

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 3/16

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	2,386 (+62)	54 (+0)
Harper Woods	770 (+22)	42 (+0)

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MARCH 18, 2021
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes



Robert Novitke

In memoriam: Robert Novitke

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Robert E. Novitke, Grosse Pointe Woods mayor, passed away Sunday, March 14.

Novitke was a resident of the Woods more than 40 years. He served on city council 13 years before serving as mayor more than 30 years, since

November 1990. The Woods city hall was renamed as the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center Friday, Oct. 23, 2020, with Novitke and family present.

The city council acknowledged the missing presence of Novitke with a minute of silence to start their council meeting

See **NOVITKE**, page 4A

Historic district talk is history

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Residents have overwhelmingly spoken and city council has listened. In a unanimous decision during the Monday, March 15 council meeting, the historic district study was discontinued, with the moratorium on demolition and new construction within the Estate Residential District, in place since July 2020, lifted.

A petition circulating for about a week, and not yet submitted to council, already had gained 135 signatures from City residents age 18 and older and in opposition to the creation of a historic district.

“In my years on city council, I’ve never been involved in such unanimous non-support on an issue,” Councilman John Stempfle said. “I don’t think I’ve received one

See **HISTORY**, page 9A

Local elections soon underway

Filing deadlines approach

By Kate Vanderstelt and Laurel Kraus
Staff Writers

THE GROSSE POINTES — With filing deadlines for local government approaching, voters may be interested in learning what seats will be open this upcoming election and perhaps even how they can file as a candi-

date.

In the Farms and Park, open seats will appear on the Aug. 3 non-partisan primary election ballot, unless there are not enough candidates to warrant a primary election, in which case the candidates will be on the ballot Nov. 2.

See **ELECTION**, page 2A



COURTESY PHOTO

Winter waning

Shirl Goedike's oil on canvas painting, “Winter Beach, Antibes, 1975,” is all of us right now, waiting for the chill to leave the air and spring to arrive so we take off our jackets and go for a dip in the lake.

Departments attend implicit bias training

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Something initially set up for the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department, a training entitled “Understanding the Effects of Implicit Bias on Law Enforcement” grew into a citywide educational tool.

“Initially it was for the public safety department and it grew into all city departments,” Interim Chief Lt. James Bostock said. “City administration, court personnel, public works, parks and recreation, the water department — every department was represented.”

Bostock organized the training by bringing in Darnell Z. Blackburn, who has worked for the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards for 16 years. MCOLES is nationally recognized as a leader in

See **TRAINING**, page 3A

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All Michigan adults eligible for vaccination April 5

Ford Field federally selected as mass vaccination site

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

MICHIGAN — With the goal of vaccinating 70 percent of Michiganders older than age 16, all Michigan adults ages 16

and up will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination as of Monday, April 5, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced

well on our way to vaccinating 70 percent of Michiganders age 16 and up,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS, in a press release. “We are pleased to lay out our plan for when every Michigander age 16 and up will be able to get a

vaccine. We will continue to focus our efforts on removing barriers to access for our most vulnerable to exposure and those at highest risk of severe illness due to COVID-19. These vaccines are the way we are going to end this pan-

See **VACCINE**, page 10A

Week Ahead 3A
Opinion 6A
Schools 17A
Features 1B
Obituaries 8B
Sports 1D
Classified ads 6D

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Lisa Thams
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Organizer of local charity branch bringing Christmas gifts and Jesus' love to the children of incarcerated parents.



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