance as soon as possible when you need to get somewhere.

Care.com

Transport for seniors and disabled seniors is also available from care.com. The website aggregates providers of many senior services — all under one umbrella. Transportation carers will assist older adults or individuals with disabilities by driving them to doctor appointments, grocery stores or to run their daily errands. General driving and accompaniment services, chauffeurs and companions are available.

Average rates nationwide are approximately $21 per hour. Check online for more information or to search specialized area profiles.

Visiting Angels

This Mack Avenue business in Grosse Pointe Woods specializes in senior care and offers transportation services along with other senior assistance such as personal care, meal prep, light housekeeping or errands. They have been serving the Pointes for over 20 years.

Schedule from four-hour shifts to 24/7 care. Call (586) 777-9217 to get help for an appointment or info on other types of assistance at visiting-angels-grosse-pointe.web.app.



Get Papa

Whatever the day calls for, there's a Get Papa Pal to help you do it. A Pal is a friendly, vetted helper from your area — not a nurse or an aide, just a capable, trustworthy person who lends a hand with everyday things and provides good company for seniors.

A Get Papa Pal can assist with transportation, for medical appointments, trips to the pharmacy or offer an outing for lunch to get out of the house with new friend who can brighten the day. They'll run errands, sort mail, organize to-do piles of stuff or grab some groceries.

A Pal can also do laundry, wash the dishes and offer a little light cooking — even cook together with seniors who prefer to stay involved in the kitchen. After dinner they'll go for a walk with your loved one, play a card game or just enjoy good conversation over coffee.

There are 163 Pals available in the Grosse Pointe area now. To connect with one, visit getpapa.com.



Carevan Company

For disabled seniors, this non-emergency transportation service is quickly becoming one of the leading and most trusted service providers in Michigan. Specializing in wheelchair transportation, they pride themselves on exceptional customer service, timeliness, safety, comfort and cleanliness.

Clients typically include elderly members of the community or patients recovering from illness or injury in need of handicap-accessible transportation. The vans make runs to dialysis treatment centers, rehabilitation hospitals, regular doctor appointments and physical or occupational therapy sessions.

They are highly recommended by both MedStar Ambulance and Star EMS — as their preferred non-emergency medical transportation partner. Carevan Company also transports passengers to other non-emergency and non-medical appointments like family events, ball games, the hair salon, stores or anywhere else in Southeast Michigan.

All drivers go through a pre-employment background check using Michigan State Police technology. Their vans undergo monthly maintenance checks — and wheelchair vans are ADA-compliant. Carevan Company has drivers available in the Grosse Pointe area. Call them at (248) 403-8083 or visit carevancompanyllc.localsearch.com.

Lyft Silver

Seniors can ride with more confidence with Lyft Silver, a service designed for older adults. Using a simplified senior-friendly app, seniors can book their own rides to go anywhere they need to go.

The Silver program offers cars that are easier to enter and exit for those with mobility issues and use only Lyft's highest-rated drivers. Seniors are also able to share their ride details with family or other people they trust. They can contact live human phone support with any issues to ensure they safely get to and from appointments.

To get started with Lyft Silver, visit them online at lyft.com/rider/silver to download the app and create an account.

Go Go Grandparent

Don't want to fuss with an app? Whether you're heading to a medical appointment, running errands or meeting friends, Go Go Grandparent makes sure you get there safely — without the hassle of app technology. Just call, and they'll handle the rest, from booking the ride to tracking your trip for additional security.

Go Go Grandparent partners with licensed Uber and Lyft drivers to provide reliable taxi options for seniors and they monitor every ride in real time. Go Go Grandparent strives to eliminate confusion and uncertainty — with a goal to provide a smooth, reliable ride whenever a senior needs it.

Call (855) 464-6872, ext. 39681 to book a ride. Operators are standing by to help seniors register. In the Grosse Pointe area, there is a $1.42 base fare plus 53 cents per mile, plus 53 cents per minute (with a minimum fare of $8.71.)

SMART Bus

SMART offers fixed route Grosse Pointe service on Kercheval/Harper, Charlevoix and a Jefferson Express bus. Contact smartbus.org for bus schedules.

SMART Connector offer curb-to-curb, advance reservation service. Rides are available on a first come, first-served basis within a 10-mile radius of your beginning destination.

Connectors run Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call ahead to reserve your trip. For medical trips, passengers may call up to six days in advance. All others may call up to two days in advance. The reservation number is (866) 962-5515 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.



It's comforting to know that the area has many transportation options to keep seniors active and independent as they go about their days in our communities. Whether fully mobile or in need of extra assistance, there are transportation services for every senior and every need.

It's crucial to senior well-being to continue to get around town, stay active, see people and exercise healthy independence. Even after solo driving days are over, a vital, active and happy life can go on!

Celebrating 40 years at Ford House

By Jody McVeigh
Editor



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Jim Steplitus has been helping make everyday life and special events run smoothly at Ford House for 40 years.

Of all things, Jim Steplitus' love of softball led to a long-term career at the historic estate of Edsel and Eleanor Ford. Ford House's director of facilities and maintenance celebrated 40 years with the organization last month.

"Back in the early '80s, softball was a big thing," he said. "I was playing with a gentleman whose girlfriend was working here. My eventual boss also played on the team. I got a call that there was an opening."

He aced the interview and started as a "facilities and maintenance guy" at the main house.

"There were no other buildings back then," he said.

He's been promoted throughout the years to facilities director, then supervisor of historical maintenance — a post that included caring for Fair Lane: Home of Clara and Henry Ford — then facilities manager of the estate. He was named director in 2015.

In his current post, he oversees all Ford House buildings and the swimming pool, as well as the estate's 22,000-square-foot warehouse in Warren.

While he enjoys the work, Steplitus said the best part of his job is the ever-changing scenery at Ford House.

"You can't beat the estate," he said. "Outside, the different seasons changing. Sunrises in the morning. And the number of things we do here, too. It's never the same thing. The events are nice and people enjoy themselves when they're here."

He said he gets a kick out of seeing events come full circle, from planning to executing to the smiles on people's faces during and after events.

"Most people who come here are in a good mood and it escalates from there," he said.

Steplitus said he's met many people during his tenure, guests and staff alike. Ford House has had several presidents since it opened to the public in 1978, he added, along with a staff that continues to grow.

"The first 25 years with my boss back then were pretty good," he said. "We had a lot in common. We both fish, golf, play softball. It was a small crew when I first started and we all worked together.

"… We were more of a family dynamic," he added. "It was small back then — about 25 people. Now it's 120 or more. There's a lot of coming and going."

Staff hasn't been the only fluctuating factor during Steplitus' tenure.

"The first few years were tough; we watched how we spent money and what we did," he said. "It has gone well: We were able to build these buildings and invest in a few historical vehicles.

"The house is the crown jewel," he added. "It's what people come to see, the most important thing."

The new buildings — opened in 2021 — came with new technology for Steplitus to learn, but he's managed to change with the times. As director, he misses some of the physical aspects of the job, though he still likes to get his hands dirty.

Steplitus said he's not in a hurry to retire, even though being on call 24/7 is "not an easy feat. And a 10- to 12-hour day is not out of the question."

It can be taxing, too; he commutes from Clarkston every day.

"I'm up at 4 a.m. to beat traffic," he said.

"I can't work forever," he added. "I still get physical, setting up tents or moving generators. … As long as I have my health and I feel like getting up in the morning, I'll be here."

To celebrate his milestone, Ford House hosted a lunch and invited former co-workers and bosses.

"I want to thank the Ford family and Ford House for the opportunity to work here," he said. "It's been a learning experience. Learning the family history, I knew nothing when I started here even though I'm a car enthusiast. I've been able to take care of some really nice vehicles here.

"It's an interesting place," he added. "What we have here is great to see. The community enjoys this little site inside their city."

The Helm to distribute food

Residents of all Grosse Pointe communities who are age 60 and older and facing food insecurity may receive a food box containing fresh fruits and vegetables from Eastern Market.

A limited number of boxes is available at The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16. To guarantee a box, register with The Helm by calling (313) 882-9600. Registrants must provide their name, address, phone number and date of birth.

ID is required at pickup.

NEW EXHIBITION

ROBERT O. DERRICK

Architect of Dreams



L–R: Pierce Junior High, photograph c. 1940–1945; The Grosse Pointe Club (also known as "The Little Club"),photograph c.1927–1929.

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

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

10/2026

AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

Central branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

◆ Special Effects Makeup, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

◆ Phil Hale and His Orchestra, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park

◆ Yoga Storytime, 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3.

◆ West African Dance, noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3.

◆ "Welcome to Detroitland" discussion with Richard Bak, 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Oct. 6.

◆ UV Resin with DaTrice, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Oct. 8.

◆ Gettin' Crafty with Miss Mo, 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

◆ Brave Belle's Book Club, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

◆ Silent Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

Woods branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7.

◆ Playtime Pop-Ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Oct. 8.

◆ Fall Magic Show with Jeff Wawrzaszek, 10 to 11:45 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

Live music

Planet D Nonet will perform at the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe for three nights — 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1; and 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, and Saturday, Oct. 3. The band also takes the stage at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle at 3:15 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, and at Cadieux Cafe at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25.

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.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org or RSVP to register@familycenterhelps.org.

◆ Community Yoga takes place at 7 p.m. Tuesdays during October.

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

◆ Mental Health Matters takes place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14. The book "Stop Caretaking the Borderline or Narcissist" by Margalis Fjelstad will be discussed. Panelists are social workers Susie Rohde and Frank Wilberding.

◆ Health for Her — Hair, Skin and Nails takes place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, at The Helm, with panelists Dr. Robin Samyn, Dr. Meredith Price and Kristen Giancola with iCRYO.

◆ From Surviving to Thriving, featuring three behavioral health professionals, takes place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28. Panelists John George, Jen Dees and Stephanie Hazard will share practical strategies for recovery and resilience.

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

◆ Built By Me: Beginner Web Design & Coding Program, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Oct. 5 to Nov. 9. Cost is $180 for the six-week course.

◆ Giving Back: Great Lakes National Cemetery Volunteer Day, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6.

◆ Community Joiner Fair: In Conversation with Priya Parker, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7.

◆ Vet-to-Vet, 8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

◆ War Memorial History Tour, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

◆ Second Saturdays: Not-So-Spooky Halloween, 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

◆ Silent Book Club at The War Memorial, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13.

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.

◆ German for Fun, 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays, Oct. 6 to Dec. 8.

◆ The Knowledge Cafe — A Monthly Serving of Lifelong Learning, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7. The topic is travel and history.

◆ Ask the Physical Therapist, 9 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, with facilitator Jessica Malfa.

See EVENTS, page 5B



Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

Buying time

Ken Jennings, host of the venerable TV game show "Jeopardy!" recently read this clue: "This Michigan city is home to Henry Ford College."

Blank expressions on the three TV contestants. The one in the middle shrugged her shoulders and raised both hands, palms up. Silence.

I leaped from my chair and shouted at the TV: "What is Dearborn?"

"Jeopardy!" airs five times a week. The innovative game show debuted in 1964. Clues are in the form of answers and responses from contestants must be in the form of questions: "What is … ?" or "Who is … ?"

During an average show, I verbalize the correct response before a contestant does — oh — maybe four or five times. Each show has 62 clues, so I'm correct 7 percent of the time. That's embarrassing. It's terrible.

If I had a minute or even another few seconds to think after each clue is given, I'm sure I could better my miserable score.

When I was about 40 years old, I realized my arms were not long enough to read the newspaper. I got prescription reading glasses. Eye Aid.

A bit later, my hearing decreased. I got hearing aids. Ear Aid.

Still later, I needed medication to keep my blood pressure in line. Blood Pressure Aid. Later, I opted for a hip replacement. Hip Aid. My future "aids" might include a pacemaker or a wheelchair. Who knows?

I recently got "Jeopardy!" Aid. I live in a senior community and many of us watch "Jeopardy!" every night after dinner. The next day we compare notes about our ability to come up with the right responses before the TV contestant does. We all agree: We just need a bit more time.

After a contestant has responded correctly to each clue, we seniors grumble and mumble, "That's right! I knew that!" Our senior brains are still sharp. They work. They're just slower than the fresh young brains of those smarty-pants contestants.

My youngest daughter and her husband taught me about "Jeopardy!" Aid. I record the show. Later, when I watch it, I hit the pause button after each clue so I can stop and think. And think. Given some time — even a few more seconds — I can often come up with the correct response before one of those smarty-pantsers.

Thank you, Jenny and Steve.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 4B

◆ DIA Behind the Scenes: Through Her Eyes II: Women Photographers, 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 9, with DIA docent Vernice McDaniel.

◆ Field Trip to IKEA in Canton Township, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13. Cost is $15 and includes transportation.

◆ Lunch & Learn: GLP-1s Explained, noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, with Dr. Robin Samyn. Cost is $12.

◆ Beginning Spanish, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 13 to Dec. 15. Cost is $40 for the series.

◆ Continued Spanish, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 13 to Dec. 15. Cost is $40 for the series.

◆ Watercolors, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 13 to Dec. 8.

◆ Out to Lunch Bunch, Shores Inn, St. Clair Shores, noon to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15.

◆ Halloween Twilight Bingo, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15. Cost is $2 for two cards, pastries and refreshments.

◆ Electronic Device Tutoring, noon to 3 p.m. the first and third Fridays of each month.

◆ Conversational French for Beginners, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and noon to 1:30 p.m. Fridays.

◆ Conversational French for Intermediates, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Fridays.

◆ Young Onset Parkinson's Support Group, 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, with facilitator Angela Ferrara.

◆ Low Vision Support Group, 10 to 11:30 a.m. the third Monday of each month.

◆ Blood Pressure Screening, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. the third Thursday of each month with Mary Jo Fresard of Sunrise Senior Living.

◆ Share for Dementia, by appointment only, with care consultants LaTonya Connally and Deb Sloss.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

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

◆ 12:45 to 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

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.

◆ Paint What You Love: Independent Painting Study with Liz Frankland, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays, Oct. 9 to 23.

◆ Cloudscapes with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 22 and 29.

◆ Learning Portraiture from the Old Masters with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 5 and 12. This is the second of three two-session workshops.

Garden Center

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center presents "Where Structure Meets Stem," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Laura Deluge, AIFD, will speak. Her designs focus on exploring a balance between natural movement of late-season blooms and architectural form. Registration is free for members, $10 for nonmembers. Advanced registration is required at gpgardencenter.org.

Optimists

The Lakeshore Optimist Club meets at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tatiana Hull, CEO of Arts and Scraps, speaks. Guests are welcome to hear the speaker and learn about the club.



Robert Sewell Jr., CEO of Tek Ready Computer Learning Academy, left, and Steve Licari, president of the Lakeshore Optimist Club.

COURTESY PHOTO

Optimists get TEK Ready

Robert Sewell Jr., CEO of TEK Ready Computer Learning Academy, visited the Lakeshore Optimist Club to introduce the club to the programs offered at the organization.

TEK Ready Computer Learning Academy is a nonprofit, veteran-owned, Cisco Networking Academy and CompTIA academic partner headquartered at TechTown in Midtown Detroit.

The academy exists to implement a holistic strategy that will improve the financial and economic base of communities' underserved populations by offering STEM-related IT training, in-demand professional IT certifications and wraparound services. Courses providing certifications in the areas of cybersecurity, AI, networking and more are offered to students at no cost. State, local and federal workforce development programs provide funding, along with donations from corporations and individuals. The academy trains individuals and provides access to internships and apprenticeships, leading to employment with companies needing technically trained individuals. For more information, visit tekready.org.

Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome. Visit gpoptimists.com for more information.

Senior Expo 2026

Experience Senior Life Today!

Thursday, October 22, 8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Assumption Cultural Center

St. Clair Shores/Grosse Pointe Woods

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Chuck Gaidica
Wellness Coach

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Senior Expo 2026 is a community service of the Senior Expo Committee and Assumption Cultural Center • 586-779-6111 • 21800 Marter Road

10/1/26

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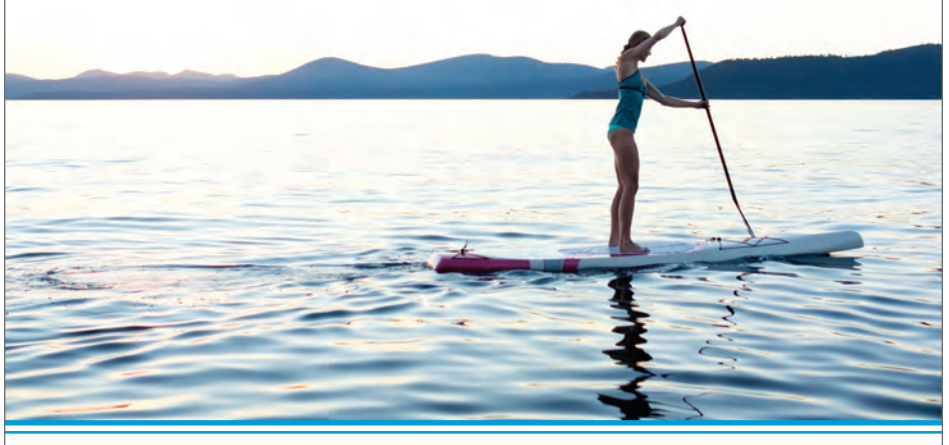

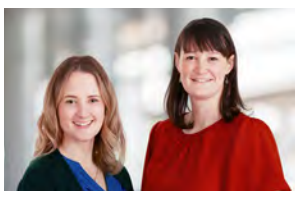

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10/1/26

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.



Betsy Ann Schulte



Clara I. Breicha



James Gerard O'Connor

Betsy Ann Quarters Schulte

Betsy Ann (nee Quarters) Schulte, 65, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2026, surrounded by family and loved ones.

Betsy was born May 9, 1961, in Royal Oak, the third of four sisters. Her birthday often landed on Mother's Day, which her family said always felt right.

Betsy lived a life of service. Long before it was her job, she was volunteering, bringing programs like Operation Smile to her kids' elementary school. She worked at Services for Older Citizens (now The Helm), then spent 20 years at Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital (now Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital) as director of volunteer services, touching countless lives along the way. She had a gift for noticing the people others overlooked and bringing them in.

She partnered with Freedom House Detroit to bring asylum seekers into the hospital's volunteer program, providing a place to build skills, practice English and find community in their new home. In 2023, Betsy started LAUNCH, a first-of-its-kind program designed to equip neurodivergent young adults with hands-on experience in the hospital, mentorship and a path toward a career. A coworker called her "our guiding light."

Betsy brought people together. She had a beautiful way of making new friends feel like family from the start. To sit and talk with Betsy was to walk away with a lighter heart and a renewed faith in the world. She loved birds, a good uplifting story, perusing a neighborhood garage sale, walking through a farmers market and blasting Coldplay in her kitchen. Betsy's laugh filled every room she walked into.

As much as she gave to her community and friends, her family always was her greatest joy. She loved being a mom to Anna and Jack and, later, more than anything, a grandmother, "Bibi," to Owen, Miles and Estee. She poured her fierce love into her family.

Above all else, she was deeply in love with her husband, Frank, with whom she shared her life's journey. Theirs was a storybook love — never faltering, always steady and rooted in a deep friendship, devotion and unwavering commitment to one another. From the beginning, they built a life filled with love, family, laughter and countless memories. Through every season of life, they stood beside one another, growing together and holding onto the simple, enduring love that made their partnership special. Betsy loved Frank with her whole heart; the life they shared was one of her greatest gifts.

Betsy was the one who planned family trips, never missing a major milestone or a difficult day. No matter the call, she answered. She had a way of making others feel as though they were the most important people in the world. Her love was generous and constant, given freely without ever asking anything in return. Betsy taught the importance of charity and established a family tradition during the holidays: Once the gifts were unwrapped, she would deliver meals to older neighbors so no one was left alone. Selfless and endlessly loving, she was the true north who kept her family pointed in the right direction.

Betsy was larger than life. Her family said she was their best friend, greatest source of love and comfort, and someone who made the world brighter simply by being in it. They will miss her more than words can ever say. Her love will remain with them in the stories they tell, the memories they cherish and the way they love one another.

Betsy is survived by her husband of 43 years, Frank; her children, Jack (Ari) and Anna (Kevin); her grandchildren, Owen, Miles and Estee; her sisters, Kathy (Jimmy), Susie and Amy (Tim); and many beloved sisters- and brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her parents, Patti and Robert.

The family will host a celebration of life to honor Betsy in the coming months. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Freedom House Detroit, freedomhousedetroit.org.

Clara I. Breicha

Clara I. Breicha, 109, of Grosse Pointe Park, passed away Monday, Sept. 21, 2026.

Clara was born March 29, 1917, in Szeged, Hungary, to Lujza and Konrad Knitl. She began her education at Franz Joseph University in Szeged, but could not finish due to the start of World War II.

Clara came to the U.S. with her husband, Dr. Bela Breicha, and children in 1951 and settled in the Chicago area. After her daughters were married, she enrolled at Barat College in Lake Forest, Ill., and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. When Bela retired in 1977, Clara and Bela moved to Grosse Pointe to be near their daughters. She never stopped learning and furthered her knowledge in history, music and art by reading on a daily basis.

Clara was a longtime member of the American Association of University Women of Grosse Pointe and was active in several study groups well into her 90s, including art appreciation, music appreciation, international relations and a book club. She also attended Tuesday Musicale of Detroit events. Clara also sewed, creating beautiful pieces of clothing, and was a culinary enthusiast who prepared mouthwatering baked goods.

Clara was predeceased by her parents and her husband, Dr. Bela Breicha. She is survived by her children, Dr. Eva Ettedgui, Marianne Shrader and Lya Grote; grandchildren, Ed Shrader, Phil Shrader, Louise Miller, Emile Ettedgui, Whelan Bourke and Stephen Bourke; as well as 14 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Clara will be laid to rest next to her husband at Mount Olivet Cemetery. A private funeral service will be held.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to an educational institution of the giver's choice, to support Clara's love of education and furthering one's knowledge.

James Gerard O'Connor

James Gerard O'Connor, 83, of Naples, Fla., and Spring Lake, N.J., beloved father, grandfather, brother, partner and friend, passed away peacefully Friday, Sept. 25, 2026, in Morristown, N.J. Known for his larger-than-life personality and generous heart, Jim made everyone feel like a friend.

Born Feb. 28, 1943, in Brooklyn, Jim grew up in South Orange, N.J., graduating from Seton Hall Preparatory School in 1960 and Villanova University in 1964. He spent more than 40 years with Ford Motor Co., rising from management trainee to president of Ford of Canada, president of Lincoln-Mercury and president of Ford Division, before retiring in 2004 as group vice president, North American Marketing, Sales & Service.

Proud of his Irish heritage, Jim served as grand marshal of the 2003 New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, one of many honors he received, including Villanova's Loyalty Award and Alumni Medal, Seton Hall Prep's Athletic Hall of Fame and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

As a father of two daughters and grandfather of four, Jim took great joy in their lives and accomplishments. He also drew strength from his Catholic faith, which guided his generosity and service to others, including support of the Augustinian community and the Margaret Donnelly O'Connor Education Center.

Jim is lovingly remembered by his brother, Peter O'Connor (Patti Flanagan); daughters, Meredith Tomatore (Keith) and Erin Kavanagh (Timothy), and their mother, Judith (nee Palmer) O'Connor; grandchildren, James, Grace, Maeve and Owen Kavanagh; partner, Dianne McDonough; and half-brother, Richard Lundy.

Visitation takes place 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, at O'Brien Funeral Home in Wall Township, N.J. His funeral Mass takes place 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at St. Catharine Church in Spring Lake, N.J., with burial to follow.

View the full obituary at obrienfuneralhome.com.

See OBITS, page 7B

Cecile McCaffrey Frederick "Cece"

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

April 27, 1940 - September 24, 2026



Wildly creative and enormously fun, Grosse Pointe Farms resident Cecile McCaffrey Frederick died peacefully by her daughter and niece's side on Thursday September 24th, 2026. Cece was born in Detroit, Michigan to Anne and Frank McCaffrey. She called Grosse Pointe home for most of her life. Cece was a great athlete and student, and three brothers made sure she could take a hit - or a joke and give it right back.

Cece had the kind of laugh that filled a room with warmth and made you want to stay a little longer. Her laugh was big, infectious, and frequently punctuated by a snort. She found humor in absolutely everything. If you heard her laughing from the next room, you wanted a seat at the table too. There was always room for one more to laugh until they snorted. If you thought Cece's laugh was a joy, add her brothers to the mix and the whole room would be a glorious roar.

She was impressively educated. After graduating from The Academy of Sacred Heart, Cece earned her bachelor's in English from Marymount, followed by two Master's degrees: the first from University of Michigan in English and Literature, and the second from Wayne State in Art and Art History. She put all that learning to work teaching English, literature, history and art.

She managed to teach every grade from K-12, filling classrooms with games, stories and fun. She made her students feel capable, curious and glad to be in her classroom. She taught at Marion, Sacred Heart, St Benedicts, Star of The Sea and University Liggett School. Cece's longest tenure was at Liggett where she made lifelong friends who always stood by her and never let a practical joke go to waste. She was a teacher to many, a second mom to so many and a devoted friend to those who worked beside her.

Cece called the last five years of her life, spent living with her daughter and family, the best years of her life. She loved having a front row seat to the laughter and chaos of a full house.

One of her greatest joys was being present for the every day moments and watching her grandchildren grow up. Easygoing and happy, Cece fit into the middle of it, and that is where she was happiest She is survived by her daughter, Kate Webber, son-in-law, Stephen Webber; her beloved grandchildren, Jack, Scout and Wells; her brother Tom, with whom even an ordinary moment became a funny story; her nieces and nephews - and their children - who were among the greatest loves of her life, many many wonderful friends and last but not least, the dogs, Samantha and Frankie. Cece is already so deeply missed, especially in the little moments when we still expect to hear her laugh or cheer for the Lions, whether they deserved it or not.

She touched more lives than she knew. She made people feel welcome, made a difference wherever she went, and left this world a much better place than she found it.

May the road rise to meet you mom. I know your two older brothers, Bill and John welcomed you into heaven with open arms - and by now, the three of you have probably been asked to keep it down. We love you so much Cece. May God hold you close until we meet again.

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Ambrose

St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park, hosts the St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals at its 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. Masses Sunday, Oct. 4. For details, call (313) 822-2814.

St. Margaret

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 21201 13 Mile, west of Harper in St. Clair Shores, will host its seventh annual Christmas Resale in the gymnasium, offering a large variety of Christmas items at low prices. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. Early-bird pricing is offered 8 to 9 a.m. Friday.

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OBITS:

Continued from page 6B



Marvin D. Rancilio



Lynda Jo Gordon



Dr. Andres G. Santiviago



George S. Lilly



Dennis Kopp

Marvin D. Rancilio

Marvin D. Rancilio, 84, of St. Clair Shores, passed away Friday, Sept. 18, 2026.

Marvin was born Aug. 25, 1942, in Detroit, to Louis Vincent Rancilio and Petrina Mary Genuise. He was the youngest of three brothers; his older brothers, Robert and Kenneth, predeceased him. Marvin spent most of his life in Grosse Pointe Woods, where he raised his family before moving to St. Clair Shores in 2020.

Marvin graduated from Notre Dame in 1960 and earned a degree in accounting from Wayne State University. In 1968, he married his beloved wife, Mary Sue Mulloy, who predeceased him in 2024. Together, they raised three children and built a beloved family business, The Cheesecake Shoppe.

The Cheesecake Shoppe began in the Rancilio home in 1980, when Marvin encouraged Sue and her friend Peggy Dunlop to turn her popular cheesecake recipe into a business. They opened their first shop on Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe in 1981, and later moved to Mack and Nine Mile in St. Clair Shores. Marvin operated the business until 2018. More than a bakery, The Cheesecake Shoppe became a community gathering place and provided employment to generations of family members, friends and young people. Marvin was especially proud of welcoming young people with disabilities to the team and giving them an opportunity to be part of the workplace.

Marvin loved baseball and was a longtime Babe Ruth League coach. He began coaching when his son, Michael, asked him. He continued coaching for many years. Through his years on the field, Marvin became a familiar and well-loved presence in the community. He also was a lifelong Detroit Tigers fan and held Friday night season tickets for many years, often taking his children and grandchildren to games.

In retirement, Marvin enjoyed playing pickleball throughout Grosse Pointe and St. Clair Shores and enjoyed the group he played with. Above all, he loved his family. He rarely missed a grandchild's hockey game, baseball game or dance recital and was always willing to provide a ride or lend a hand. His grandchildren especially cherished sleepovers at Grandpa's house and the elaborate Halloween experiences he created for them each year.

Marvin is survived by his children, Annemarie Harris (Joel), Michael Rancilio (Jen) and Petrina Hone (Justin); and eight grandchildren, Abigail, Thomas, Joseph, Marissa, Sienna, Jackson, Michael and Madeline.

Marvin will be remembered by all who knew him as a devoted husband and father, a proud grandfather, a dedicated coach, a generous employer and a familiar presence in the community. He loved people and loved being part of their lives. He was always there when someone needed him.

A private celebration of Marvin's life will be held by his family at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the The Arc of Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods, an organization dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Donations may be made online at thearcgp-hw.org.

Lynda Jo Gordon

Lynda Jo Gordon, 81, died Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026.

She was the beloved wife of Lee Sanborn for 41 wonderful years; the loving stepmother of Rachael Sanborn of Erie, Colo.; cherished sister of Sharon Newman; and beloved aunt of Lynn Hunting of Rodanthe, N.C., and Patricia Hunting of Madrid, Spain.

Lyn was born in Detroit and spent her early years in southwest Detroit before moving to Warren, where she attended Warren Fitzgerald High School. Partly to get out of town, she attended Michigan State University, where she majored in special education. Her senior year at State, Lyn had a practicum teaching in, of all places, Roseville, in Room 107 at Fountain Elementary School. The school hired her full time immediately and she remained at Fountain in Room 107 for the next 17 consecutive years.

She then launched a preprimary special education program for the city, conducting the program the next 18 years. Next, she "graduated" to Roseville Middle School, where she taught reading skills during her final eight years in the Roseville school system. Throughout her career she did after-school tutoring, in total teaching reading skills to hundreds of children on the east side of Detroit.

Along with her husband, Lee, Lyn traveled extensively, visiting about 77 countries. These included normal tourist destinations such as Italy, Scotland and Japan, as well as less-normal destinations such as Tibet, Syria and New Guinea. Her favorite stops were visiting the mountain gorillas in the Congo (then called Zaire) and the town of Thirsk in Yorkshire, England. In Thirsk she met one of her lifelong heroes, James Alfred Wight, better known by his pen name: James Herriot.

Lyn was always an animal lover and, in meeting Herriott, reminded those around her of a 4-year-old meeting Santa Claus. She always had dogs, particularly Old English sheepdogs, which were one of the joys of her life.

Ms. Gordon also was an excellent cook, making a particularly tasty lasagna. Her family said it probably was the best lasagna prepared by any non-Italian woman on the east side of Detroit. Her other legendary product was chocolate brownies, which she made for a variety of occasions. People always rated them "great" and asked for the recipe.

Lyn brought a lot of joy and help to many people. She will be missed dearly.

Share memories with the family at the online guestbook at wujek calcaterra.com.

Dr. Andres Guillermo Santiviago

Dr. Andres Guillermo Santiviago, 83, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026.

Andres was born Aug. 15, 1943, in Asuncion, Paraguay, to Andres and Hermelinda (nee Chilavert) Santiviago, both now deceased. He is survived by his beloved wife of 21 years, Margaret (nee Meier) Santiviago; loving children, Sergio Santiviago (Mary) and Andrea Shindeldecker (Scott); cherished grandchildren, Theodore Santiviago, Andrew Santiviago, Charlotte Shindeldecker and Evelyn Shindeldecker; brothers- and sisters-in-law, John Meier (Shelley), the late Michael Meier (Evernne), Mary Johnson (Jerald), Barbara Manning, Carolyn Cortner (Gary) and Nancy Betz (Richard); and many cherished nieces, nephews and godchildren from Paraguay. He also will be greatly missed by his beloved dog, Daisy; and lap buddy cat, Cinco. He was predeceased by his parents; and loving sister, Wilma Apuril (Gilberto).

Andres was an OB-GYN for more than 50 years and, after retirement, a dedicated teacher. He graduated from the Universidad Nacional de Asuncion Faculty of Medicine in 1968. After graduation, Andres practiced medicine in Paraguay and was a proud founding member of the Paraguayan Medical Association. Later, he moved from Paraguay to Michigan and continued his great work at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital and Corewell Health Beaumont Troy Hospital.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Paraguayan Medical Association; Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mount Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, cskdetroit.org/donate/monetary-donations/; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/3K6FsFQ; or Michigan Humane, bit.ly/4btD2f8.

Arrangements entrusted to A.H. Peters Funeral Home.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

George S. Lilly

George Seydel Lilly, 96, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2026.

George was born March 28, 1930, in Detroit, to Albert John Lilly and Marguerite Seydel Lilly. George attended Precious Blood Grade School and completed his secondary education at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. After high school, he served honorably in the U.S. Navy before returning to Detroit when his enlistment ended. A dedicated student, he attended the University of Detroit, where he earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in sociology. He then received a Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit Law School.

Throughout the 1950s, George worked for the Detroit Public Schools as a teacher and counselor. Following his graduation from law school, he spent his legal career serving as a referee in the Wayne County Probate Court, Juvenile Division.

In retirement, George enjoyed traveling, spending time in northern Michigan and being with his family. He was an active member of the Men's Club of Grosse Pointe and took great joy in singing in the chorus. He was a hardworking, generous and loving family man who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

George was predeceased by his brothers, Albert John Lilly Jr. and Gerald Edward Lilly. He leaves behind his loving wife of 67 years, Dorothy; children, Mary Frances Lilly and Anne Marie Gaglio (Perry); and grandchildren, John Francis Higginbotham and Daniel George Higginbotham.

Visitation took place at Chas. Verheyden Inc., Grosse Pointe Park. A Mass of Christian burial took place at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, Grosse Pointe Park.

Memorial donations may be made to the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207.

Dennis Kopp

Dennis "Denny" Kopp, 91, of Clinton Township, passed away Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother.

Dennis was born April 29, 1935, at Grace Hospital in Detroit, to William Kopp and Gladys Irwin Kopp. Denny grew up living at two houses on Neff Road and graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1953. Shortly after high school, Denny enlisted in the U.S. Army and served his country in Germany from 1954 to 1956. He later continued his education at Lawrence Institute of Technology, from which he graduated in 1967 with his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering.

Dennis built a long and respected career as a civil engineer for the city of Detroit, where he worked in the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department for 33 years. His work helped support the daily life of the city and stood as a lasting example of his commitment to public service. Following his retirement from the city, he continued to share his expertise through consulting work with Spalding DeDecker for 12 years.

On Aug. 24, 1963, Dennis married Patricia Fox at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, beginning a loving partnership that lasted 63 years. Patricia was his devoted wife and constant companion; together they created a home filled with warmth, activity and enduring love. Their marriage was blessed with three sons, Dennis Jeffrey "DJ," Brian and Neil, who brought him great pride and joy. In addition to his wife, Dennis leaves behind three grandchildren, Justin, Julia and Daniel, with whom he always treasured spending time, and his sister, Janet Martin.

Dennis was deeply engaged in the lives of his sons, including his active involvement in Cub Scouts, and sent all three boys to private schools. He also was a devoted companion to the family's seven miniature schnauzers over the course of more than 50 years and took great delight in their company. Denny loved escorting Pat to dances at the Polish Century Club and Metro Beach Metropark. He also enjoyed the fellowship of friends during his monthly poker games.

Denny enjoyed planning and building projects around the house and appreciated the quiet satisfaction of oil painting and his tomato garden. In his earlier years, he played tennis and later took up golf. For a good 10 years, Denny and Pat wintered in North Fort Myers, Fla., to extend his golf season; there they made some great friends.

Dennis was a lifelong member of Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, where he ushered for decades and manned the electronics department of the annual church rummage sale.

Dennis will be deeply missed and not soon forgotten. In his memory, contributions to Michigan Humane are appreciated at michiganhumane.org.

Visitation takes place 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, at Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms. The family will begin greeting guests at 9 a.m.

Burial will take place at Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township.

Worship Service

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MASSES
Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m.
Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.
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• stambrosechurch.net • facebook.com/stambroseparish

100126

DUO:

Continued from page 2B

Oakland Avenue Urban Farm and Keep Growing Detroit, extends his work from the homestead to the east side.

Some of his work in the show has been decades in the making.

"I've been painting this body of work over the last five years," he said. "I started one piece 25 years ago while I was still a student at CCS. I'm finishing it like I'm going back to finish my degree."

He's back in school and studying soil science.

For all that, he resists the label.

"I don't consider myself an artist," he said. "It's what I do based on my way of life. Most of the materials I'm acquainted with — soil, seeds, microscopes — become a medium or a tool to me. The title of 'artist' was never something I espoused myself to be. It's a byproduct of being able to do the things I'm able to do.

"It's not art; it's a responsibility," he added, "to bring to bear imagery that can evoke."

'Things within things'

Poré is effusive about his exhibition partner.

"Ashley is someone who is incessant at being as good as she can be at whatever she's doing," he said. "She's productive in her own life and her own affairs and also in the lives of everybody she's connected to. I have always seen within her work things within things. You have to let it look at you back.

"She's grown in her practice and her work shows it," he continued. "I'm baffled by her ability to increase herself and her ability and the way she captures emotions. She's so sensitive to capturing emotions in the moment. Her use of color is brilliant and getting even better."

For Menth, the new work is deeply personal.

"I'm inspired by all the people and moments and things that make up my life," she said. "I'm honoring those moments, things and people. Viewers will relate to a lot of it. A lot of it has to do with this time in my life, as a midlife woman. I'm giving value to things underrepresented, underappreciated and looked over — which is how I feel as a midlife artist and woman."

That has led her to paint herself into her practice.

"Lots of work features male artists painting or male sculptors sculpting, but there are very few paintings or drawings of women within the practice, so I've started to paint self-portraits in my practice," she said. "I'm not saying, 'Look at me, I'm a great artist.' I'm documenting my life and all the things that are important to me, the small and big things that make me who I am right now as an artist."

She's quick to credit her collaborator.

"I've gotten to know Tzu really well and I really appreciate the depth of his work," she said. "It's so powerful. I'm glad to be associated with him and his work."



"Geneva Was Home," by Tzu Poré

Her own work has changed, too.

"People have seen my work shown there before," Menth said. "My work has evolved; I switched over to oils, so all of it will be oil for this show. I'm glad to be at Posterity again and honored to be highlighted by Michelle and her team.

"I look forward to meeting the community and hope to have a good showing," she added. "We're willing to come at different times if anyone misses the reception. We're both local."

For more information about the exhibition, call (313) 884-8105.





"Totem," by Tzu Poré



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, "A Spoonful of Vitamin C," by Ashley Menth. Left, Menth's "Stolen Family Rhubarb."



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



THRILLS:

Continued from page 1B

the tour, when visitors enter what Williams calls the Christmas House — a room in his home dedicated to all things related to one of the "other" holidays on the horizon. There, he greets guests and offers to take their photo.

"We redesigned the Christmas House this year," he said. "It's a nice photo op that people can use for their Christmas card if they want. There's no extra charge."

General admission to Haunted Garage is $16. VIP tickets are $25 and allow guests to skip the line.

If hunger strikes those waiting in line, a concessions stand offers freshly made doughnuts — including two gourmet flavors — for purchase. Hot cider, hot chocolate, water and apple cider slushies are available for purchase as well.

Haunted Garage Productions T-shirts and hoodies, as well as an assortment of Halloween masks, props and blinking lights, also are available for purchase.

"If you've never come in 19 years, come and see it," Williams said. "If you don't like long lines, come early in the season or on a Sunday. We're half the cost and half the wait of other haunts."

Tickets are available three ways: through school PTOs, online at hauntedgarageproductions.org or by walking up to the ticket booth.

"You'll see Dawn at the ticket counter," Williams said. "She'll ask you to tell her what brought you to Haunted Garage. She's not being nosy; she's trying to find out what organization you want to support that night."

Haunted Garage will operate 6 to 9:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 6 to 9 p.m. Sundays the entire month of October. Dates are Oct. 2 to 4, 9 to 11, 16 to 18 and 23 to 25. It will be open Friday, Oct. 30, closed on Halloween, then open again Sunday, Nov. 1.

"We wanted to attempt to give customers potential rain dates," Williams said. "Please park legally on Mack Avenue, not on or in front of driveways. Don't park on the side streets. It's rotational; people are leaving and will free up spaces."

Haunted Garage Productions is located at 19520 Mack, Grosse Pointe Farms.

For more information, visit hauntedgarageproductions.org or call (313) 407-7979.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ray Williams, an annual staple in the spider scene, had been an integral part of Haunted Garage Productions since its inception.

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Dueling pianos concert changes tune

Guest musicians added to Oct. 10 event

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

After 10 years of entertaining often standing-room-only crowds, Anne Roberts is adding some spice to the lineup of her annual dueling pianos concert, scheduled for 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe.

"From Mozart to Mercury" will not only feature tunes from its namesakes — Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Freddie Mercury — but also a rotation of musicians beyond the featured dueling pianos.

"'Bohemian Rhapsody' is our centerpiece," said Roberts, who will perform a two-piano version of the Queen classic with Hans Barbe, music director at the church. "And (we're playing) the Aaron Copland arrangement of 'Variations on a Shaker Melody.'"

Roberts also invited Tamara Baubie to perform a Mozart sonata featuring the two of them on one piano.

"He's so happy," Roberts said of the maestro. "Whenever I hear Mozart, it makes me happy. And we're doing a very peppy 'Patriotic Medley' written by Cohen."

Guest jazz pianist Abe Neds-Fox will play a Latin-inspired tune, as well as "Rainbow Connection."

Soprano Robin Ramsey will belt out two well-known Broadway tunes and a jazz quartet — featuring Bob and Pam Montgomery and Tim and Marie Reinman — will perform "Java Jive."

"It will have broad appeal," Roberts said of the show, which should last just longer than one hour. "A lot of people who love classical music also like jazz. We've got a little bit of everything this year."

Tickets are $25 general admission, $50 VIP with preferred seating. Tickets may be purchased online at gpuuc.org or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at the church.

Proceeds benefit the church.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE ROBERTS

From left, Robin Ramsey, Tamara Baubie, Anne Roberts and Hans Barbe.



From left, Bob and Pam Montgomery and Marie and Tim Reinman.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM REINMAN



Ballet offered at The War Memorial

A new round of ballet classes is beginning at The War Memorial.

Intermediate ballet classes for adults take place 10 to 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, for those who have had prior ballet experience.

The newer class, Ballet Encore, meets 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays. It's designed for adult who have previous ballet training, perhaps as a child or in college. The class moves slowly and positions and techniques are explained.

"This class is great for those who want to return to ballet but aren't ready for an intermediate class yet," instructor Suzanne Hawkins said.

All classes are on a drop-in basis. For more information, visit suzannehawkinsballetworkshop.com or email shawkins248@comcast.net



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM REINMAN

ASK THE EXPERTS By Susie Rohde, LMSW

Find your peace by setting boundaries

Do you feel like you've lost yourself in an exhausting cycle of trying to keep the peace with a highly reactive, controlling or unpredictable partner or family member? Do you wish you could trade chaos and emotional fatigue for a more peaceful life?

If this feels like you, you could be in a relationship with a person with narcissism or a borderline personality. People with either disorder often exhibit low self-worth, sensitivity to criticism, disregard for others and passive aggressive, manipulative behaviors. A borderline has a core fear of abandonment while a narcissist has a core fear of losing control, admiration and power. Those who suffer from these disorders tend to use defense mechanisms that can be extremely harmful to those who are in a relationship with them.

To understand how you got to this place of taking care of them and to learn ways to effectively deal with them, we recommend the book "Stop Caretaking the Borderline or Narcissist" by Dr. Margalis Fjelstad. This author helps make sense of the caretaker role and provides specific ways to take charge of your life.

She identifies the caretaker as someone who gives up their identity to meet the emotional needs of the borderline or narcissist. Often the caretaker stays in the relationship out of fear, obligation or guilt. Being in a relationship with either can be intoxicating and exciting, where you may feel super important and deeply needed. But this life is all about THEM and not about YOU. You begin to lose yourself over time, which can lead to self-neglect, depression and despair. Fjelstad explains that people with these disorders cannot be changed. Improvement must come from the caretaker.

By setting and maintaining boundaries and focusing on making statements about what you're going to do and the actions you're going to take, you do not allow their manipulation or defensiveness to control you. Fjelstad stresses the need to not take things personally. By remaining calm with attempts to try and understand their view of the world without challenging it, you remain stable. You are a unique individual who is not responsible for the feelings and behaviors of the borderline or narcissist. You are only responsible for YOU. By following these steps to reclaim your life, you avoid falling back into caretaking patterns and can build healthier relationships based on reciprocity, honesty and respect.

Susie Rohde, LMSW, is a clinical therapist at Lifestance in St. Clair Shores, working with individuals, couples and families. Her work includes helping clients develop insights into their trauma patterns and emotional triggers, and exploring strategies to decrease their impact so a more fulfilling, peaceful life and rewarding relationships can happen.

For more on the topic of narcissism and borderline, join The Family Center for its free program, Tired Walking On Eggshells?, featuring local therapists Susie Rohde and Frank Wilberding, from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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

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Confidence comes with growth, maturity



Dear Gabby: My son came home after his freshman year of college and started criticizing everything about our town, our traditions and even how we spend weekends. Is this just a phase? — Missing My "Old" Child in the Farms

Dear Hungry: Higher education is supposed to broaden perspectives. Sometimes it also broadens confidence.

Many young adults return home eager to test new ideas, challenge assumptions and prove they've grown. That's normal, even if it can be exhausting around the dinner table.

Listen with curiosity, but don't feel obligated to defend every family tradition. Over time, most young adults discover that wisdom isn't found in dismissing where they came from, but in appreciating both where they've been and where they're going.

As long as they are speaking with respect, you'll probably be better off letting it go.

— Gabby

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

Employee out of office, boss out of line



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR ANNIE: I recently returned from a lovely two-week vacation to Europe with my husband. It's rare that we get a trip like this, so we were looking forward to it, and it did not disappoint!

I set clear expectations with my team at work beforehand that I'd be fully off work. Everyone respected that — except my boss, who texted me not once but twice with inconsequential questions he could have easily directed to anyone else on my team. This happened last year, too, which I chalked up to a fluke at the time, but now I'm wondering if it's a pattern.

I'm incredibly conscientious at work and would never normally ignore a message. But my vacation time is mine, and I resent feeling on call even when I'm not. Do I say something directly or just let this go? — Not Actually Off

DEAR NOT ACTUALLY OFF: You don't need a full-on confrontation, but you do need a boundary. Next trip, turn off notifications entirely rather than just planning to ignore them, and let an out-of-office message point people to your back-up contact.

When you're back, don't apologize for the silence. A simple "I was fully unplugged, as planned" makes it clear that this wasn't an oversight on your end — and that he shouldn't expect you to be on call while taking well-earned and already approved time off.

DEAR ANNIE: My mom recently went down a rabbit hole of self-help books. She's gotten a lot out of them, and they've inspired real changes: She goes for walks every morning now and gave up social media entirely. She seems to be in a much better place, and I'm happy about that.

The problem is she treats every book's advice as gospel and repeats it to me constantly. I mentioned I was tired the other day, and she launched into a monologue about "morning routines" and how mine is probably sabotaging my whole day. If I complain about a stressful week at work, she asks if I've tried gratitude journaling. She'll bring up recommendations for "optimizing" my day completely unsolicited.

I don't want to discourage her newfound happiness, but I'm tired

See ANNIE, *page 5C*

Soup season has officially begun as the weather cools



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

Every Monday for the last six years, I posted the weekly soup list on the social media pages for my aunt and uncle's restaurant, Apple Annie's Kitchen & Bakery. Since their retirement and closing, the urge to say what those Monday morning posts read was gone ... until now.

Soup's on!

Let's see what's simmering now that "soup season" — an actual season for me — is here.

Personally, I'm a big soup and salad girl: salads in the summer, soups during fall and winter. Regardless of what Mother Nature thinks, it's October, so out with the fork, in with the (soup) spoon.

We have a lot of great soup options around here, some by the list, some by the day. And some locations may surprise you. Here are some soup shoutouts from across our neighborhoods — those I personally enjoy, some you may not know exist and a few well-known favorites.

On Mack, Telly's Place's weekly lineup for this season is a list of classics. If you like soups with chicken, peppers, spinach, barley or clams, you'll be satisfied daily.

Licavoli's lineup normally consists of chicken noodle, minestrone and cream of broccoli to name a few, as well as its Italian Penicillin, which is a godsend during cold and flu season. Don't forget to check out their grab-and-go section too.

Village Market has a five-soup rotation, with two mainstays: chicken noodle and cabbage. But when chicken and artichoke with spinach or lobster bisque are options, I'm filling containers.

Salvatore Scaloppini's minestrone is the best in the land and I will die on that hill. The great debate of chicken lemon rice lies between Charlie's Restaurant and Athenian Shish Kebob, both on Harper in St. Clair Shores.

French onion fans, make sure to check out Bogartz and Z's Pub. Both are excellent, made in-house. The beef barley crowd seems to flock to two St. Clair Shores favorites: New York Deli on Little Mack — which also has a great weekly lineup — and Butter Run, which soon will relocate to Greater Mack and Nine Mile, inside the new Shores Theater entertainment venue. Neighbors to the theater, Caffe Far Bella, rotates a cream of cauliflower, a roasted poblano with white cheddar, sausage, kale and spinach, as well as the best steak-and-ale soup ever, along with a few others. My notable mentions on The Nautical Mile go to Nautical Deli for its weekly 11 homemade soups, including vegetarian and gluten-free options.



Uncle Harry's Deli's beef chili and matzo ball soup.

Zefs Dockside Bar + Kitchen has an excellent bowl of house-made chicken and dumplings. And on cold dreary days, my comfort craving always falls to Fishbone's Gumbo Yaya. There's nothing better than dipping those amazing rolls into that bowl.

Most restaurants tend to have chicken noodle in their rotation. It's just a classic, no matter how you slurp it. If that craving shows up out of nowhere, I'm calling Ferlito's. FYI, for all the Ferlito's chicken noodle followers, you have to call that order in.

For a different take on this classic, the Pangea Global Kitchen's version is like no other. Its Asian chicken noodle soup is made with gluten-free soybean noodles, a ginger kick and seasoning only Chef Murad can come up with. This is another "feel good" soup, but don't sleep on the cream of mushroom or crushed lentil options either.

Farms Market near The Hill has an excellent variety of house-made options in its grab-and-go cooler. And over in The Village, SideStreet Diner has you covered with six daily soups, with meat and vegetarian chili options daily.

Sprout House in the Park is serving up soups that have my curiosity. Current options like tarragon split pea and tomato eggplant with black rice are made fresh and sell out quickly. Also in that area, Fairfax Market recently posted that it is serving pumpkin soup, weekends only while it lasts.

See SOUP, *page 5C*



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pangea Global Kitchen's Asian chicken noodle, cream of mushroom and crushed lentil soups.



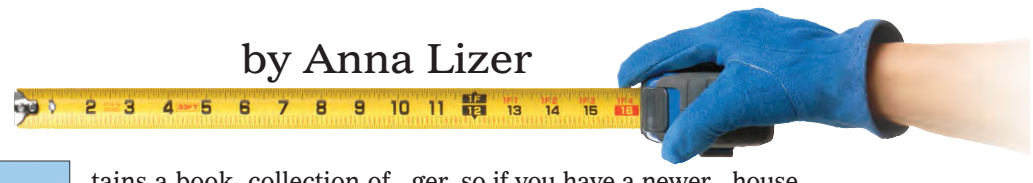
Ferlito's chicken noodle soup and Wally's chicken pot pie and dill pickle soups.



The Cheese Shoppe's butternut squash, loaded potato and corn chowder.

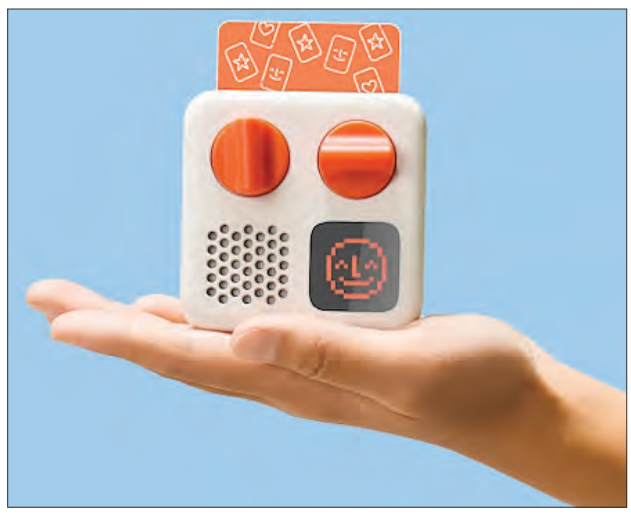
We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I recently bought a Yoto Mini from Amazon for my best friend's baby's first birthday. He absolutely loves books and music, so when I started looking into these little audio players for kids, it seemed like the best of both worlds.

Many of you have probably heard of the Toniebox. It is a small audio player for kids that works by placing different character figurines on top. Each character plays its own songs or stories. It is a very cute concept, but there was one problem. Every time he played with one, he just wanted to take the character off the top and play with it. Once the character comes off, the story or music stops. You also end up with a collection of little figurines to keep track of, which feels like one more thing to lose around the house.



The Yoto Mini works a little differently. Instead of characters, it uses cards that slide into the top of the player. Each card contains a book, collection of songs or other audio. You put the card in and it starts playing. Simple.

There are tons of cards available and you can buy packs of books and songs on Amazon. We have found some really good ones and, maybe just as importantly, they are actually pleasant for adults to listen to over and over again. If you have ever spent a significant amount of time around a toddler, you know this matters.

The Yoto Mini also is really small and portable. It is easy to bring in the car, throw in a diaper bag or take on a trip. The battery lasts well and charges quickly with a USB-C charger, so if you have a newer iPhone, you probably already have the right charger with you.

I also think it is something he will use for a long time. Right now, he can listen to his favorite music and stories, but as he gets older, he will be able to pick out his own cards and use it by himself. There are so many different cards available that the Yoto can grow with him instead of becoming another baby toy that gets put away in a year.

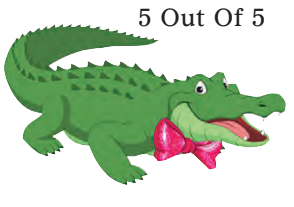
So far, it has been a very successful first-birthday gift. He loves it, his parents love it and they love that there are no little characters scattered around the house.

I give the Yoto Mini 5 out of 5 alligators. At $80, it's not inexpensive, but it makes a great, long-lasting gift.

Find it on Amazon here: tinyurl.com/5zxmpmt8.

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



Crispy and fresh fall meal

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

When I have a few extra minutes in the kitchen to make dinner, I absolutely love making this meal. Crispy fried pork cutlets are everybody's favorite. In fact, the minute I respond to the inevitable question, "What's for dinner?" with pork cutlets, the young ones go wild. There is no need to sell it at all. These cutlets are far superior to any chicken nugget and are much cheaper because they're pork. Crispy and golden on the outside while staying juicy on the inside, you just can't miss.

The breading steps do take a little extra time which is why I love making them on a lazy Sunday and leaving them to set up in the fridge until I'm ready to fry them off. You could even bread them and freeze them to fry off another day. Panko breadcrumbs yield the crispiest crunch but regular breadcrumbs work just fine.

This week I paired them off with a delicious apple and fennel slaw. Thinly sliced cabbage and fennel with celery and apple makes for an incredibly refreshing and crisp salad. It cuts right through the richness of the fried pork for an incredible bite of food. The dressing is a simple lemon and maple vinaigrette. The flavor of the crunchy celery with raw fennel and sweet apple is simply divine. It really is a must make this Fall.

I served this dinner on one big platter, family style. That way, even the little ones were forced to take the slaw. The pork is rich and satisfying while the slaw is light and fresh, making a perfectly balanced dinner.

Cheers, Mombeau

Crispy Pork Cutlets with Apple and Fennel Slaw

4 thick cut, boneless pork chops

3/4 cup flour

1 tbsp poultry seasoning

2 tsp salt

1 tsp pepper

2 eggs

3 cups panko breadcrumbs

Canola oil for frying

Apple and Fennel Slaw

2 cups green cabbage, thinly shredded

2 cups fennel, thinly shredded

1 apple, cored and thinly sliced

2 scallions, washed and sliced

2 stalks celery, thinly sliced on the bias

Juice of one lemon

1 tbsp maple syrup

1 tbsp stone ground or dijon mustard

1 garlic clove, finely minced

¼ cup olive oil

Pinch of salt and pepper

Slice the pork chops through the middle to make two thinner pieces. Place each piece between two sheets of plastic wrap and pound into one-quarter inch thick cutlets. Next, make your breading station. On one plate, add the flour, poultry seasoning, salt and pepper. Combine together using a fork. Add the panko crumbs to another plate.

Finally, whisk together the two eggs with a splash of water in a large bowl. Dredge each cutlet on both sides in the flour, then dunk into the egg wash and finish with a coating of panko. If you make this ahead, let the cutlets sit and rest in the fridge for 30 minutes before frying. This step helps make sure the coating doesn't fall off the meat while cooking.

Heat the oil in a large skillet until the temperature reaches 350 degrees. A good test is to take a pinch of breadcrumb and drop it in. If it bubbles immediately it's ready. Fry each side of the pork for about two to three minutes per side. Watch and make sure that they don't get too brown too quickly. If this is the case, turn the heat down on the stove. Sprinkle each cutlet with a generous pinch of kosher salt when they come out of the pan.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

To make the slaw, add the cabbage, fennel, celery, apple and scallions into a large bowl. In a smaller bowl, combine the lemon juice, maple syrup, mustard, garlic, salt and pepper with the olive oil. Whisk together until it emulsifies. Pour over the salad and toss to combine. Serve the warm pork cutlets over the slaw and enjoy.

Let's get cookin'!

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Grosse Pointe News



Wine price fluctuations

I enjoy at least one glass of wine per day. I love wine and I like it in a dozen different formats, as I find that even the oddest of them represents a unique opportunity.

If you like wine as I do, you know that it can become expensive. So, most of the time I seek bargains. In deciding to investigate this topic, I discovered that the pricing of wine is unbelievably difficult.

Let's look at a few of the factors:

• Worldwide, beverage consumers have turned their backs on wine in the last three years. Since so little wine is selling, you would expect prices to be extremely soft.

• But in France and California, two of the world's most wine-prolific regions, harvest conditions in 2026 were so bad that both regions will produce tiny crops, less than in several decades. A light crop means less wine, so you would expect prices to rise.

These contradictory factors make wine pricing extremely difficult. Also, grape growers and winemakers face differing economic challenges, such as:

• Growers face increased fees for irrigation water, labor and fertilizers due partly to foreign wars, border issues and tariffs. So, growers must pay more to produce their small crops. Meaning grape prices must be rising and thus wine prices will rise, right?

• Wineries that produced decent-sized crops in prior vintages still have much of that wine to sell and most of it is deteriorating. They don't need as many grapes as they once did. So wine remaining from previous years must be cheaper, right?

And where is the consumer in all of this? With the economy fluctuating unpredictably, wine buyers must seek bargains, which falls back on the prices wineries pay for grapes. This dictates the price for a bottle of wine.

Using just the prices for sauvignon blanc in four Northern California regions in 2025, based on the state's Grape Crush Report of last March, the most expensive ton of SB grapes last year was from Napa Valley, $3,125.

Using the historic model that a bottle of wine should cost 1% of the cost of grapes, the average bottle of Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc should be about $31.

However, most Americans are accustomed to buying SB for $17 to $20 a bottle, which equates to a sauvignon blanc from Sonoma County, where the average grape price was $1,871 in 2025.

However, slow sales of all wine in the last two years have softened prices, making sauvignon blanc from Mendocino County ($1,267) and Lake County ($1,183 per ton) likely opportunities for people seeking good value.

But you would be hard-pressed to find a bottle of Lake County SB for $12. Wineries are profit-making ventures. At $12, few wineries can survive.

The only good news is that local reports say that consumer sales of sauvignon blanc have increased in the last year by 1.5 percent, upping the demand for grapes. SB is one of the few grapes still selling consistently.

This means that the best values in SB today probably are those designated as 2025 from "California" fruit. And the improvement in winemaking technology means that such wines probably will be truly enjoyable.

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SMART SPACE AND BIRDIE PICTURES

Samantha Smart plays Al, in the 2025 movie "Charliebird," written by Samantha Smart and Directed by Libby Ewing.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

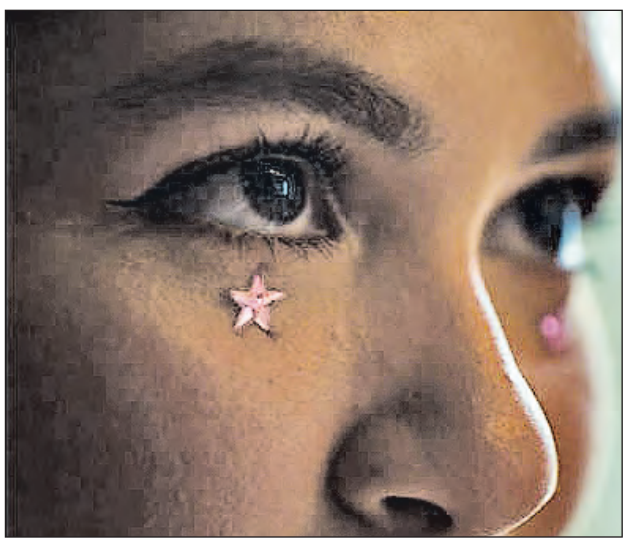
"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



MOVIE REVIEW
"Charliebird"
2025 - Not Rated
1 hr 38 min
★★★½☆

This is another one of those wonderful indie films that really deserves wider recognition. It has so much going for it. Great writing. An engaging and moving story. Outstanding acting. Noteworthy camerawork. And like most indies, it was created with a limited budget. In other words, my kind of movie.

"Charliebird" is the brilliant directorial debut for Libby Ewing. It was written by Samantha Smart ("Dear White People"), who also starred in the film along with Gabriela Ochoa Perez ("FBI," "The Holiday Hitman"). Not surprisingly, it won the Founders Award for Best U.S. Narrative Feature and Ms. Perez won the award for Best Performance in a Narrative Feature at the 2025 Tribeca Film Festival. I can safely say we'll be seeing a lot more from all three of these talented young individuals in the very near future.



Having fun with sparkles.

Before I discuss the storyline, I'd like to mention something I found a bit unusual about the film. It was shot in a 1:1 aspect ratio. In other words, a virtual square format, rather than the usual horizontal viewpoint. At first it caught me off guard, but I eventually got used to it. It not only gives the film an intimate feel, where everything in view is important, it gives you the impression that it was shot on someone's iPhone. A very effective device.

Al (Smart) is a music therapist, working in a hospital ward for terminally ill children in a small Texas town. She has a lovely voice and is a competent guitarist who spends her days making the rounds entertaining individuals and groups of kids. Just knowing that many of the youngsters aren't long for this Earth has to be devastating to her. I can't imaging putting on a happy face all day long like she does. But she never seems to let it get to her and she definitely brightens up the lives of every kid she interacts with. Al is such a compassionate and caring individual, you're drawn to her the second you meet her. She's pretty much the driving force in the film.

Then one day, she's tasked with entertaining Charlie (Perez), a 17-year-old girl who's suffering from a kidney disease and has been in the hospital for nearly four years. She's missed out on all the fun things your average high school kid experiences growing up. Life is quickly passing her by and she's decidedly bitter about it. She tells Al she has no interest in being cheered up by her singing and guitar playing. She's resigned herself to the fact that her case is hopeless and she doesn't have long to live.

Well, Al has the smarts to not push it and instead attempts to relate to Charlie on a different level. The two tease each other and draw out their inner feelings. By opening up, they become vulnerable and we begin to learn more about them as individuals. They slowly become friends and value the time they spend together. We also learn more about Al through a series of flashbacks. Al had a younger sister when she was growing up and it's hinted that she had been tragically killed.

It's these memories that Al keeps buried, and it's clear she's never quite come to terms with this loss.

There are several occasions where Charlie tangles with her parents Jack (Gabe Fazio, "A Star Is Born," "The Good Nurse") and Elena (Maria Peyramaure, "FBI") when they visit her in the hospital. Deep down they they understand that she's just an angsty teen at heart, like most kids her age. Her parents only want what's best for her and take her rebellious actions in stride.

In the last third of the film, there are a couple of plot twists that I certainly didn't see coming. As per usual, I won't give anything away. Just be prepared to be surprised. And like so many movies dealing with a tough topic like this, you might want to have some tissues handy.



Jack (Gabe Fazio) comforts his daughter Charlie.

I thoroughly enjoyed this little indie film. The acting was so believable and the characters so down to earth, the movie felt more like a documentary than a big screen drama. I dare say Hollywood would have treated it quite differently. I especially appreciated that we were treated to Smart's actual singing voice rather than having her obvious lip-synching to a professional performer.

If you're in the mood for a heartfelt, quiet movie, don't miss this one. You definitely won't be disappointed.

Currently streaming on Kanopy and Hoopla (free with your library card), and to rent on Apple TV and Amazon Prime.

Note to parents: The film is not rated but I'd probably give it a "PG-13."

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually buy it!

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

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



A contemplatve Al (Samantha Smart).



Above, Charlie journaling.



Movie poaster.



Right, celebrating Charlie's birthday.

Red bandanas in Grosse Pointe Park

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

Five houses in the 1100 block of Beaconsfield in Grosse Pointe Park hung red bandanas in honor of the "Man in the Red Bandana," 24-year-old Welles Crowther, who saved as many as 18 lives after the South Tower was hit by United Airlines Flight 175 at 9:03 a.m. Sept. 11, 2001. Crowther lost his own life when the South Tower collapsed at 9:50 a.m.

The project was brought to the area by Park resident Cathy Hasslett, who has been hanging red bandanas at her house for a number of years.









ANNIE:

Continued from page 2C

of feeling like I have a life coach. Do I say something or just wait it out? — Not Taking Notes

DEAR NOT TAKING NOTES: You can be excited for your mother without signing up as her student. Say it once: "I'm so happy you've found what works for you, but we don't all need the same recipe for happiness. I'm good with mine."

If her comments continue, a simple "Thanks, Mom" before changing the subject is a better use of energy than a new confrontation each time. Eventually, the novelty of morning walks and social media cleanses will wear off. While the habits will hopefully stay, the lectures should subside.

DEAR ANNIE: I walked away from a 50-plus-year friendship. I've known "Ralph," his wife and his kids since the late-1970s. We both worked construction. We never had a deep friendship; most men from the boomer generation don't. Ralph has a sense of humor that others would say is off-putting, including uncomfortable joking, but we went through similar circumstances at different times.

A group of three to five of us construction guys used to meet for lunch on Saturdays. One Saturday, during the usual discussions of yesteryear, I finished sharing my thoughts and looked over to Ralph, who said directly to me, "That's because you're a useless loser."

I couldn't believe he'd said it. I waited for the typical boomer gen's half-cracked smile signifying he was just kidding, but it never came. One guy at lunch said he didn't hear it; the other looked at me with the same disbelief. Ralph just stared back deadpan.

I got up to go to the men's room, looked in the mirror, then walked back to the table and tossed down some money to cover lunch. Ralph made another flippant comment: "Oh, you're buying lunch." I thought, "What the heck?" Ralph never lets anyone buy lunch. We all offer, and his reply is to toss out a $100 bill and tell us to get the tip. I said I had to go and left.

That was two years ago. I never went back and cut off all contact. A few weeks after the incident, Ralph's wife texted to see if all was OK. I replied, "All good."

For the past 15 years, I've been a home health caregiver to my mother. The past two years were rough, and she passed away in March. I've yet to receive a call from anyone in that group. Imagine that -- 50-plus years as friends and all he had to say to me was that I'm a "useless loser." — Good Riddance in California

DEAR GOOD RIDDANCE: "Off-putting" is right. Even if this kind of comment isn't unusual for Ralph, being called a "useless loser" by a friend still stings. And two years without a word from him since is pretty telling.

You could've been honest when his wife reached out instead of saying everything was "all good." But Ralph could've picked up the phone at any point, too. He hasn't.

If you want an explanation, call and ask him what that day was about. If not, don't. You don't owe a 50-year friendship another 50 years simply because of its history.

And I'm sorry about your mother. You deserved to have friends around when you needed them most. You sound like a thoughtful and gracious man -- certainly not a "useless loser." You said it best: good riddance.

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

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SOUP

Continued from page 2C

Slightly off the beaten path, Jefferson Street Pub on Jefferson in Harrison Township has a cult following for its clam chowder. Speaking of chowder, does everyone now realize the Cheese Shoppe on Mack doesn't just sell cheese? It is one of two soup gems in my book. I won't pass up its corn chowder, split pea, tomato basil bisque and butternut squash. And I can't leave there without a "car cookie" or three either!

The next gem of mine is Wally's. Yes, Wally's Frozen Custard on Harper serves soup every Monday, fall through winter. Its dill pickle and chicken pot pie soups could win awards.

I can't wrap this up without mentioning my top three chilis: Irish Coffee and Little Tony's never disappoint, but the chili sleeper goes to Uncle Harry's Deli. Yes, Rick's matzo ball soup will cure all and his cabbage and French onion are pretty high up there as well. When the temperature drops, Rick gets his gigantic chili pots out, sends me a text and serves it until the tulips pop back up.

Don't forget to check everyone's social media pages to see their soup(s) of the day/week. Obviously, you'll see my daily choices posted on Facebook's GP Eats & Treats.

• Fun Fact: Why no mention of Italian wedding soup, you ask? Because my sister and I, along with our maternal cousins, were raised on our grandmother's recipe. We've been rolling tiny meatballs since we could hold our balance in a chair and every batch reminds us of our angel. In our family, its called meatball soup and we like it our way.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

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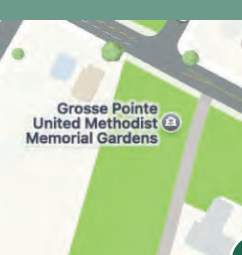

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Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map

THIS WEEK: October 1, 2026

1. 662 Lincoln Rd., GPC
2. 211 Moross Rd., GPF
3. 1297 Lochmoor, GPW
4. 18932 Edshire, GPW
5. 9057 East Outer Drive, Det.

= YARD SALE = ESTATE SALE
See Classifieds for more details

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

9/24 Solution

10/1

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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.

BONDS
BUSINESS
BUY
COINS
DEALS
DIME
EFFORT
GOLD
GROW
LOSE
MONEY
NICKEL
PENNY
STRETCH
QUARTER
SHARP
WASTE

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

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping (except for food and gas) and important decisions after 10 p.m. EDT today (7 p.m. PDT). The Moon is in GEMINI.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, October 1, 2026: You're focused, ambitious, disciplined and loyal. You have high ideals and innovative ideas. This is a wonderful year to socialize and enjoy life. Let your guard down and loosen up a bit. Old friends might reappear to rekindle relationships.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Your mind is focused today, giving you common sense and practical ideas. This is an excellent day to sign up for a course or learn something new. Don't hesitate to listen to the advice of someone older or more experienced. Tonight: Reach out to others.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

This is the perfect day for financial discussions or making decisions about dealing with your possessions, because you're in a practical frame of mind. This means you'll get things done! Tonight: Money ideas.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Saturn, encouraging you to be careful in your approach to any work you do. You might prefer to be alone with your thoughts. You'll also be thrifty. You might have to take care of someone. Tonight: You're happy.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Research will go well today, because you have a persistent mind and you won't stop until you find what you're looking for. Certainly, if you're having important family discussions, you'll do your homework. Tonight: Privacy.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

A discussion with a friend who is older or more experienced might be helpful. This is because your interaction with someone will likely be supportive; however, it's also possible that you feel diminished in some way, even lonely. Tonight: Enjoy friendships.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You're high-viz, which means people notice you more than usual. Today they see you as reliable, thrifty and careful. Someone might ask for your help. Tonight: Be modest.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is the day to study if you need to learn something important. It's also the perfect time to wrap up a writing project, because your mind is willing to focus. Because you can pay attention to detail, you might choose to make intricate travel plans today. Tonight: Explore ideas.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

If you have to discuss inheritances, taxes, debt or insurance issues, this is the day to do it, because you're in a practical frame of mind and you won't overlook details. Tonight: Check your finances.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. It simply means you have to be accommodating and flexible. Children might be an increased responsibility today. Step up to the plate and do what's right. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

This is a productive day for you. Your mind is focused and disciplined, and you're ready to work. Whatever you do, you will do with care and thoughtfulness. You make a great impression on others. Tonight: Work.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Choose today if you need to have a serious discussion about the care and education of your kids, because you have the patience to consider different options and the discipline to follow through on your ideas. Tonight: Socialize!

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Family discussions will be practical and reasonable today, because you're in the right frame of mind. But also because you're willing to work. You might see ways to get practical and financial support from a third party, which will make a big difference. Tonight: Relax.

BORN TODAY

Actress Brie Larson (1989), actress Julie Andrews (1935), actor Richard Harris (1930).

Contract Bridge

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 8
♥ Q 6 4
♦ K Q 10 8 3
♣ Q 10 5

WEST
♠ A 5 4
♥ A J 9 7 3
♦ J 7 6 2
♣ 7

EAST
♠ K J 7 2
♥ 8
♦ 5 4
♣ 9 8 6 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 10 9 6 3
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ A 9
♣ A K J

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead — seven of hearts.

Perhaps Hegel was right when he said one learns from experience that one does not always learn from experience.

Consider the present deal from a rubber-bridge game. South was in three notrump, and West led his fourth-best heart. Declarer took the first trick with the ten, then returned a low heart, winning with dummy's queen after West followed with the nine.

South next cashed the A-K-Q of diamonds, but after the jack did not fall, he finished down one, losing three spades, a heart and a diamond.

The outcome seems very normal, since South played the hand pretty much the same way most other declarers would have played it. But the fact is that South was decidedly out of order when he staked everything exclusively on a favorable diamond division. Granting that the diamond suit would -- from previous experience -- seem the natural suit to attack at trick three, declarer's correct play at that point was the eight of spades!

After scoring the first two hearts, he was gazing at eight sure tricks, and should have been looking for the best way to acquire a ninth. The spade lead would do exactly that, guaranteeing that after the defenders' ace, king and jack were driven out, South's ten would become trick number nine.

No distribution of the opposing cards can prevent this from happening if a spade is led at trick three, regardless of how much it goes against the grain to make such a play. It is true that declarer might fail to make four notrump by not playing diamonds first, but that is a very minor consideration when assuring a game is concerned.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg October 1, 2026

ACROSS
1 Covers of sorts
7 Palindromic address
11 Furry foot
14 Start a computer again
15 In front of a lens
17 Havarti and others (In this answer, note letters 7-11)
19 Hawaiian porch
20 Megafan
21 ___ smear
24 Super skilled party thrower (... letters 4-8)
28 Little look
30 "The Raven" author
31 Presidential staffer
32 Honeybunny: Var.
35 Become a smitten kitten (... letters 3-7)
40 Reactions to groaners
41 Kringle in a red suit
43 "Who ___ to judge?"
44 Elevated platforms in theaters
46 Super skilled culinary professional (... letters 7-11)
52 X
53 Where to watch the Valkyries and Vikings
54 Acronym for a cultural group celebrated in May
55 Cutting-edge (... letters 7-11)
63 Kylo ___ ("Star Wars" villain)
64 Female horse
65 More inclined to lounge around
66 Bummed out
67 ___ the pot
68 Things to boop on pooches

DOWN
1 Lead-in to "Poetica"
2 Evanescence singer Amy
3 Tech co. also called Big Blue
4 Bubble, as a cauldron
5 Apple product download
6 Skip them!
7 Recurring theme
8 Nelson Mandela's org.
9 German's "Oh"
10 Astronaut Jemison
11 Green Italian sauce
12 Regions
13 "Nuh-uh, it ___ me!"
16 Gel well
18 Public transit price
21 Org. whose members enjoy driving?
22 Girl who fell down the rabbit hole
23 March event celebrated with a baked good
25 Dueling swords
26 BBQ briquette
27 Native American beadwork artist Greeves
29 Dole (out)
32 Costa ___ Sol
33 Tattoo artists' liquids
34 White heron
36 Speedy way to learn a lesson?
37 There's no place like it
38 Move like a hummingbird
39 "Your majesty"
42 Tax ID
44 Grosses out
45 "Not ___ help it!"
46 Stick shift selections
47 Actor ___ Jackson Jr.
48 Turn over, as a kombucha bottle
49 Genetic messenger
50 Provide food for
51 "Told ya so!"
56 Private convo parts
57 Breakfast parfait grain
58 Day in a Rebecca Black song: Abbr.
59 "The Residence" star Aduba
60 Brazilian Carnival city, briefly
61 Doodle doc
62 Hosp. spaces

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

9/24 Solution

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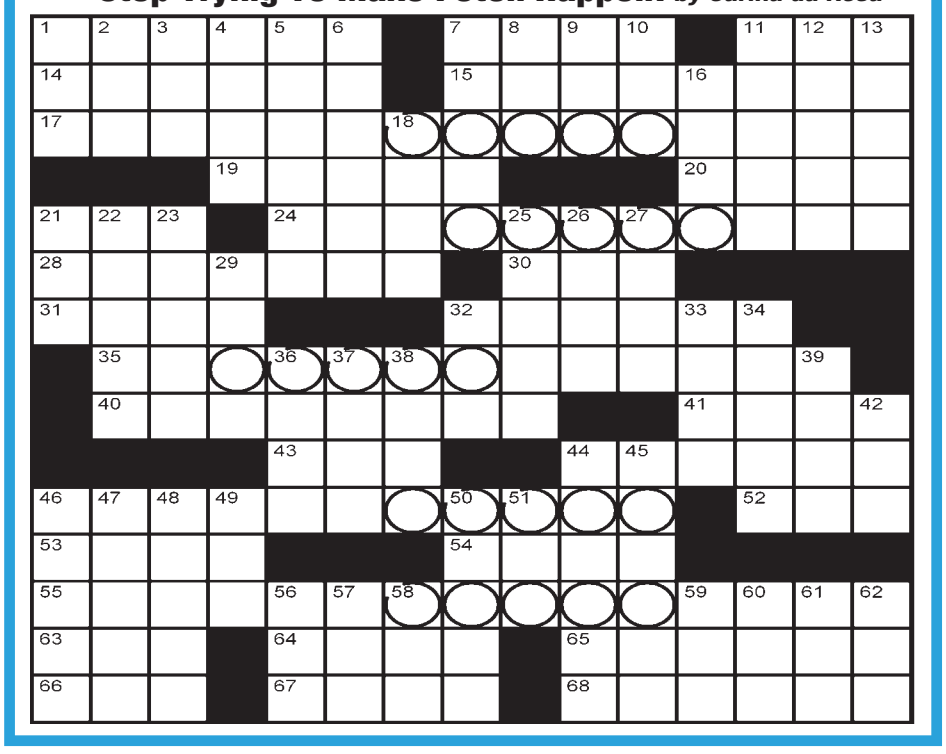
10/1 **Stop Trying To Make Fetch Happen!** *by Carina da Rosa*



SPORTS



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ULS boys soccer rolling through fall

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It was no secret when the season began that the biggest goal for the University Liggett School varsity boys soccer team was making it back to the Division 4 state championship game. There is still a little over a month before the state title game will be played and the Knights know there is still plenty of work to do to make it there, but the journey is off to a perfect start, with Liggett winning its first 10 games of the season.

"It almost becomes a bit of a challenge trying to remain humble and focused and not slip into complacency," Liggett boys soccer head coach David Dwaihy said. "... Our performances have been consistently really strong. It's one thing that we coaches really like to focus on. We want to be able to say that every game, we're playing well and getting better as a team. I think focusing on that helps to keep your feet on the ground."

The Knights got their 10th win of the season Thursday, Sept. 24, with a 6-0 victory over Cabrini. Goals by Will Lynn, Brady Ancona, Brenden Logan and Landon Wysocki helped Liggett take a 4-0 lead into halftime. Anthony Abraham and Ollie Cooley added another pair of goals in the second half to help finish off another dominant win.

The win against Cabrini was Liggett's fourth game in a row to end in a shutout, and the team has allowed just one goal in its last six games. The Knights' defense and goaltending have been performing at a high level all season, helping the team shut down opponents. The Knights also know that the best defense can be a good offense.

"If we can keep teams off the board, then the goals should come," Dwaihy said. "... Our defense has a cool collection of players with different levels of experience, but they're all functioning at a very high level right away. ... We have five or six really great options for our back line. Sometimes, the best form of defense is also to be playing the game in the other team's half and putting them under pressure and that's helped us a lot."

With just a couple of weeks left in the regular season, Liggett does not want to look too far ahead at the playoffs and at making another run to the state finals. Being ranked as the No. 1 team in Division 4 by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association and piling up so many wins can be nice. However, the goals the Knights really want to achieve are still in front of them. Most importantly, the team wants to enjoy every game and not let past results stop them from staying focused.

"We're trying to keep it fun," Dwaihy said. "When you start to stack wins, there's some pressure that comes with it. We want to think about that as little as possible and just remember that this is fun and to enjoy the opportunity to play the sport they love."

Liggett faced Riverview Gabriel Richard on the road after press time Tuesday, Sept. 29. Liggett returns home Thursday, Oct. 1, to host Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard at 4:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett sophomore Will Lynn dribbles the ball up the sideline against Cabrini Thursday, Sept. 24.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Loyalty, leadership drive Rheaume to be the ultimate Norseman

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe North fans who have been to any football, basketball or baseball games around the school the past few years probably have heard Peter Rheaume's name called more than a few times. The senior is a three-sport standout for the Norsemen who can do it all on the gridiron, court and diamond — and he enjoys nothing more than being a leader and representing North in every season.

"I'm busy year-round, so there really is no off-season," Rheaume said. "It's fun. You get to stay in shape and learn how to manage your time, work hard and get everything done. It keeps me busy, but it's worth it being able to be a part of all of it and make those connections with my friends."

He looks forward to all three different sports seasons, but right now, Rheaume is focused on leading North football to a strong season for his senior campaign on the gridiron. So far, he has lived up to his reputation of being an impact player on both sides of the ball. Rheaume has played in four of North's five games this season and tallied 207 receiving yards and three touchdowns on offense, while also having two interceptions on defense.

"(Rheaume) can transform a game one way or another," North football head coach Joe Drouin said. "... 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."

The Norsemen gave Rheaume the team's No. 1 jersey this year, a symbol that represents a leader at the skill positions. He has not disappointed yet and is proud to be looked at as a leader both on and off the field.

"It shows me that all of these guys really look up to me and see me as a leader," he said. "It's an honor. I love representing the school and I just hope I can represent it well."

It helps being a team's go-to receiver when one of your best friends is the one throwing you the ball. That is what Rheaume gets to experience this year with his friend and teammate, senior quarterback Edward Macaulay.

Rheaume and Macaulay already were close friends before the

See ATHLETE, page 2D



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Peter Rheaume celebrates after making a catch in North's season-opening football game against Troy Aug. 27.

Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Peter Rheaume
School: Grosse Pointe North
Sport: Football
Sponsored by Fairway Packing Co.

Rheaume Rules

- 207 Receiving Yds and 3 TDs in 4 games this season for North football
- 2 interceptions and 13 tackles on defense
- Member of Grosse Pointe North varsity football, boys basketball and baseball teams



South football suffers first loss in close battle with Romeo

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When the Grosse Pointe South varsity football team traveled to Romeo Friday, Sept. 25, it knew it was heading into what could have been its toughest test of the season. It was a highly anticipated matchup between the Blue Devils and Bulldogs, as both teams entered the game with unbeaten 4-0 records and were tied at the top of the MAC Red Division.

The game lived up to the hype with exciting plays and drama that lasted into the final minutes, but South ended up on the losing side for the first time this fall as Romeo came out on top 28-26.

"I told the guys that when I looked in everyone's eyes, to the final second, they believed we had a chance to win," South football head coach Chad Hepner said following the loss. "They believed in each other and, listening to the captains talk to the team right after the game, I'm still proud of where we are and what we can do this season."

The game started with the Blue Devils and Bulldogs trading blows in the first few drives. Romeo struck first on its opening possession, a methodical drive down the field that chewed up almost half of the opening frame and was capped off with a 19-yard rushing touchdown by Landen Fetty to put the Bulldogs ahead 7-0. South responded shortly after on its first offensive possession. Facing a third-and-long, senior quarterback Sam Rouleau found senior receiver Trey Grabowski wide open down the field for a 44-yard touchdown that helped tie the game. Romeo did not waste much time taking the lead back, as Fetty found the end zone again to put the Bulldogs up 14-7 in the final seconds of the first quarter.

It looked like the teams would keep trading touchdowns into the second quarter, but with South close to the end zone, Romeo's Marcus Wedge created the game's first turnover by intercepting Rouleau. South's drive that ended with a turnover in the end zone was the closest anyone came to scoring in the second quarter. The explosive opening frame was followed by a scoreless second quarter that left things at 14-7 in favor of Romeo going into halftime.

It did not take long after halftime for things to get explosive again. South got the ball to begin the second half and quickly moved closer on the scoreboard when Rouleau broke for a 70-yard touchdown run on one of the first plays of the third quarter, but a blocked extra point attempt kept Romeo ahead 14-13.



South senior receiver Trey Grabowski looks up to catch the ball for a touchdown against Romeo Friday, Sept. 25.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

South quarterback Sam Rouleau takes off running on what became a 70-yard touchdown run against Romeo Friday, Sept. 25.

The lead grew bigger for the Bulldogs with Fetty's third touchdown of the game a few minutes later to make the score 21-13. Once again, South answered, this time with Charlie Michelotti finding the end zone on the ground. The Blue Devils tried a two-point conversion to tie the game, but came up short and remained down by two, 21-19, heading into the fourth quarter.

To start the final frame, Romeo's offense ate up plenty of time with a long drive that ended in a touchdown for Tyler deCardenas. That made it a two-possession game at 28-19 in favor of Romeo. As time ticked away in the fourth, South pulled closer once again. Rouleau rushed for his second touchdown of the night on the ground as the Blue Devils pulled within two points to make the score 28-26 with just under three minutes to go.

South's defense stopped Romeo and got the ball back for the offense to try and complete the comeback with just over a minute remaining. The Blue Devils attempted some big plays to move the ball down the field and get in position to win the game, but could not convert before time ran out and Romeo escaped with the win.

Rouleau completed 11 passes for 172 yards in the game while also adding 142 rushing yards. Grabowski led the way receiving with just two catches but for 80 yards. Defensively, Throop Linnell had 14 tackles while Liam Willson had 11, including one tackle-for-loss.

South battled to the end against a highly ranked Division 1 team in Romeo — the Bulldogs currently are ranked as the No. 8 Division 1 team in the state by The D Zone — and believe a close loss against that kind of competition can show what a team is really capable of. The Blue Devils seem confident they can bounce back quickly, knowing many of the mistakes they made in the loss can be worked on.

"It's the little things," Hepner said. "We stopped their offense at times, but not consistently. Offensively, we had some explosive plays, but we stalled out in the red zone a couple of times in the first half and left some points out there. ... It was a little bit of everything, but all stuff that I believe is fixable."

South sits at 4-1 as the calendar flips to October. The Blue Devils face another challenging MAC Red Division matchup on the road in Week 6 as they travel to take on Dakota. Dakota is 3-2 this season and earned a 24-6 win over Eisenhower last week. South visits Dakota Friday, Oct. 2, with kickoff at 7 p.m.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present except for Mayor Pro Tem Vivian Sawicki

MOTIONS PASSED
1) To excuse Mayor Pro Tem Vivian Sawicki from tonight's meeting due to a prior commitment.
2) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held September 9, 2026.
3) To approve the 2027 Budget Meeting Schedule with workshops to be held at regular meetings on October 5, and October 19 and, only if necessary, to hold special meetings on October 12 and further to hold a public hearing on the 2027 Budget on November 2, 2026.
4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon and with no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED
1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 136039 through 136138 in the amount of $976,184.37 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of $54,798.97 for professional services during the month of September 2026. (3) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of $7,038.50 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of October 2026. (4) approve payment to Doxim, Inc. in the amount of $5,116.87 for the processing and mailing of the summer tax bills, the September water bills and for envelope supplies. (5) approve the purchase of ten (10) Dell Pro 16 laptops with three-year warranties' and a MacBook Pro for Court use in the amount of $19,490.23 from Simplified Business Solutions. (6) approve payment to Guardian Underground in the amount of $12,800.00 for their assistance with a water main break, stop box repair and replacement, valve repairs and replacement of a fire hydrant. (7) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of $6,800.00 for tree removal in conjunction with an emergency water main break. (8) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of $13,830.75 for tree removal and main break restorations, and for storm cleanup and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes.
2) to approve the extension of the Cross Connection Control Program agreement with HydroCorp, Inc. for a five-year period, at a total cost of $36,501.43, to be paid in annual installments over the term of the agreement, and further authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.
3) to approve payment to Great Lakes Contracting Solutions, LLC in the amount of $7,495.96 for Progress Payment No. 3 on the 2026 Storm Sewer Repair Project, #180-389.
4) to approve payment to PK Contracting, LLC in the amount of $26,492.59 for Progress Payment No. 2 on the 2026 Pavement Striping Project, #180-396.
5) to approve payment to L. Anthony Construction Inc. in the amount of $7,986.35 for Progress Payment No. 2 on the Concrete Pavement Repair Project, #180-388.
6) to introduce, place for the first reading and adopt an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 27, Division 2, Sections 41-52, Regulations on Cross Connections with Public Water Supply System of the City of Harper Woods Code of Ordinances," and further to direct the City Clerk to publish a notice of this in accordance with City Charter requirements.
7) to adopt the City of Harper Woods' Asset Management Policy and Procedures as submitted.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, October 1, 2026

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

season started, being friends and teammates in other sports. Despite being a senior, this is Macaulay's first season of high school football and Rheaume has been helping him along the way adjust to varsity football life under Friday night lights. The result has been good chemistry as quarterback and receiver on the field — and an even better friendship off of it.

"We were really close before football and I think this has brought us even closer," Rheaume said. "... I've had to help him through some stuff with him getting used to game days and all of that, but it really has brought us closer."

That is the perfect example of the thing Rheaume loves the most about being a three-sport athlete. He has plenty of teammates from football who share the basketball court or the baseball diamond with him later in the year. The chemistry they build together in every sport makes everyone better. Rheaume has gotten to experience many highs and lows with his friends and teammates alongside him, and it has created a bond among the Norsemen that goes beyond sports and, they hope, even further when his senior year ends.

"I've been through so much good and so much bad with so many of them," he said. "We really love hanging out with each other and it makes it more fun when you're all friends with each other. I hope that it stays that way after sports."

Kozlowski's big night lifts North football over Lake Shore

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When a football team scores five touchdowns in a game, it usually means it was a pretty good day. When one player scores five touchdowns, then it becomes a historic performance.

That is what the Grosse Pointe North varsity football team got Friday, Sept. 25, when facing Lake Shore on the road. North senior running back Brayden Kozlowski found the end zone five times, tying the team's single-game rushing touchdown record, as the Norsemen cruised to a 40-16 win over the Shorians.

"We're going to be gritty and grind things out on offense and that's what (Kozlowski) does," North football head coach Joe Drouin said. "He's going to get the hard yards. He had one big run of over 60 yards, but other than that, most of his runs were nickels and dimes. They're really hard runs. ... It was a whole team effort to get him there."

Kozlowski opened the scoring on North's first drive with a 68-yard touchdown run to begin his big night. He punched it in a few minutes later to give North an early 14-0 lead.

A field goal by Marshall Pata early in the second quarter extended North's lead to 17 points. The lead went to 24-0 with Kozlowski's third touchdown of the first half later in the second quarter. He made it four scores just before halftime to put North ahead 31-0 going into the break.

Lake Shore was able to hold North scoreless in the third quarter coming out of halftime. The Shorians found the end zone for the first time in the third quarter and a successful two-point conversion made the score 31-8. They added another in the fourth quarter to make it 31-16.

Kozlowski's record-tying fifth touchdown came in the fourth quarter to put North ahead 38-16, and a safety forced by North's defense shortly after brought the Norsemen to 40 points.

North had one final attempt on its last possession of the game to help Kozlowski break the record. However, on his 32nd and final rushing attempt of the night, he was ruled down just shy of the goal line as time expired. Kozlowski just missed a record-breaking score to the dismay of Drouin, who, before his time coaching at North, had been on the opposing sideline coaching against North in the past when the record was set.

Despite not finding the end zone a sixth time, it was still a career night for the senior. He finished with 253 yards to go with his five touchdowns, averaging just under eight yards per carry. In a game where the rushing attack dominated, North senior quarterback Edward Macaulay only attempted eight passes, completing four of them for just 36 yards. Jake Drouin caught two of those passes for 23 yards.

The defense for North was stout much of the game as well. Logan Bogner led with five tackles, while Luke Bruveris, Finn Ryan and Corbin Ruttan all recovered fumbles and Brian Collins had an interception.

"We took care of the things that we can take care of and we look to do that every week," Drouin said after the win. "... We have to focus now on homecoming coming up and hopefully we can have a good showing at homecoming."

The homecoming matchup for the Norsemen sees them taking on MAC Gold Division foe Marysville, which enters the game with a 2-3 record after losing to Lamphere. North and Marysville kick off at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, at North.



PHOTO BY HAILEE DROUIN

North senior running back Brayden Kozlowski gives a stiff arm to a Lake Shore defender Friday, Sept. 25. Kozlowski tied North's school record for rushing touchdowns in a game with five touchdowns in the Norsemen's 40-16 win.

South swimmers continue strong start

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity girls swim and dive team is living up to its high expectations so far this fall. The Blue Devils are undefeated in MAC Red Division meets through the first month of the season and also earned a big win against some of the state's toughest competition last weekend.

South continued its MAC Red success Tuesday, Sept. 22, with a 141-42 victory over Chippewa Valley. Three swimmers for the Blue Devils earned state cuts during the meet. Nicole McEnroe earned her state-cut time in the 200-yard freestyle, coming in at 2:00.46. Corinne Stencel's time of 2:14.18 earned her a state cut in the 200 IM and Caroline Bryan earned her state cut in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:11.06.

Some history also was made during South's win over Chippewa Valley. South diver Ava Gerhard set a pool record at South with a score of 261.90, breaking the previous record of 257.24 set by Ann Arbor Pioneer's Grace Daly in 2024.

Following the win over Chippewa Valley, South made its way across the state to East Grand Rapids to compete in the Pioneer Classic Saturday, Sept. 26. South finished in first place at the end of the day with 625.5 points, coming in ahead of its rival Farmington Hills Mercy in second place.

South won seven of the 12 events throughout the day. One of the biggest wins came from Bryan, Stencel, Quinn Ryan and Anna Cooper, who finished first in the 200 medley relay and set a pool record at East Grand Rapids with their time of 1:45.17. Bryan set another pool record that day by finishing first in the 100 butterfly at 55.77.

Up next for the Blue Devils is one of the biggest meets on the calendar, the Wayne County championships. The Wayne County meet is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 3, beginning at 10 a.m. at Trenton High School.



PHOTO BY JESSICA BRYAN

South freshman Olivia Bellanca stands on the block ready to race against Chippewa Valley Tuesday, Sept. 22.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

GROSSE POINTE PARK, GROSSE POINTE CITY, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY AND HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF GROSSE POINTE PARK, GROSSE POINTE CITY, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY AND HARPER WOODS:

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

The last day to register in any manner other than in person with the local clerk is Monday, October 19, 2026.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at their local clerk's office (see locations below) at the following times: Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that registered voters will be voting on the following offices and proposals. A city or district shown in parentheses is the only area voting on that office or proposal.

PARTISAN SECTION **State:** Governor and Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General. **Congressional:** U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress. **Legislative:** State Senator, Representative in State Legislature. **State Board**: Member of the State Board of Education, Regent of the University of Michigan, Trustee of Michigan State University, Governor of Wayne State University. **County:** County Executive.

NON-PARTISAN SECTION **Judicial:** Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Judge of 1st District Court of Appeals Incumbent Position (Full and Partial Terms), Judge of 3rd Circuit Court Incumbent Position (Full and Partial Terms), Judge of 3rd Circuit Court Non-Incumbent Position, Judge of Wayne County Probate Court Non-Incumbent Position, Judge of 32A District Court Incumbent Position (Harper Woods). **Local School District:** Grosse Pointe Public Schools District Board Member (Grosse Pointe Public School System); Harper Woods Public Schools District Board Member (Harper Woods School District).

PROPOSAL SECTION **State: Proposal 1 – Constitutional Convention Question; Proposal 2 – Initiated Law to Prohibit Campaign Contributions from Certain Regulated Utilities and Government Contractors. Local:** Grosse Pointe Public Library: Millage Renewal Proposal – renewal of up to 0.6432 mill for 15 years (Grosse Pointe Public Library district). City of Grosse Pointe Park: Parks and Recreation Millage Proposal – new additional levy of up to 0.65 mill, an increase of 0.65 mill in the tax rate limitation, for 7 years (Grosse Pointe Park). City of Grosse Pointe: Special Assessment for Police and Fire Departments – up to 1.25 mills for 4 years (Grosse Pointe).

Full text of the ballot, including the proposals, may be obtained from the office of the City Clerk of the city in which the elector resides or at www.mi.gov/vote.

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

Bridgette Bowdler
City Clerk
City of Grosse Pointe Park
15115 E. Jefferson
Ph: 313-822-6200

Christopher Hardenbrook
City Clerk
City of Grosse Pointe
17147 Maumee
Ph: 313-885-5800

Derrick Kozicki
City Clerk
City of Grosse Pointe Farms
90 Kerby Road
Ph: 313-885-6600

Paul Antolin
City Clerk
City of Grosse Pointe Woods
20025 Mack Plaza Drive
Ph: 313-343-2440

Courtney Smith
City Clerk
Village of Grosse Pointe Shores,
a Michigan City
795 Lake Shore
Ph: 313-881-6565

Leslie Frank
City Clerk
City of Harper Woods
19617 Harper Avenue
Ph: 313-343-2500

Published: Grosse Pointe News, 10/01/2026

Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

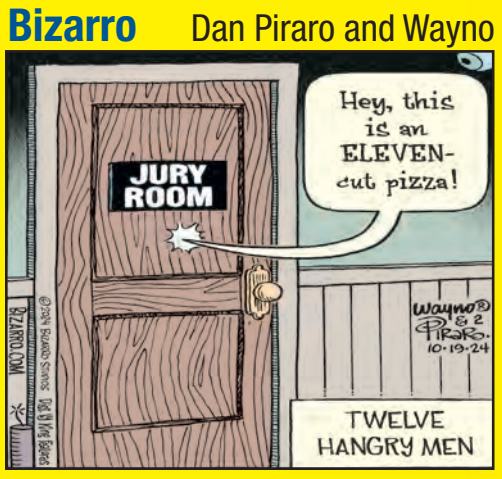
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



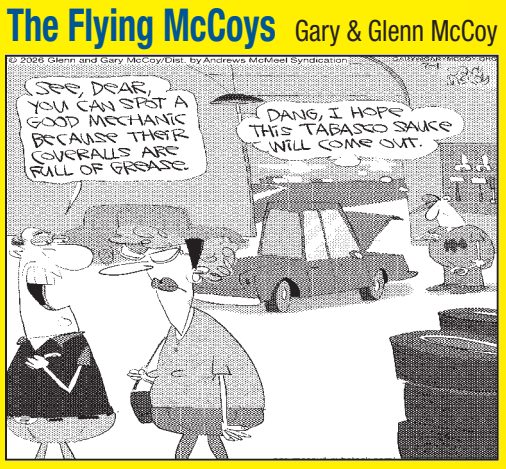
Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



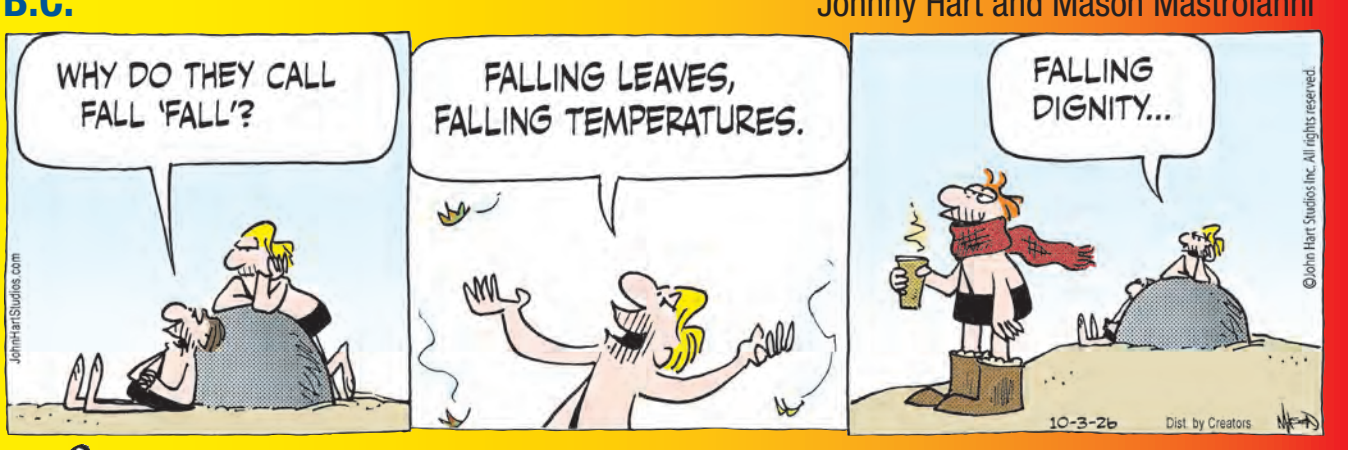
The Flying McCoys

Gary & Glenn McCoy



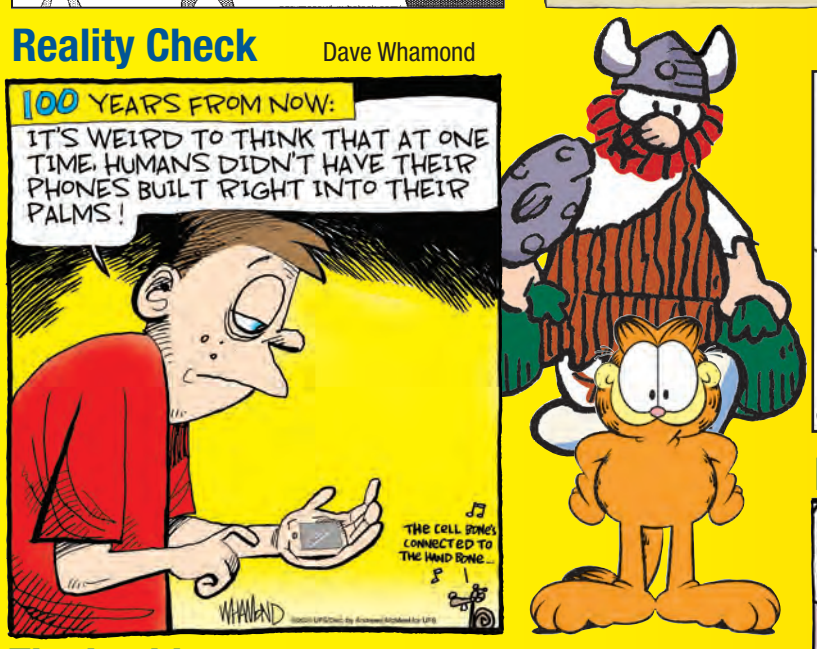
B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



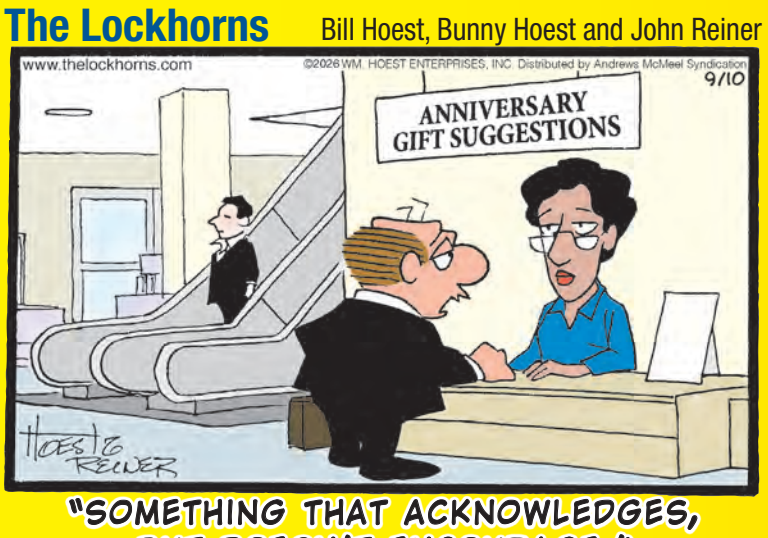
Mother Goose & Grim

Mike Peters



The Lockhorns

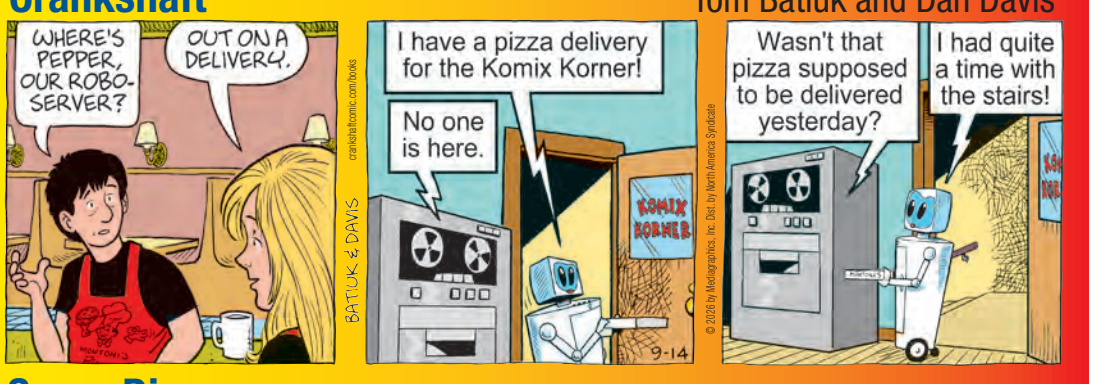
Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



"SOMETHING THAT ACKNOWLEDGES, BUT DOESN'T ENCOURAGE."

Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



"YOU'D THINK FORTUNE COOKIES WOULD HAVE MONEY IN THEM."

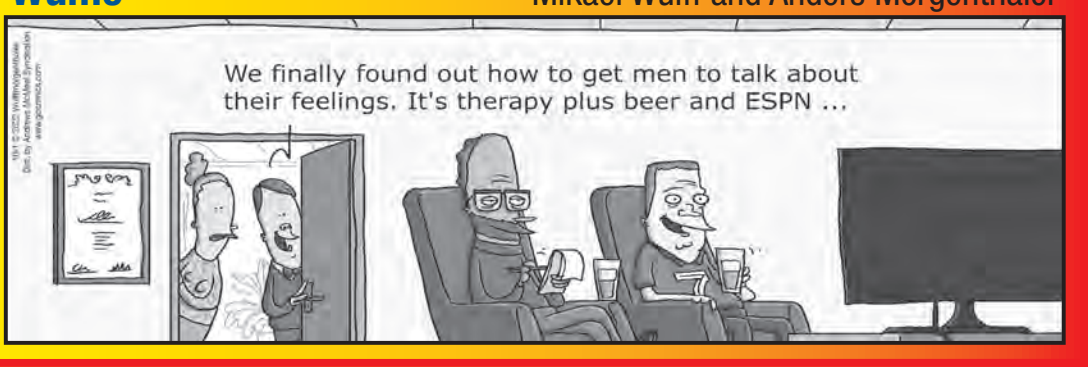
Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis



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Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators) Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren



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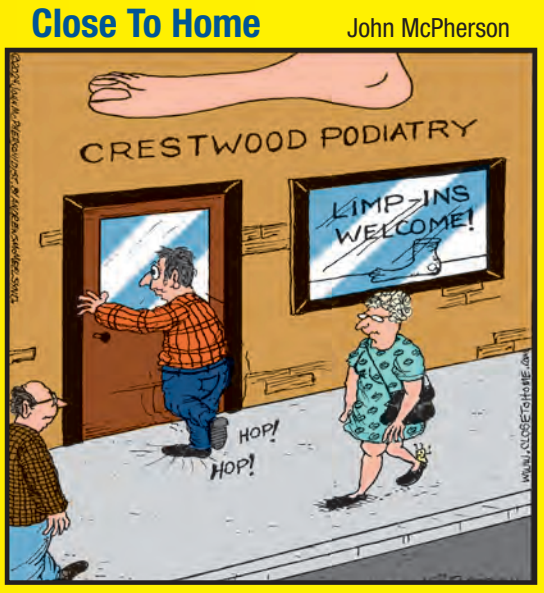
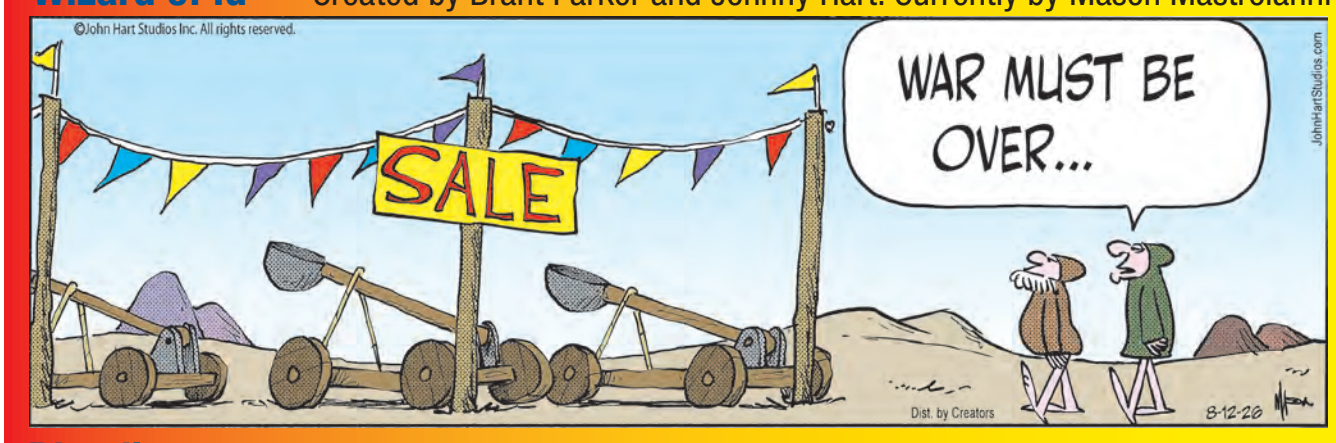
Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

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



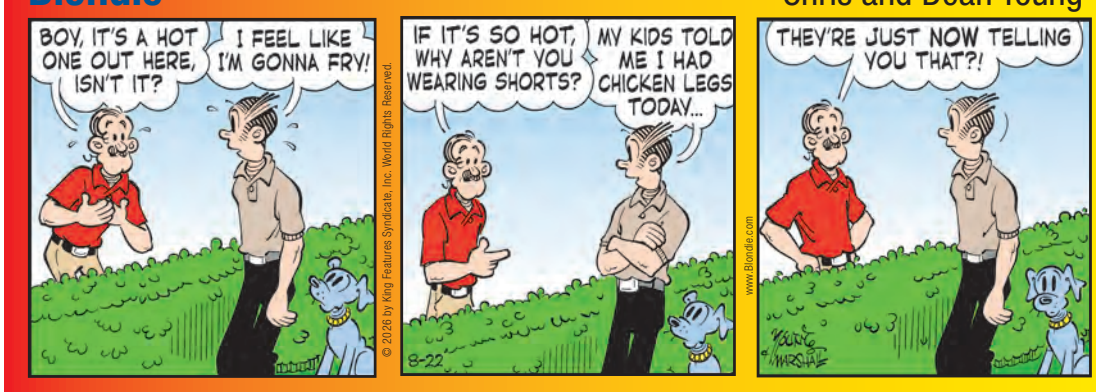
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



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www.Blondie.com

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



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"Mom! Marmaduke is turning the kitchen into a lake."

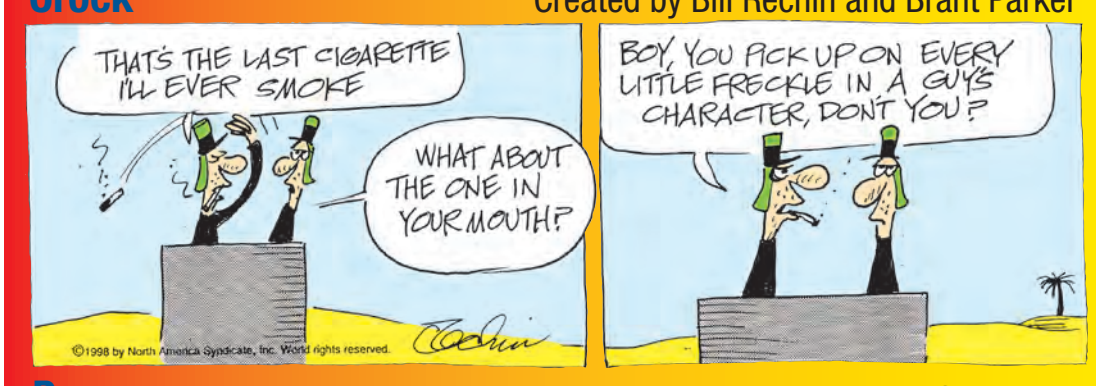
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



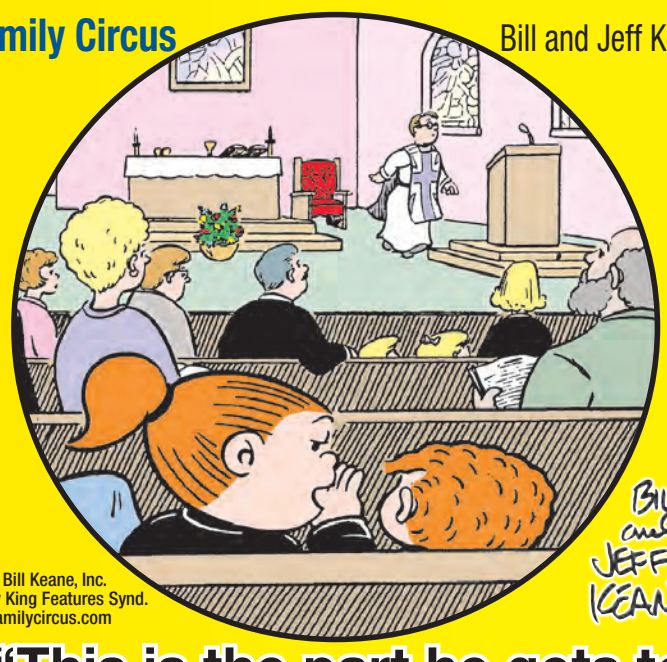
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Family Circus

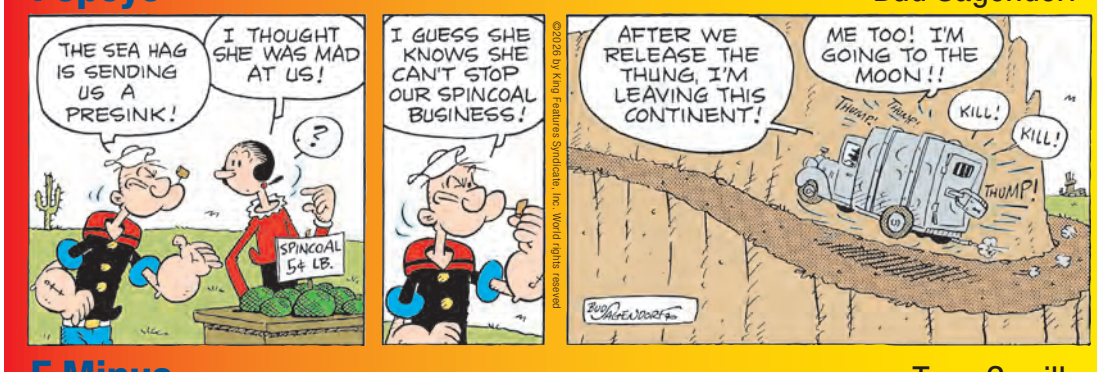
Bill and Jeff Keane



"This is the part he gets to make up by himself."

Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



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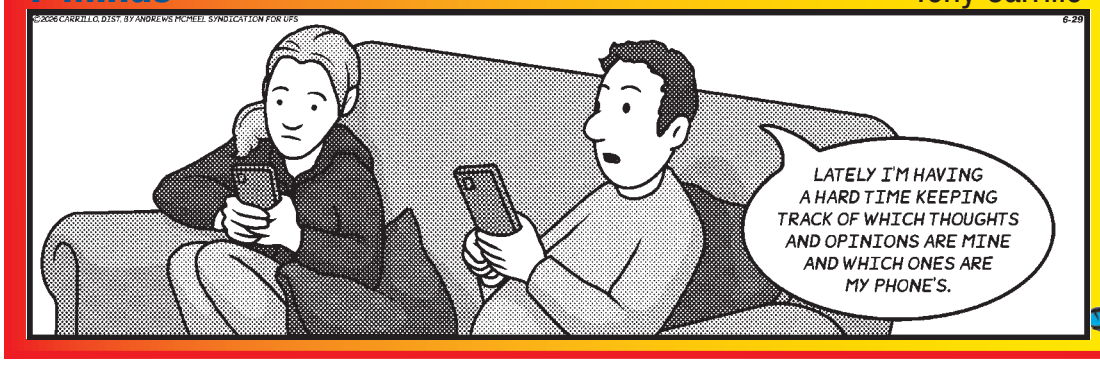
F Minus

Tony Carrillo



Park resident achieves improbable golf feat

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Getting a perfect score on the SAT. Finding a four-leaf clover. Being struck by lightning twice in one lifetime. Those are all things that are statistically more likely to happen than a golfer hitting two holes-in-one in the same round of golf.

According to the National Hole-in-One Registry, the odds of somebody hitting two holes-in-one in a single 18-hole round of golf are 67 million to 1. On Sunday, Sept. 13, Grosse Pointe Park resident Heath Roberts became that one, making a hole-in-one not once but twice, while playing at True North Golf Club in Harbor Springs.

"I don't play golf that much, maybe two or three times a year," Roberts said. "... We get to hole five and I hit a hole-in-one and we all go insane. It was a complete celebration. ... All eight of us who were up there for the weekend got to celebrate the hole-in-one. We finished the front nine. Going to the back nine, on hole 16, unbelievably, I hit another one."



Grosse Pointe Park resident Heath Roberts walks to the pin to retrieve the ball from his first hole-in-one on the fifth hole at True North Golf Club in Harbor Springs Sept. 13. Roberts hit a second hole-in-one later in the round, achieving one of golf's rarest feats.

The holes-in-one came on the final day of a three-day golf trip to northern Michigan that Roberts made with a group of seven friends. His foursome that day, which witnessed both aces, consisted of Roberts, Keith Baer, Andy Wiegand and Jay VandeWyngearde.

The first hole-in-one came on the fifth hole at True North, a 123-yard par 3. Roberts hit a yellow Kirkland golf ball with a 9-iron for his first ace. The excitement was enough to bring the golf group's other foursome of Chip Lemmen, Adam Hawkins, Dave Parlangeli and Roby Robarge back to the fifth green from the tee box on the next hole to join the celebration.

Eleven holes later, Roberts used his 7-iron on the 144-yard par-3 16th hole, making the hole-in-one once again with a yellow ball. Both yellow balls were given to Roberts by another player at Chestnut Valley Golf Course during his group's round the day before.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The eight-man group that makes up the "Diamond Platinum Fall Golf Trip," where Heath Roberts of Grosse Pointe Park hit two holes-in-one in the same round of golf Sept. 13. From left: Keith Baer, Adam Hawkins, Dave Parlangeli, Jay VandeWyngearde, Andy Wiegand, Roby Robarge, Heath Roberts and Chip Lemmen.

At the end of the round, Roberts finished with 91 on his scorecard, but his actual score was the least important thing in the celebration of such an unlikely feat.

For someone who does not golf frequently, Roberts knows his feat of two holes-in-one in the same round is something he will never be able to top. Earlier that day, he thought being at even par through the first two holes of the round would be the highlight of his trip. Instead, it was a day Roberts and his friends will never forget and an experience that might encourage him to get out to the golf course more often.

"I would rather be on Lake St. Clair in a boat than on a golf course most of the time in the summer," he said. "But, the feeling you get when you hit a hole-in-one is so exciting. It's tough to grasp. It was great to celebrate this with people who really love golf — the pure joy on the tee box and the banter back and forth about how none of them had ever hit one. It was pure joy and celebration and a great way to wrap up a golf trip Up North."

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

FIELD HOCKEY

The Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North varsity field hockey teams met Wednesday, Sept. 23, at South for their annual "Stick It To Cancer" charity game. South won the game 8-0, with a hat trick scored by Wells Webber, along with two goals each by Annie Paradise and Maddie Roy, and another goal by Hannah Agnone.

PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA





PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

SOUTH FOOTBALL LEGENDS ENSHRINED

Four former Blue Devils were inducted into the Grosse Pointe South Football Hall of Fame during South's home game against Stevenson Sept. 18. This year's inductees include: John Cammett (1980), Steve Rice (1989), Michael Paull (1988) and Chris Harwick (1992).

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT FOOTBALL

The University Liggett School football team earned its second victory of the season, and its first since Week 1, last Friday, Sept. 25, beating Detroit Loyola on the road 20-8.

Shelby Jones tallied 110 rushing yards and scored two touchdowns, and Dom Djurasaj also had a 40-yard touchdown catch.

Liggett's record for the season now sits at 2-3. The Knights go on the road again for their next game Friday, Oct. 2, at Lincoln-King Academy. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.



Grosse Pointe North's Noelle Lyon and Willa VanderWerp

COURTESY PHOTO

CROSS COUNTRY

The varsity girls cross country teams from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North both competed at the Hanson's Invitational last Saturday, Sept. 26, in Sterling Heights. South finished second in the Division 1 race, led by freshman Eleanor Pilsner, who finished sixth overall. Senior Morgan Costello also made it into the top 20 by finishing 18th, while freshman Emma Ford finished 20th.

The Norsemen came in sixth in the Divisions 2-4 race, and had three runners earn medals. Willa VanderWerp finished 19th, Noel Lyon was 22nd and Erin Doolittle finished 34th.

