

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 6/29			
	Cases	Deaths	
All Pointes	3,433 (+7)	65 (+0)	
Harper Woods	1,315 (+1)	51 (+0)	

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Grosse Pointe News

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JULY 1, 2021
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Pointes swept up in flood

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Friday night wreaked havoc on the Pointes when hours of heavy rainfall caused severe flooding, leaving cars stranded in the road, phone lines down and basements flooded. Many are comparing it to the devastating flood of 2016.

Close to 1 a.m. Saturday, June 26, the Conner Creek pump station in Detroit failed. While the Pointes ran their own pump stations in efforts to vacate stormwater, they had a

hard time keeping up. “We were pumping at capacity through the whole time uninterrupted,” Grosse Pointe Farms City Manager Shane Reeside said, “but it got to a point where the Fox Creek enclosure filled to capacity and couldn’t handle additional storm water. (Water) took the path of least resistance. ... Significant bodies of water followed the path of least resistance into basements.”

Park City Manager Nick Sizeland confirmed that the storm

See FLOOD, page 8A



COURTESY PHOTO

A Fourth to remember

One of the grandest celebrations of Fourth of July took place in 1886, in conjunction with the centennial of the Statue of Liberty. Frederick Rondel’s “Statue of Liberty Celebration” depicts crowds that thronged New York Harbor in rowboats, yachts, steamships and ferries to celebrate the statue’s debut in 1886.

A perfect storm

By Whitney McDonald and Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writers

THE GROSSE POINTES — Grosse Pointe administrators preliminarily pointed to a failure at Conner Creek pump station as the cause of devastating city wide flooding this past weekend.

The Detroit-based combined sewer overflow system, operated and maintained by Great Lakes Water Authority, faced an interruption to service around 1 a.m. Saturday, June 26.

Approximately 7 inches of rain fell overnight across the metro Detroit area, according to Detroit Water and Sewage Department Director Gary Brown. The interruption occurred during the height of the extreme weather.

“With this much rain, there’s nowhere for the water to go other than flooding streets and basements,” Brown said.

Pointe city administrators said stormwater in the area is expected to

See STORM, page 8A

Residents take hit against flood

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointes always have been described as a special community, where neighbors show up for each other when it matters most. The sentiment was no different overnight Friday, June 25, when heavy rainfall caused flooding in the streets.

“Like all of my neighbors, I woke up Saturday morning, I started getting texts from friends,” Park resident Beth Kurta said.

“I found out my basement was flooding from my community, which really, I think, set the tone for all of this.”

As stormwater poured over the streets and sewer water rushed up from the drains, community members surrounded each other. Residents from across the Pointes recalled texting their neighbors in the middle of the night and watching lights turn on from houses around the block to see what kind of devastation awaited them in their basements.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

A flooded basement in the 700 block of Pemberton.

“Watching everyone come together has been really great,” Kurta added. “It’s just a reminder of our community.”

In the early hours of Saturday morning, resi-

dents took to their basements to clear out belongings impacted by flooding.

“We had a finished basement,” City resident

See HOUSES, page 9A

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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The League Shop was among businesses in The Village to experience flooding.

GP businesses face flooding

By Whitney McDonald
Staff Writer

Business closures that started Saturday, June 26, continued into the week as flood damage was evaluated in restaurants, grocery stores, salons and other retailers throughout the Pointes.

When Freeman

Gunnell, owner of Cornwall Bakery, was informed by his baker there was two feet of water in the basement, the damage already had been done.

“By the time he heard the water running, it was too late,” Gunnell said.

His usual 10-minute commute from his home

near Windmill Pointe took nearly two hours as he faced flooding and several obstacles on the roads.

“It was chaotic,” he said.

He is facing \$7,000 to \$8,000 in damages and closed the bakery

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Pointer of INTEREST

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Kim Baubie

Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Equestrian gets back into horseback riding and competitions after 40 years



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