National shutdown hits Grosse Pointe

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SECTION EDITOR & INTERNS
PHOTO| Mia Schultz

On Oct. 1, the federal government began a shutdown due to Congress not being able to agree on passing a bill that would fund government services. According to USAFacts, "A government shutdown occurs when Congress fails to pass or the president refuses to sign a spending bill to fund the federal government's operations." However, this has bled from a national scale into many local ones, such as Grosse Pointe, where community members are being affected by the shutdown in different ways.

One community member who is personally affected by the shutdown is junior Thalia Cartwright, whose father works as a TSA agent. Despite Cartwright's personal connection with what is going on, she is just as in the dark about the shutdown as the public, due to her father not being allowed to know the specifics of it.

"How does someone who's in [the government] not know what's happening," Cartwright said. "There's just this mask of secrecy, and it doesn't let you know. There's no hint of a little bit of knowledge as to where it's going to go. We're just sitting at a stance and that's scary." Like Cartwright, many others may face uncertainty about what is currently happening in the government. To better understand the shutdown, Bridget Cooley, a US history teacher, explains the dispute that led to it.

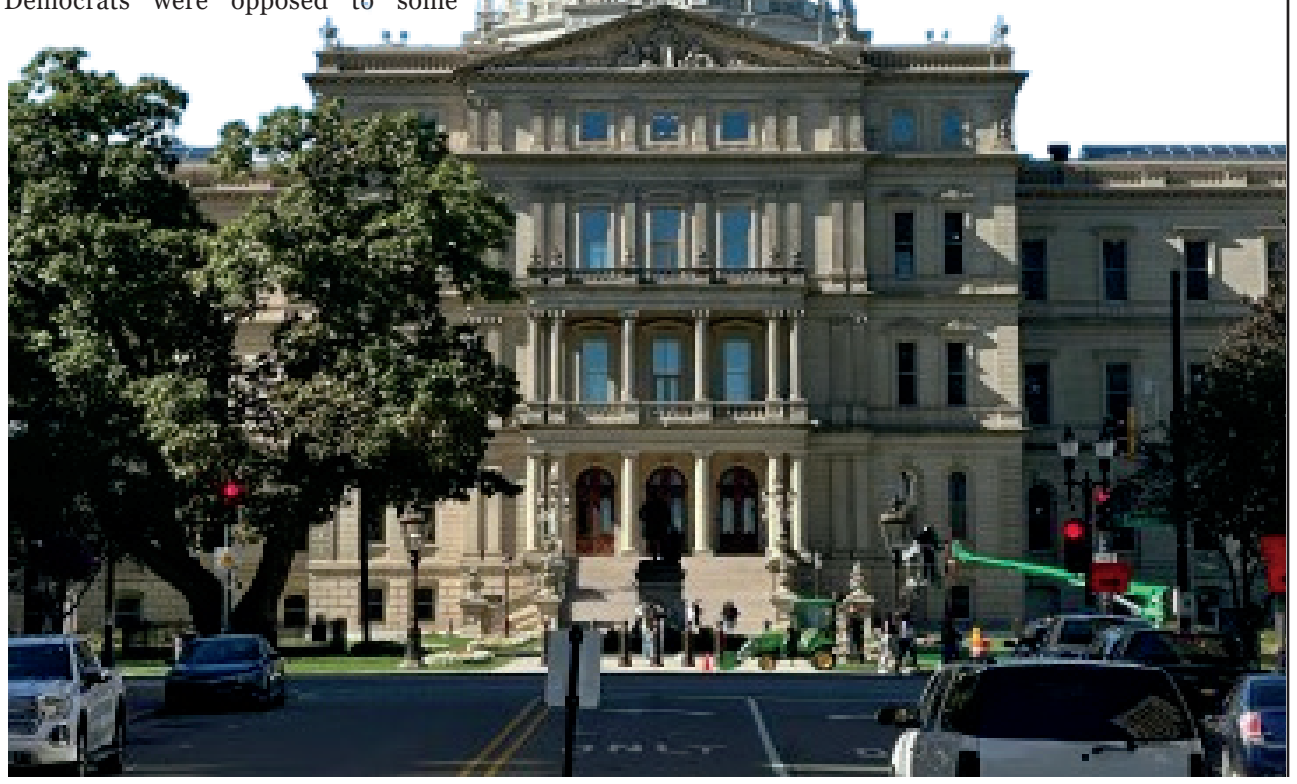
"The job of Congress is to fund our government. That's one of their jobs, and they appropriate funds." Cooley said. "Under the Trump administration, Democrats were opposed to some of the cuts to healthcare payments. This was an opportunity Democrats thought to fight back on some of the cuts to healthcare funding. I think from the Republican perspective, they thought that they had a bill to continue funding the government they were holding out for. Both have kind of dug in on what they view as right in terms of funding."

A local federal worker who has been directly affected by the shutdown is Amanda Gingrich, who is a business law attorney for the Department of the Army. The shutdown has caused Gingrich's department to fall into a major backlog of work.

"I was working on several urgent contracts before the shutdown happened," Gingrich said. "We are sitting idle with most people being furloughed. With all the paperwork being backlogged, it will delay the delivery of this equipment and supplies and services and stuff, and maintenance of facilities. It will directly impact our military service members and our Army war fighters."

Even though the possible length of the national government shutdown is currently uncertain, many Americans, such as Gingrich, want to hope that it will be opened up again as soon as possible.

"I hope that our government leadership can sit down at the table and come to an agreement to reopen the government," Gingrich said. "It's costing the American people a lot of money."



Keeping it brief

By Stephen Listman & Katie McLeod
SECTION EDITORS

Michigan free school lunches

Since 2023, the State of Michigan has been providing free lunches to all K through 12 students. However, before the state passed the budget on Oct. 7th, this program had the possibility of being cut. Meaning Michigan schools would have to pay for it out of pocket, or the students would.

The Grosse Pointe Public Schools Food Service Director Paul Angelo believes there will be consequences if the program is ever cut.

"Now there might be fewer kids who are going to eat because now they have to pay. So that's the difficult part for us because we want to make sure every kid eats," Angelo said.

Pier Park renovations

After months of revisions, the city council unanimously approved a $12-$14 million renovation of the Pier Park aquatic facility. This revamp will include a new recreation pool with accessibility features, a new competition pool that meets standards allowing the park to host swim competitions and an expansion of the tot pool size.

During the revision process for the renovation plan, community input was considered through public meetings and requests. Junior Velson Sefa believes that the new revamp is needed because parks are fundamental in developing a sense of community.

"They're renovating the pool, Sefa said.they're changing it up. I think that's a huge benefit. It is very valuable to the community because it allows us to come together, and it really just improves our mental health and being overall as humans."

GPN bathroom update

Bathroom access at North has become more limited this year following a reduction in hall monitors and security staff.

Closed bathrooms throughout the day don't follow a specific schedule. However, Grosse Pointe North Hall Monitor Sylvescer Reed claims they have decreased vandalism compared to last year.

"We try to govern it and try to keep them closed. So that way they [students] don't go in there and try to destroy the bathrooms," Reed said.