

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 8/10			
	Cases	Deaths	
All Pointes	3,533 (+30)	67 (+1)	
Harper Woods	1,351 (+17)	52 (+0)	

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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Public hearing Monday on 389 St. Clair

THE GROSSE POINTES — On Monday, Aug. 16, the City of Grosse Pointe Planning Commission, which is comprised of the members of the City Council, will hold a public hearing on a request for conditional zoning of the 389 St. Clair Avenue property from the current single-family zoning to multi-family zoning.

The City has received a conditional zoning application from Curtis Builders to allow the adaptive reuse of the Grosse Pointe School District Administration building by permitting multifamily use of the property. The application requests permission to convert the existing

building at 389 St. Clair from school purposes to up to 23 residential dwelling units. The application also proposes multi-family zoning for construction of eight row house style townhomes on the Notre Dame side of the property where there is currently a parking lot bordered by a wooden fence. The application proposes to condition the requested Transition district zoning to allow only what is necessary to permit construction as shown in the application.

The existing 389 St. Clair building is actually comprised of two of the original Grosse Pointe

See 389, page 8A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Michele Pittel and Kelly Dehn brought signs into the school board meeting Aug. 9, to protest the school system's mask-optional policy.

Community divided on mask policy

By Michael Hartt
Staff Intern

On Aug. 6, an email was sent to Grosse Pointe Public School System families that said the district would start the school year with a mask-optional policy, with the option to shift to required

masking if needed. The email stated the decision came as a result of the high vaccination rates and low COVID-19 transmission rates in the community.

Many people, like parent Mary Karoutsos, praised the decision as a way to ensure freedom of

choice. "The infection fatality rate among youth (for COVID-19) is no worse than annual influenza. Three hundred 55 children have died from COVID and (more than) 4.2 million have recovered," Karoutsos said at the Aug. 9 board of edu-

cation meeting. "For those parents that choose to mask their children, please do so. That is your right as a parent, but know that it is my right not to mask my children."

Others had concerns

See MASK, page 8A

Park addresses flood action plan

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Park city administrators held a second special council meeting Wednesday, Aug. 4, addressing the aftermath of flooding due to the June 25-26 storm event.

Financial impacts

The city has logged \$759,000 in damage due to flooding from the rain event; however, city administrators believe funds from the Federal Emergency Management

Agency will cover the costs.

"The city feels very strongly that we are going to be able to actually be reimbursed for a majority, if not all, of these expenses here," City Manager Nick Sizeland said. "We feel very comfortable to date that we do not have to have any budget amendment at this time."

Finance Director Jane Blahut added that, since Wayne County was deemed a federal emer-

See PLAN, page 4A

Wiener tops primary; McConnell close second

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The primary election came down to seven votes separating the winner from the runner-up Tuesday, Aug. 3. Max Wiener topped incumbent Darci McConnell with 1,499 votes, equating to 16.68 percent of the

votes, to her 1,492, or 16.60 percent of the votes.

"I was hoping to keep it close and honestly I wasn't expecting to win it," Wiener said. "I'm very flattered by it. It's humbling."

The primary narrowed the field of seven candidates down to six to vie for three city council spots this November.

Brian Brenner was eliminated in the primary election, coming in with 597 votes, or 6.64 percent of the votes.

Christine Gallagher followed McConnell's 1,492 votes with 1,482 of her own, placing her just 10 votes behind the incumbent and 17 behind Wiener. Tom Caulfield followed Gallagher for

fourth with 1,370 votes. Jeff Greer and Tim Kolar rounded out the six who will move on, with 1,306 and 1,234 votes, respectively.

"I really enjoyed seeing and feeling the support of the community," Gallagher said of her third-place finish. "I'm

See PRIMARY, page 3A

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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Kevin Smith, left, and Charles Berschback outside the polls Aug. 3.

Berschback, Smith pass primary for judge

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS AND SHORES — With low voter turnout to the polls Tuesday, Aug. 3, and around triple the amount of absentee ballots, Charles Berschback and Kevin Smith will move on to the November election as candidates for Farms/Shores

municipal judge.

Dean Metry, a federal judge with two decades of experience, will not continue in the race.

Receiving 1,203 votes in the Farms and 254 in the Shores, Berschback took a significant lead in the primary election with 1,457 total votes.

"I was frankly humbled by the results," he said. "I had a

great group of friends and supporters assisting in the campaign (and) I can't thank them enough, but there's more work to do. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the community and I'm hopeful that I get elected in November."

Smith saw 447 votes in the

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Pointer of INTEREST

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Peter Maxwell

Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Reporter returns home for dream job



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