

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 7/13			
	Cases	Deaths	
All Pointes	3,439 (+4)	65 (+0)	
Harper Woods	1,317 (+0)	52 (+1)	

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JULY 15, 2021
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Central library plans addition

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — With the completion of Grosse Pointe Public Library's phase one improvement plans in 2020, the organization now is ready to move on to the second and final phase of recommendations borne from comprehensive community feedback.

While this phase includes enhanced outdoor and indoor spaces — a makerspace for music, culinary arts, crafts and more is planned — at the Woods branch, extensive planning also is going toward a 7,500-square-foot, two-story addition to the south portion of the Central branch building.

The addition will allow the library to nearly double the children's space, add a second program room, incorporate an elevator and create additional restrooms with better accessibility. Also included in the plans is a reversal of the current direction of traffic to accommodate a drive-up transaction window on the south side of the building, the addition of a fire-suppression system to the entire building, the loss of three parking spaces and relocating the loading dock to the west facade.

In keeping with the Central branch's recent National Register of

See PLANS, page 3A



COURTESY PHOTO

Summer sun & sailing

Maurice Prendergast's "The Balloon," circa 1901, helps us usher in summer with a brilliant, bustling beach scene reminiscent of Grosse Pointe's beautiful parks and the sailboats that dot Lake St. Clair this time of year.

Discharging into lake spares much of the Shores

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Because the city's sewage infrastructure uniquely does not connect to the Conner Creek Pump Station, the Shores experienced a significantly different event from the City, Farms and Park amid the heavy rainfall June 25 to 26.

Recording about five inches of rain in a three-hour period, approximately 150 homes in the 1,100-home city saw anywhere from a couple inches to four feet of either sewage or storm-water back up into basements.

With a separated system throughout the city, the Shores' sewage heavy rainfall June 25 to 26.

See SPARED, page 10A

Park looks to outfall as flooding solution

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Due to a push from city council members desiring to address resident concerns regarding the flood event of June 25 to 26, Grosse Pointe Park hosted a virtual town hall Thursday, July 8, giving residents a chance to ask city administrators questions. Roughly 400 residents logged onto Zoom and Facebook to hear the

Park's response to the flooding event. City officials presented a PowerPoint and a frequently asked questions sheet before the public voiced their concerns.

A common thread from residents: What is the city going to do?

In 2016, a massive rain event logged 5 inches of rain in 12 hours in the Park, causing flooding of many homes' basements.

See OUTFALL, page 11A

The War Memorial offers relief grants

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Industrial fans continue to dry out sections of The War Memorial following late June storms that caused severe water damage at the institution, as well as to basements across the Grosse Pointes. Despite facing the multi-million-dollar loss of its Patriot Theater and construction setbacks, The War Memorial is pressing forward with its mission of serving U.S. military members.

"People are hurting; we're hurting," said Charles Burke, president and CEO of The War Memorial. "But it's the

responsibility of this institution to take that step forward and ... put our mission first. We're blessed as an organization. It's our responsibility to take that blessing and amplify that goodness and impact our community."

The War Memorial officially launched its Veterans Storm Relief Fund on Monday, offering 100 \$500 grants to veterans who experienced losses from storm damage June 24 to 27. The \$50,000 comes from its Patriot Initiative Fund.

Veterans, their widows or widowers and current service member house-

See GRANT, page 3A

Potential federal relief coming

By Laurel Kraus and Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writers

THE GROSSE POINTES — At a press conference Monday, June 28, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan said, "The big issue for flooding is that you really need help from the federal government."

Now, help from the federal government may be on its way to relieve Grosse Pointers of their economic burdens caused by severe rain, flooding and sewage backup June 25 to 26.

As one of the first steps toward the state requesting a federal disaster declaration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security



PHOTO BY RENE LANDUYT

Two FEMA representatives, a representative from the U.S. Small Business Administration and two state police officers with the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division talk with a homeowner on the 1000 block of Nottingham in Grosse Pointe Park.

and the U.S. Small Business Administration visited all five Pointes Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10, for a joint preliminary dam-

age assessment. By visiting a sample of the homes reporting damage to collect dis-

See RELIEF, page 4A

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Pointer of INTEREST

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Jane Schmidt
Home: City of Grosse Pointe
Long time Grosse Pointe South High School staffer reflects on her career as she enters retirement.



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