

THE VILLAGE DOWNTOWN GROSSE POINTE

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GROSSE POINTE VILLAGEFEST TAKES PLACE SEPTEMBER 12 & 13, 2015

GROSSE POINTE, Mich., August 25, 2015 – Grosse Pointe's largest community celebration, VillageFest, sponsored by Beaumont Health System, takes place on Saturday, Sept. 12 and Sunday, Sept. 13 in The Village.

VillageFest is a free, annual festival open to the public produced by the Grosse Pointe Village Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Designed with activities for each member of the family, VillageFest includes an art exhibition, live music and entertainment, food and refreshments, an automotive exhibition and car show, and activities and fun for children.

VillageFest visitors will enjoy several new features this year, including “Grosse Pointe's Got Talent” live talent contest and “The Grosse Pointe GooseChase” – a smartphone scavenger hunt for good health, coordinated by Beaumont. There is also the WSCX Stone Soup car and raffle and an expanded selection of beverages including craft beers from Michigan breweries including Rochester Mills (Rochester Hills), Tri City Brewery (Bay City), ROAK (in Royal Oak) and Blake's (Armada).

Village Fest activities take place throughout The Village, covering the entire three block shopping district on Kercheval Avenue, between Cadieux Road and Neff Road, in The Village. Vehicular traffic is diverted off Kercheval, the main thoroughfare downtown, in order to create areas for hospitality and safe play for all ages.

A Taste of VillageFest is sponsored by The Whiskey Six. Sample menu items from the area's most popular dining destinations include, Atwater in the Park, Pierogi Gals, Jet's Pizza, Luxe, among others. Visitors to VillageFest can enter to win a Dinner for Four and a Tasting Experience at The Whiskey Six, a new establishment that will open in fall 2015. Contest entry forms are available at the Welcome Tent located on Kercheval at St. Clair street.

VillageFest offers live entertainment each day from the **VillageFest Stage** sponsored by Sunrise Senior Living. The schedule follows:

Saturday, Sept. 12

12-12:45

Grosse Pointe Theatre

1:00-1:45	LunaSol
2:00- 2:45	Crossroads
3:00 - 3:45	JGraves
4:00- 4:45	Daisy Dillinger
5:00-6:30	Grosse Pointe's Got Talent
7:00- 10:00	Dance Party with The Sun Messengers

Sunday, Sept. 13

12:00 - 12:45	Martin's Jazz Trio
1:00 - 1:45	Nessa
2:00 - 2:45	Ali Bey
3:00- 3:50	Balduck Mountain Ramblers
4:00- 5:00	The Magic Moments

New this year at VillageFest is the community showcase, **Grosse Pointe's Got Talent** sponsored by Weichert, Grosse Pointe Homes. Residents of the Grosse Pointe communities will compete in five-minute sets on stage between 5 and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12. Contestants first uploaded a video sample to The Village website, www.thevillagegp.com. The live contest winner will get to perform in the 40th Annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade, produced by the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, in November.

The **Saturday Night Dance Party** with Grosse Pointe's favorite dance band, the Sun Messengers takes place from 7- 10 p.m. and is sponsored by Kercheval Dance. Chair massages by Massage Green are offered free of charge as a warm up from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in front of the stage.

The juried **VillageFest Art Show** is sponsored by Scott Shuptrine and produced by the Grosse Pointe Art Center features dozens of local artists displaying and selling their artwork.

The **VillageFest Car Show** sponsored by Ray Laethem celebrates the Grosse Pointe area's rich automotive history. Featured automobile classes include classic, exotic, hot rod, and antique vehicles. All entries qualify for People's Choice judging and special awards, as well as daily awards and door prizes. The People's Choice award is sponsored by Hagerty Insurance.

Visitors can enjoy the **WCSX's Stone Soup Project's** 1971 Corvette Stingray at the VillageFest Car Show on Saturday Sept. 12 between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Adults can purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win the car. Please note that 100% of proceeds benefit Holy Cross Family Services.

Kids on the Block sponsored by Kercheval Place and produced by El's Boutique includes a bounce house, a giant slide, carnival games, and other fun activities for youngsters. The Grosse Pointe North High School Robotics Team will perform live demonstrations. Activities for kids also include Lego fun with The Robot Garage, demonstrations with Kart 2 Kart, and arts and crafts with Grosse Pointe Mompreneurs.

For a complete list of events and times visit www.thevillagegp.com.

The **Community Corner** Sponsored by Flagstar Bank is where guests can meet community organizations offering a variety of services from health care and support to educational programs and public outreach. The Community Corner is located at Kercheval and Notre Dame.

In addition to Presenting Sponsor Beaumont, VillageFest is made possible by Sunrise Senior Living, Harvey's Memorial Animal Hospital, Ray Laethem, Kart 2 Kart, Kercheval Dance, and Aitken & Ormond Insurance.

New sponsors joining the community event this year are Sunrise Senior Living, Kercheval Place, The Robot Garage, Great Lakes Beverage, and The Whiskey Six. Returning sponsors are Harvey's Memorial Animal Hospital, Ray Laethem, Kart 2 Kart, Kercheval Dance, and Aitken & Ormond Insurance. Additional sponsors include The Rivers, Renewal by Andersen, Massage Green, Pointe Fitness, Grosse Pointe Mompreneurs and Haggerty Insurance. Support also comes from CVS Pharmacy, Kroger and Notre Dame Pharmacy and promotional partners Grosse Pointe News, Grosse Pointe Times, Pointe Magazine and WCSX.

Additional information about The Village, downtown Grosse Pointe is available for the general public at www.thevillagegp.com.

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Members of the news media are asked to contact Melissa Bunker at (313) 886-9074 to arrange interviews.