

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2021, **DONNIE COOK**, owner of Lou's Pet Shop, was selected as a 2020 Community Service Award winner by mParks-Michigan Recreation and Park Association and the Professional Recognition Committee; and

WHEREAS, **DONNIE COOK** was nominated for the award by the City of Grosse Pointe Woods as an extraordinary volunteer. Just say "Donnie" will be there, and local children and parents flock to see him at multiple Grosse Pointe Woods community events throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, Donnie has developed a unique program aimed at educating children about and to respect all animals. He brings an exciting collection of birds, lizards, hedgehogs, giant rabbits named Levi and Finn, and other exotic creatures, and sets up an educational show-and-tell that fascinates his audience, young and old. The star, of course, is Franky – a giant tortoise who provides a memorable demonstration of his jaw strength, eliciting shrieks of surprise from the gathered crowd; and

WHEREAS, Donnie furthers his mission of educating children with Lou's "University." This volunteer program is designed for but not limited to area children 8 to 15 years of age. It encourages them to enjoy the amazing things happening at Lou's Pet Shop while teaching responsibility, instilling a positive early work ethic, and providing an opportunity for children to connect with nature through pet keeping. During this three-week commitment, children learn to perfect their "super powers" such as vacuuming, dusting, organizing, communicating and compassionately caring for others; and

WHEREAS, Grosse Pointe Woods events are greatly enhanced by the generous voluntary contributions of **DONNIE COOK**, and the community is enriched by his commitment to teaching future generations how important it is to care for all living things.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARTHUR W. BRYANT, Mayor of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, in recognition of this commendable achievement do hereby proclaim Wednesday, October 20, 2021 (the MParks Community Service Award Ceremony date) as

DONNIE COOK DAY

in the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, and extend the best wishes of the City Council and the Citizens of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods to **DONNIE COOK** and his family on this day of recognition.



Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor Arthur W. Bryant
October 4, 2021