



SPORTS

Sophomore Kelly Labarge has worn 13 casts over the past two years. But her injuries have not kept her from playing sports.

PAGE 4

MID-WINTER BREAK

Begins Friday, Feb. 15. School resumes on Monday, Feb. 24.

ACT PLAN TEST

Freshmen and sophomores arrive at 8 a.m. and are dismissed at 11:30 a.m.

JUNIOR ACT TESTING

Tuesday, March 5, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

JUNIOR MME TESTING

Wednesday, March 6 from 8 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. & Thursday, March 7 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

SPRING MUSICAL: BRIGADOON

March 7, 8 & 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the PAC.

WINTER SPORTS AWARDS

Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m. in the PAC.

IDEAS

“ I COULDN'T RUB A KILLER RED CARPET LOOK IN ANY OF MY EX-BOYFRIENDS FACES, NOR PUBLICLY HUMILIATE THEM THROUGH THE GIFT OF SONG. ”

PAGE 7



Please recycle after reading.
Thank you!

© 2013 North Pointe
Volume 45, Issue 10



ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE TALLAREK

The battle is on: In- vs. out-of-state colleges

By Patricia Bajis & Libby Sumnik
STAFF REPORTER & ASSISTANT EDITOR

Michigan colleges have lured record-high numbers of graduating seniors into the application process but have not accepted any more than in previous years.

Through college fairs and personal letters, schools are attempting to compensate for the drop in applicants since a peak six years ago, leaving thousands of optimistic applicants deceived.

Senior Marne Gallant's plan to stay in state ended with a deferral and changed her course to Bowdoin College in Maine, where she will continue her hockey career.

"I'm getting a lot more money to go out of state, which is kind of backwards. It's a private school, so they give really good financial aid, and it's gonna be cheaper than it would be going to (the University of) Michigan," Gallant said. "It's in the same academic and athletic conference as a lot of the schools I was looking at, so I knew about it, but I didn't really consider it because I've never been to Maine. They

contacted me for hockey, so it ended up working out with them."

Gallant says that attending college in a new state will be a positive experience, but leaving comes with a price.

"The hardest part will be not being able to come home whenever I want. If I stayed in state, I could drive home on weekends if I missed my family or friends. The school I'm going to is a 12-hour drive from here, so that will be hard at first and take some getting used to."

The University of Michigan is often accused by students of deferring more in-state applicants in order to collect the increased tuition of out-of-state applicants.

"The U of M admissions process considers the merits of each applicant without regard to residency or financial standing," Managing Director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Erica Sanders said.

Sanders said that applicants are viewed blindly. Name, race, gender and location are not seen by those who evaluate applications.

Counselor Jill Davenport recommends deferred students weigh their remaining college choices and determine where to attend from their accepted options.

"If a student is deferred, the advice that is often given is to carefully consider what your second choice would be and embrace it. Some schools have a high percentage of admits from the deferred list, and others do not," Davenport said. "I suggest that students visit campuses to

help them determine what feels right and figure out what type of environment works for them."

Davenport also says the majority of seniors attend an in-state college, even though there are others who seek outside The Mitten.

Brain Abud, a senior who applied to four out-of-state colleges, wants to leave the state for an education within his desired industry and experience more opportunities with internships. With an average college tuition of \$14,000 though, price has become a leading factor in his decision of where to attend.

"I either want to stay home for school or go somewhere completely new and far away, ideally California. I would only go out of state for a unique experience, but otherwise, I want to stay home for school," Abud said. "It all comes down to cost because leaving the state can be expensive."

Fellow senior Courtney Carroll had a financial incentive for applying in state.

"I could have applied out-of-state if I had really wanted to, but my dad bought a Michigan Educational Trust when I was younger," Carroll said. "The trust lets you buy college credit for the price it is the year you buy it. So, since my dad paid for two years of college for me in 1995, he paid less for my first two years of college than people who pay for tuition now."

SEE Q&A ON PAGE 2

Board of Education sends out residency affirmation forms

Random sampling seeks to improve current residency verification process, and is product of strong community voice on residency

By Izzy Ellery & Taylor White
ASSISTANT EDITOR & STAFF REPORTER

Anastasia Pitses, mother of junior Chrisoula Pitses, opened the mail on Thursday at her home, directly behind North's softball fields, and read a letter from the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Naturally, she thought it was her daughter's report card, but she ended up with something she never dreamed of getting: a Residency Affidavit Form, one of 1,000 sent to a randomized sampling of families in the District.

"I was in the room with her when she opened it, and she gave me the letter to read because I wanted to know what she was laughing about. Then I read it and started laughing, too," Chrisoula Pitses said. "What really made it funny was that while reading the letter, I could see the 'Home of the Norsemen' sign from where I was standing."

The form requires a signature stating the signer "understands and acknowledges" residency codes and understands repercussions of violating them. Among these, residents are asked to confirm they understand that only residents are eligible to attend school in the District, that Grosse Pointe Schools is not a School of Choice district, that a \$13,030 tuition will be charged to those enrolling ineligible students, and that false statements of residency, including on the affidavit, can bring about perjury charges.

"The issue that sparked it was the group Residents for Residency. The original request was for a District-wide signing of the affidavit with removal of students for those who did not

comply," school board trustee Judy Gafa said. "This was presented to the board at a special meeting called by trustee (Tom) Jakubiec and (Cindy) Pangborn with an amended version removing the portion of the student being removed from school."

"The idea was to do a random survey to get a statistical analysis of those students who were ineligible to attend the schools. If the numbers were the same, then the District would know the current system works. If the numbers showed a statistically higher number of residency violators, then changes would need to be made."

In 2005, an all-District re-verification was done. It cost over \$80,000 and, according to the Grosse Pointe Schools website, the "impact in terms of identifying or dissuading ineligible students was also inconclusive."

"I believe the interest of those who recommended we do this was to identify and obtain a document that the person has signed that they reside in a place that is within the school boundaries of the Grosse Pointe Public School System," Superintendent Tom Harwood said. "The form makes (families) aware of the consequences for falsifying the information in a notarized document."

But not all people are supporters of the plan.

Pat Lemanski, a resident who has had children attend Grosse Pointe Schools for 17 years, received the letter and form in the mail on

By the numbers

4,943

households in District

1,000

families given Residency Affidavit Form

\$85,000

cost of the all-District re-verification preceding the 2005-2006 school year

\$700

cost for randomized distribution of Residency Affidavit Form

8,300

total students in District

31

students excluded from District in 2012-13 school year out of 174 investigated

Board of Education elects new president, replaces Gafa

By Rachel Cullen
STAFF REPORTER

Joan Dindoffer was elected president of the Board of Education by the Grosse Pointe School Board during their Jan. 28 meeting, replacing previous president Judy Gafa.

Because Gafa lost re-election by a 4-3 vote, she nominated veteran board member Dindoffer, who won by a 6-1 vote. The Board elected Dan Roeske as vice president, Lois Valente as secretary and Brendan Walsh as treasurer.

The newly elected Dindoffer is no stranger to holding officer positions within the Board. She has held a wide variety of roles since joining in 1997, serving as Board secretary, vice president, and president (from 2002 to 2004) and treasurer over the years. Her involvement is, in part, thanks to her three children.

"When my children were in elementary school, it became apparent to me, as a parent, that I needed to be looking far enough ahead to make sure that programs and structures would be in place to afford my children the opportunities I wanted for them," Dindoffer said.

"As I began to become involved in the schools, I realized that it was vital that stake holders in the school community take that longitudinal interest in the school system as a whole, so that we could plan for the future and benefit from history."

Dindoffer's election didn't come as a surprise for some members of the Board. The months spent searching for a new superintendent, the familiar debate over residency issues and a trend of split voting on many agenda items all contributed to the decision for her presidency.

"She's experienced. She was president before. She's well-organized. She knows the issues well and can work with all members of the Board and administration," treasurer Brendan Walsh said.

It was partly because of these qualities that Walsh (and five of his fellow Board members) voted for Dindoffer – and partly because he is looking forward to addressing the most pressing issues facing the District with a more reliable and refreshed vigor.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FIVE MINUTES WITH
Hall monitor Glenn Lachowicz

By Audrey Kam
STAFF REPORTER

Hall monitor Glenn Lachowicz has been a self-proclaimed “sports fanatic” since he can remember.

“The thing I did most was sports,” Lachowicz said.

The oldest of six children living in Detroit, he used to go to the park every day to play sports or watch them. His two favorites were hockey and baseball, and he played both.

“I played hockey through high school,” Lachowicz said. “I played baseball in high school, as the captain of the high school baseball team. I played hockey outside of high school.”

Lachowicz went on to college and joined the Marines, but the sports fanaticism didn’t stop.

Lachowicz says playing sports prior to joining the military made the transition easy.

“Military life was pretty easy for me. It was physical, but I was in good shape, so I had no problem with it,” Lachowicz said.

When Lachowicz was discharged from the Marines, he continued to play hockey until he was 23. He then went to work for Chrysler until he retired in 2002, when he realized he wanted to be a security guard.

He worked for a private security company for four years and then was hired by the District and has been working here ever since.

Lachowicz says he still enjoys sports, but now he enjoys student sports even more.

“The things that I remember around here, besides that it’s a really safe school, in my opinion, (are) some of the sports stuff,” Lachowicz said.

“They’ve been state champions in a couple of sports, and I’ve really enjoyed watching their sports.”



CAROLINE SCHULTE

Before hall monitor Glenn Lachowicz came to North, he was in the Marines, played hockey and worked at Chrysler.

What is your motto?

Gotta get it done, treat everybody equal, treat people the way that I want to be treated. It’s a motto that I think that everybody should follow. A lot of people do.

Who is your hero?

Probably my mother. My mother was able to keep us together as a family.

What exactly is your job at North?

...A hall monitor is sort of like a security guard. We bring notes for students in your classes, but we’re here also to watch the security of the school. Have to keep the kids safe. That’s our job, protecting the kids...

What are you the most proud of in your life?

I think being a good father is the thing that I’m the most proud of – and being a good husband. Those are the two things I think I am the most proud of.

What is on your bucket list?

I don’t have anything else left. I suppose having grandchildren. It’s up to my boys, if they want to have children. I guess staying here at North, doing what I do here, live to be 90 years old.

Dindoffer new School Board president

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We need to agree on a consistent, fair and reliable manner to hold District administration accountable to goals and objectives in a way that promotes District improvement. As the financial stresses are being addressed, we have achieved a great position where we can truly focus on District outcomes,” Walsh said.

Walsh acknowledges that an atmosphere of contention between Board members is often a familiar presence in many of the Board’s meetings.

“Unfortunately, it’s nothing new. Tensions can run high, and there’s a certain amount of grand-standing that has long gone on,” Walsh said. “I don’t think it adversely affects each member’s commitment to making decisions that are in the best interests of the District. The greater harm is that the lack of professionalism displayed publicly can harm the Board’s credibility, regardless of the direction of the District. I believe Board members should state reasons for their votes in terms of the positives of their decisions, not the negatives of those with whom they disagree.”

While he may not agree with the way some members present their votes, Walsh stands by the system the Board uses to cast their votes.

“Democracy can be a messy process, and in this case, the Board conducts this business very publicly and transparently. Yes, the system works. In simple terms, you can’t be a Board officer unless a majority of the Board agrees to place you in that position. The majority rules, as it should,” Walsh said.

Dindoffer understands what is expected of her as the year progresses, and looks forward to finding new ways to work with the Board, especially as they receive the results of their most recent initiative.

“I want to work collaboratively with all School Board members. I am especially interested in the outcome of the 21st century high school study,” Dindoffer said. “I believe that is one of the most important initiatives we have undertaken in years, and I want to know that our students will be graduating with the skills to allow them to excel in college or the workforce.”



COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SCHOOLS

Meet new School Board president: Joan Dindoffer

■ Graduated from University of Michigan with a B.A. in political science

■ Has a J.D. from Wayne State University Law School

■ She is the Vice President of the Wealth Management Divisions of Comerica Bank .

■ Member of the Michigan Bar Association

■ Her involvement with the school board led to the Michigan Association of School Boards awarding her a certificate of merit upon her completion of board certification and training.

■ Currently resides in Grosse Pointe Park

■ All three of her children graduated from Grosse Pointe South.

Board of Education sends out forms, seeking residency affirmation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Feb. 4. He disagrees with some of what the plan entails.

“The proof of residency is a good thing, but as far as having people who’ve been around for so long (do it) is ridiculous,” Lemanski said. “It’s kind of no big deal, I mean I was just kind of surprised we had to provide our residency.”

“My mom thinks that if they want to be thorough, they should include the residency form as part of the registration process instead of randomly picking people,” Pitses said. “I’m kind of indifferent. It was just another thing for my mom to add to her to-do list. I’m more amused than mad.”

Harwood realizes there will be a variance of opinions. “For some, this will not be an area of difficulty or concern. For some, the one page document may be viewed as limited in requesting a verification of residency and that the process should include more documents shared with the district to prove residency. For some, it may be

viewed as a huge inconvenience and not necessary,” Harwood said.

Even though some, like Pitses, find the form an inconvenience, community relations specialist Rebecca Fannon has not seen it as a problem.

“We have received only one complaint that I’m aware of, though we have had several questions about how exactly we drew the random sampling. When we shared the procedure used, all have been pleased with the methodology,” Fannon said.

The affidavit was chosen partly because it is less costly.

“The last re-registration was approximately \$85,000 and that was seven years ago. This will cost approximately \$700, not including the time to process the documents, which we will do in-house,” Deputy Superintendent Chris Fenton said.

Despite the conflicts in opinions, Harwood said there will be “some form of re-verification over the next three years.”

“Thus, the reason for the 25% figure,” he said. “Twenty-five percent this year, and 25% each year over the next three years gets us to a 100% mark at the end of the four year period.”

SEE EDITORIAL ON PAGE 7

Driver’s Road Skills Test
\$5.00 COUPON

MICHIGAN DRIVERS
LICENSE TESTING
Automobile Tests: \$45.00
Rental Available: \$20.00

GROSSE POINTE MOVING CO.
11850 East Jefferson, Detroit
CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
313-822-4400

Jerry's Party Club Store

383 Kercheval

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

884-7155

Grosse Pointe Driving School
WINTER/SPRING SCHEDULE 2013

SEGMENT 1: 6-8 p.m. Feb. 18-March 7 March 11-March 28 April 8-April 25	SEGMENT 2: 4-6 p.m. Feb. 18-21 March 4-7 March 18-21 April 8-11
---	---

Classes held at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial
32 Lake Shore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms, 313-881-7511

Grosse Pointe Athletic Club

Get Fit, Stay Fit!
General Fitness Training
Sport-Specific Performance Programs
Individual & Group Training

335 Fisher Road, Grosse Pointe
(313) 886-8590
info@thegpac.org
Student Rate: \$35/mo.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥
Pregnancy Aid

Feeling confused?
Pregnancy Aid offers free pregnancy tests and confidential counseling to anyone in need
17325 Mack Ave.
Across from Staples, on the Detroit side
882-1000

Class of 2014:
Models Needed!

Feel like becoming famous at North?
Would you like your senior portrait sessions to be at no charge?
Want to earn some extra spending money?
Would you like to let your friends know about how to win an iPad?
Then, give us a call!

We are finishing up our interviews for models for our annual
“Complete Guide to Awesome Senior Portraits” and would love to add you to our print, web and Facebook advertising. Call us today!

AHMED & MARY ANN ISMAIL
ThePortraitPlace
20231 Mack Avenue • Grosse Pointe Woods
313-343-9060
WWW.GP-SENIORS.COM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Q&A with Mike Cook, senior associate director of admissions at Michigan State University

North Pointe: How many applicants did you have last year?
Mike Cook: 30,233
NP: How many were from in state?
Cook: 16,836
NP: How many were from out of state?
Cook: 13,397
NP: We spoke about a “wait list” or being offered a spot for a different term. Of your applicants, how many does this occur to?
Cook: We do not have a “wait list.” Rather, we continue to offer admission for the fall class until we reach the desired projected enrollment target. At the same time, a number of application reviews require seventh semester grades. When these grades arrive (normally Jan - Feb), we continue to offer fall admission based on space availability.
When we reach capacity, there are a number of admissible applicants that are offered spring entry. This number varies, but it can be 1,000-1,200.
NP: Of those who you do not accept initially how many end up still choosing MSU for their college?
Cook: This spring, about 350 enrolled at MSU. Again, these are admissible students that unfortunately fall space simply was not an option.
NP: When looking at applications, do you take into consideration residence?
Cook: We examine the entire application, however academic performance, strength of curriculum and test scores are the primary keys to an admission offer.