

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 8/23
 Since tracking began in March 2020

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	3,630 (+77)	67 (+0)
Harper Woods	1,377 (+25)	43 (+0)

(8/13-8/23)

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 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Funds allotted

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Funds the Grosse Pointes have been waiting on since the American Rescue Plan Act's implementation March 11 have arrived in the Park. Council allocated 50 percent of the funds at a meeting Monday, Aug. 23.

The Park is slated to receive \$1,156,588 from the implementation of the act, with 50 percent hitting the banks in 2021 and the remaining in 2022. The money may be allocated to anything dating from March 3, 2021 on, falling under certain categories.

The cities are able to use funding on responding to public health emergencies; providing essential workers with premium pay; providing government services; and investing in necessary improvements of water, sewer or broadband infrastructure. The

See FUNDS, page 2A



COURTESY PHOTO

It was a community effort to bring the trolleys back to service. From left are Michele Hodges; Chris Walsh; CH Crane; Fred Rinke; Tom Caulfield; Alicia Carlisle with Elliot "Captain America" and Simon "The Hulk" Stepanski; Max Wiener and his daughter, Marion, and son, Julius; Leonard Beard; Trenton Chamberlain; Joe Hebek; and Christine Gallagher and her son, Franklin.

K-Line makes a comeback

By Kate Vanderstelt
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The K-Line Trolley returns to Kercheval Friday, Aug. 27, to deliver San Francisco charm to the Pointes after a two-year hiatus.

The trolleys were shut down after five years of service for the 2020 summer season due to COVID-19. In 2021, unexpected mechanical issues arose and the city faced potential concerns regarding compliance with the Americans with

Disabilities Act. The city ultimately decided to put the beloved trolleys up for auction.

"Families have loved riding the trolleys for many reasons," a statement by Grosse Pointe Park Business Association board members said. "The

sense of community they've reinforced, the ease of hopping on and off and the ability to shop and eat at a variety of businesses along Kercheval. Each summer, over 10,000 riders made use of the

See TROLLEY, page 3A

Census shows increase in Pointes

By Laurel Kraus
 and Kate Vanderstelt
 Staff Writers

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointes, with the exception of the Shores, all saw an increase in population over the last decade, according to the recently released results of the 2020 Census.

The data follows predictions by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, U.S. Census Bureau and other experts on population study that all the Grosse Pointes would see a 3 to 4 percent population decline between 2010 and 2020, City of Grosse Pointe City Manager Pete Dame reported.

"It's important that we didn't (decrease) and we recognize the reason why," he said, "because we pay attention to making sure our communities are lively and reinvested in and well taken care of, so that people continue to want to live here. ... Especially when Wayne County (as a whole) did actually decline in population and the city of Detroit adjacent to us declined in population, it says a lot for us and what we're doing as a community to keep a stable population."

In what is the most significant increase in population among the Pointes, the Farms saw population growth of 7.1 percent over the last

See CENSUS, page 3A

Disconnect your downspouts

By Kate Vanderstelt
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The disconnection of downspouts has become a hot topic as the Grosse Pointes try to mitigate urban flooding. The Park is cracking down on an updated ordinance enforcing the disconnection of downspouts, as approved at a council meeting Monday, Aug. 23.

"The purpose of this amendment is to reduce the sudden inflow of rainwater into the sanitary sewer system, the overflow of the drainage system and the resulting

pollution of Lake St. Clair and the reduction of basement flooding," a statement prepared by City Attorney Jake Howlett said.

Though there already was an ordinance on the books requiring the disconnection of downspouts, the city "did not do a very good job of enforcing that ordinance," City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

With a grace period, the city will be sending notices to homes that have known connected downspouts, making them aware of the

updated ordinance and giving them a chance to disconnect their downspout before enforcement grows.

"We do want to give a grace period, because we know this is a financial burden for some residents to consider disconnection from the system," Sizeland said.

The city plans to put out informational guides on disconnecting downspouts with the help of the city engineering firm OHM Advisors.

"Our first approach is

See FLOODING, page 5A

Hazard mitigation plan passed in G.P.

By Kate Vanderstelt
 and Laurel Kraus
 Staff Writers

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointes are in the process of passing an updated Wayne County hazard mitigation plan, which makes each city eligible to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency funding for programs aiming to minimize impacts of hazards that may threaten life and proper-

ty. The City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Woods, Park and Shores have passed the update. The plan currently is being reviewed by the Farms city attorney, with the intent for council to vote on it during the meeting Sept. 13.

The plan, last updated in 2013, is a multi-step program in effect in areas that consistently see hazardous events.

See HAZARD, page 4A

MLK marker dedication is Aug. 30 at South

By Jody McVeigh
 Editor

The final step in formalizing the addition of a historic marker on the grounds of Grosse Pointe South High School takes place at 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 30, at the school, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Representatives from the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors, Grosse Pointe Public School

System, Grosse Pointe News and Michigan Historical Commission invite the community to attend the dedication ceremony of the marker, which commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic speech, "The Other America," which he delivered at the school March 14, 1968.

"When we were doing stories in 2018 on the 50th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. King's visit to

Grosse Pointe High School, it became clear what an amazing historical event it was," Grosse Pointe News Publisher John Minnis recalled. "We thought it certainly deserved an historic marker of its own. We checked online with the Michigan Historical Commission and found there was an application process and associated costs.

"When getting an MLK historical marker was mentioned at a

Grosse Pointe News Advisory Board meeting, Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors CEO Bob Taylor said he thought his board would be willing to take part and he thought he could get a grant from the National Association of Realtors."

The national board approved a grant and the Grosse Pointe board, with help from GPPSS,

See MARKER, page 8A

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Samantha Buchanan
 Home: Grosse Pointe Park
 Pointe Acupuncture founder
 brings California perspective to Grosse Pointe.



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