

The reason behind the five Grosse Pointes

It wasn't disputes over alcohol distribution that divided the Grosse Pointes. Here's a brief background to how the five Pointes really came to be.

By Josie Bennett & Asia Simmons
EDITOR & STAFF REPORTER

GP City

On May 20, 1879 Grosse Pointe village was established in Grosse Pointe Township.



GP Farms

Grosse Pointe Farms was established May 20, 1893, dividing the growing Grosse Pointe Village into two separate cities.

GP Shores

Grosse Pointe Shores was established in the year 1911, due to the increase in buying land, cottages and installments of mansions.



GP Park

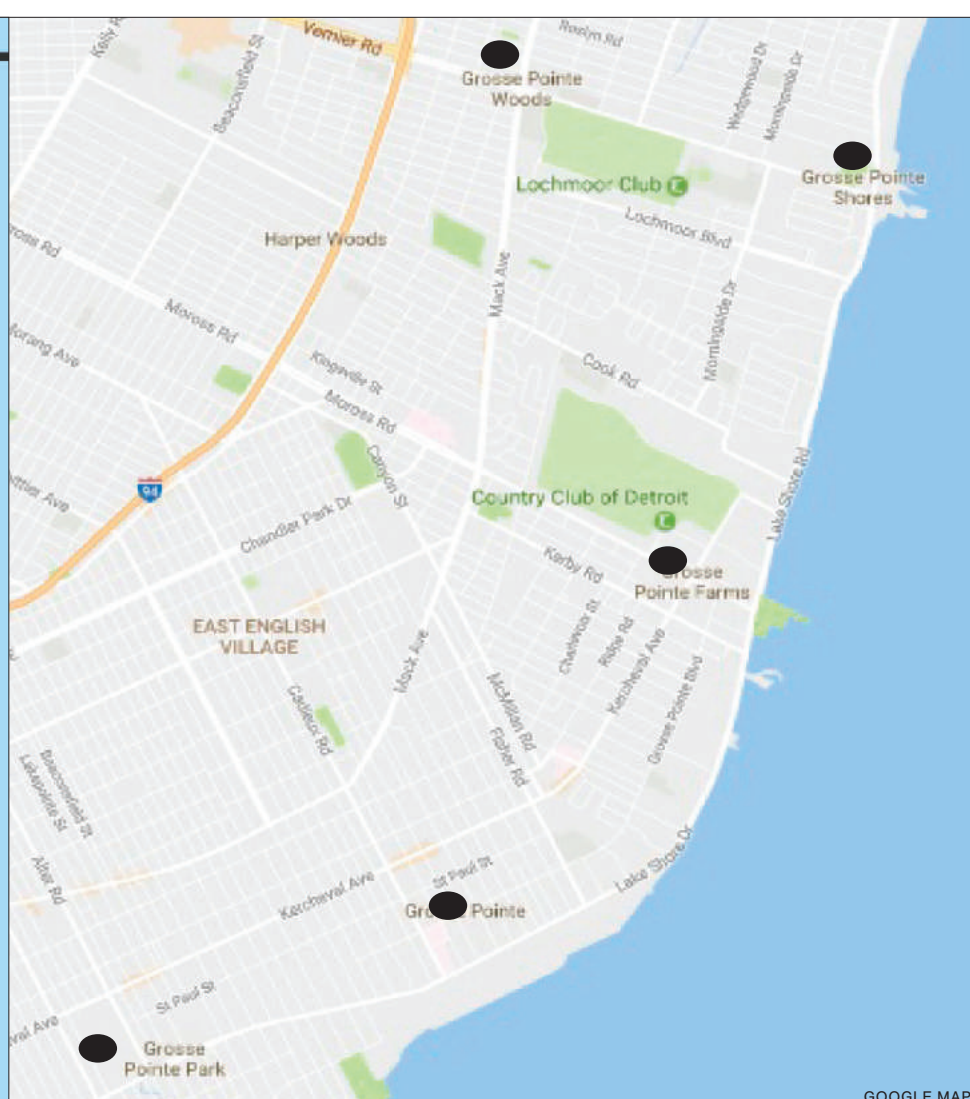
Grosse Pointe Park was established in 1907. GP Park was originally called the Village of Fairview and was established as a city in 1950.

GP Woods

It was originally called the Village of Lockmoore but was renamed to Grosse Pointe Woods in 1939 and became a city in 1950.



Grosse Pointe Historical Society & respective Wikipedia pages for each Grosse Pointe



Around the 1750s, Grosse Pointe was founded as a farming and hunting community by French settlers. It was a very wooded area and they named it "Grosse Pointe" meaning "big point."

Before there were five cities, there was just one: Grosse Pointe Township. Grosse Pointe Township was established in 1848, and was a rural area. Everything was water efficient, meaning all farms and homes were lined up on the shoreline and built on water making transportation and daily needs easier. The population continued to grow, however, and just one township wasn't enough to accommodate everyone.

One of the first official Pointes to be established was Grosse Pointe Village, or simply Grosse Pointe. Today it is also known as Grosse Pointe City. The lumber industry started here and grew because of the abundance of workers.

Much of the coast was composed of narrow strips known as ribbon farms, which led to the establishment of Grosse Pointe Farms. Coastal land was in high demand, so to secure it, people began to buy big estates and build cottages and mansions. This district of estates led to the creation of the smallest pointe, a combination of Grosse Pointe Township and Lake Township, Grosse Pointe Shores. Grosse Pointe Shores was established in the year 1911 and grew with the installation of more mansions.

Upperclassmen dedicate time to others as volunteers

By Caitlin Bush
EDITOR

Junior Sydney Semack Summer in the City

Paint, plant and play. Summer in the City is a non profit organization that aims to better Detroit.

Junior Sydney Semack has been volunteering with this program since last summer and enjoys the flexibility of the schedule.

"Summer in the City is a really good program," Semack said. "If someone is looking for volunteer hours, it is a really good way because it works around your schedule."

The program offers different volunteer options like painting buildings and murals and planting flowers and trees around Detroit. They also offer an option to play with kids at a day camp in Detroit.

Different stations allow for the volunteers and camp goes to participate in a range of activities like acting or reading. Or they can play outside on the playscape or play field games.

"Everyone should try (volunteering)," Semack said. "It is really eye-opening, fun and not a lot of hard work. It is worth it."

Semack said she learned valuable life skills like patience and selflessness through her volunteer experiences. Most importantly, it has showed her that not all children come from the same background, especially the kids she works with who live in Detroit. It has made her learn how to become a better person.

"It has opened my eyes to how much is going on just 10 miles away from us," Semack said. "It made me a lot more thankful for what I have and made me more appreciative."

Being a leader for children that need one is important to Semack and enjoys that volunteering through this program offers her that opportunity.

"I always love helping out kids and volunteering," Semack said. "When I get the opportunity to help out, just make a kid smile everyday, it makes me feel good."

Semack feels everyone should volunteer for the community that does so much for them even though they may not realize it.

"People in Grosse Pointe are always there for you and it is always good to be there for someone else," Semack said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SYDNEY SEMACK

Junior Stephanie Korte St. Paul Lutheran Church

Junior Stephanie Korte has been participating in volunteer programs through St. Paul Lutheran Church since her freshman year. Each month, the church does do a different service project, and Korte enjoys contributing to each one.

"I love doing them," Korte said. "I like getting out in the community and seeing and doing different things. It makes me feel good that I'm helping people, so I love it."

The church's most recent project was a dinner called Transition into Independence, which takes place at Wayne State University. St. Paul also provides food for foster home kids who are now in college, Korte said.

"It is a dinner for them, and they celebrate their success through college because being a foster kid can be really hard sometimes," Korte said. "So our church provides the food, and we serve it to them."

Throughout Korte's three years of volunteer work, she has learned to be more open-minded and understanding towards people and that if someone has the option to help out, they should.

"I get a better opinion of the world and view of other people, and I feel like I learn more," Korte said. "With me, I have a middle-class family, and I am ok in the world, but some people aren't, and it is nice to be able to help them."

The church's projects range from serving dinners to making packages for groups who need it. Korte's favorite is a dinner they put on for the homeless and families who currently live at Wayne County Center.

"We cook all of the food and feed all of these families, and we have a bingo game," Korte said. "It is just fun being able to sit with the kids and play bingo and eat with them."

They have also made hygiene kits with shampoo, soaps and washcloths for women trapped in prostitution. Korte has become more aware of current world issues because of volunteering, and she thinks that everyone should help.

"I recommend it for everybody because it is just good to help people, and when we have lives and the money like this, we don't need that, and some people do," Korte said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE KORTE

Senior Luke Muschong Kids On The Go

Senior Luke Muschong has volunteered since his sophomore year at Kids On The Go, where he helps out with the summer basketball and baseball classes. During the classes, they focus on learning the basic skills, like dribbling and throwing.

"They have a lot of fun," Muschong said. "We play mini games, and it is really fun."

Kids On The Go is a pediatric non profit that provides special needs children ages 3-14 with therapy over the summer during their camp experience. It runs every Wednesday from June 6 through August 16. The camp offers classes that focus on art, music, biking, storytelling and other sports classes.

Muschong enjoys helping the kids learn the skills. He also appreciates the chance to work with Anthony Ianni, the instructor of the basketball class.

"He was the first special needs person to be a college basketball player. He played for Michigan State," Muschong said. "It is awesome."

Working with special needs children is a different yet gratifying experience according to Muschong.

"It is different, definitely," he said. "These kids are really young. They aren't experienced with playing sports, and every kid is different, but they are all just happy to be there."

Muschong said everyone should participate in some sort of community service because it is important to give back. He recommends trying Kids On The Go.

"I think it is important to just give back to your community because it is a good gesture and makes you feel good," Muschong said. "Kids On The Go, for example, is a fun thing. You are just helping these kids play basketball. It is basically like basketball camp for these kids."

Muschong's favorite part about volunteering is seeing how happy it makes the children feel and knowing that he did something good for somebody else.

"They love coming and playing. It is just good. I think everyone should do it," Muschong said. "I think (my favorite part is) just giving back to the community and feeling good about helping people out that need it."



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