

GROSSE POINTE TIMES NEWS & NOTES

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PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON MASTER PLAN

Grosse Pointe City is inviting the public to learn more about its 2022 master plan update and offer their own suggestions about the future of the community.

A workshop with activities and information will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 12 at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee Ave. — across the street from City Hall.

"We're looking forward to our first public engagement event on Feb. 12," City Planner John Jackson, of McKenna Associates, said during a Jan. 24 Grosse Pointe City Council meeting.

In addition, a survey on the community's future can be completed by visiting mcka.mysocialpinpoint.com/grosse-pointe-master-plan; alternatively, printed copies of the survey can be picked up at the front desk of City Hall. Surveys must be completed by March 5.

A third opportunity for the public to weigh in is through a comment map and digital forums, in which people can pin their "likes," "dislikes" and "ideas." These opportunities are available on the master plan website, the same site where people can complete the survey.

Officials say they hope to get as much public engagement as possible on the master plan update, as the plan directs decisions about parks, housing, infrastructure, economic development and more.

Student journalists to be honored

The staff and editor of "The Tower," the student newspaper at Grosse Pointe South High School, will be honored with a prestigious Crown Award during the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's 98th annual Scholastic Convention March 18. The program will be virtual this year because of COVID-19 restrictions, convention organizers said.

"This award that you and your staff have earned indicates the publication they produced ranks among the best in student journalism," wrote Columbia Scholastic Press Association Executive Director Edmund J. Sullivan in a letter to "The Tower."

LOCAL SITES HONORED

It received an award for Heritage Tourism from the Detroit-based MotorCities National Heritage Area Partnership during MotorCities' eighth annual Awards of Excellence ceremony in November in Lansing.

The Ford House was recognized for its new Visitors Center, which opened last spring and provides additional exhibitions and event spaces. The building, and other new developments on the property, were also designed to be environmentally friendly.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from MotorCities and proud to be part of this impressive array of automotive history sites," Ford House Director of Communications & Engagement Clare Pfeiffer said by email. "This project has been transformational for Ford House and the experience we offer visitors. Our new Visitor Center adds new dining, shopping and special event spaces, but also greatly expands our exhibit and educational spaces, allowing us to tell the Ford family's story in a more dynamic and engaging way."

The Detroit Historical Museum's "Body by Fisher" exhibition, which opened in August 2021, was also honored, receiving the award for Interpretation and Education.

Through Feb. 28, MotorCities is accepting applications for grants of up to \$25,000 for phase two of its 2021-22 Challenge Grant program. Recipients must be able to match the grant funds through cash, documented volunteer work, donated goods and the like, and they must have a project that can be finished by Sept. 30, 2022. To be eligible, recipients must be active members of MotorCities and a nonprofit 501(c)(3), educational institution, governmental entity or tribunal. For more information, visit www.MotorCities.org/grants.



CITY FINDS A WAY TO EMBRACE THE COLD



Grosse Pointe City will hold its annual Winterfest for residents from 1 to 5 p.m. Jan. 29 at Weff Park.

Events will include ice skating, curling, broomball, a hockey shootout, games and a scavenger hunt for kids, and the return of a "phenomenal" ice carver from previous Winterfests, according to Parks and Recreation Coordinator Becca Jenzen.

"It is back to its (pre-pandemic) 2020 glory," Jenzen said of Winterfest during a Jan. 24 Grosse Pointe City Council meeting.

In addition, there will be warming fires and free s'mores and hot chocolate. A catered pig roast meal with side dishes is available to go for \$5 per person, but all of the activities are free, Jenzen said.

Attendees should bring a mask to wear when entering indoor facilities. For more information, visit www.grossepointecity.org.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM ABOUT SCHOOL HISTORY EDUCATION SCHEDULED

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe and the Grosse Pointes-Harper Woods NAACP are sponsoring the virtual program, "What U.S. History Do We Teach in Our Schools?" at 7 p.m. Feb. 9.

The program will look at what story about the nation's history is shared with students and who decides this, with panelists discussing state history education

guidelines. In addition, panelists will address what students in the Grosse Pointe Public School System are learning about American history.

Panelists include David Hales, social studies consultant for the Wayne Regional Educational Service Agencies; P.J. Palen, lead U.S. history teacher at Grosse Pointe South High School; and a Grosse Pointe high school graduate.

Attendees need to register for the program by Feb. 7. They should also submit questions for the panelists by that date. To register or submit questions, visit lwvgrossepointe.org.



WALK FOR BETTER HEALTH

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge Road in Grosse Pointe Farms, is offering a six-week class to teach the fundamentals of walking as exercise from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from Feb. 8 to March 17.

Free to Helm members and nonmembers alike, the program

is conducted by the Arthritis Foundation. It will help participants get started on a walking plan to improve health, reduce pain and stiffness, and increase balance and strength. Because of the weather, this program will take place inside The Helm. Participants must register for the full program.

Advance registration is required. To register or for more information, visit www.HelmLife.org or call (313) 882-9600.