

**COVID-19 CASES AS OF 8/31**  
Since tracking began in March 2020

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	3,691 (+61)	67 (+0)
Harper Woods	1,396 (+19)	54 (+1)

(Increase 8/23-8/31)

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# Grosse Pointe News

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SEPTEMBER 2, 2021  
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

## Shores signage lawsuit reaches settlement

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — A lawsuit against Grosse Pointe Shores that began with a 16-square-foot Black Lives Matter sign in December officially has been settled, with the United States District

Court for the Eastern District of Michigan filing an order of dismissal Wednesday, Aug. 18. Attorney and Shores resident Todd Perkins filed the lawsuit after the city ticketed him for the sign in his front yard that violated its ordinance requirements of a 7-square-foot maximum

for political candidate or ballot issue signage. Perkins stated the sign was not political in nature and the ordinance itself was “unconstitutional” and a “restriction of people’s freedom of speech.” Working through a facilitator outside of the court, and never meeting

as a group, the city and Perkins were able to reach a settlement. “In settlements, there’s typically an understanding that neither side makes any admissions, but there’s behavior that happens afterwards that either fixes the problem or resolves the problem and the parties move for-

ward,” Perkins explained. Terms of the settlement included amendments to the city’s signage ordinance, a cash payment from the city to cover Perkins’ legal fees and a statement issued by the Shores. “The Village of Grosse

Pointe Shores is committed to protecting the First Amendment free speech rights of Mr. Perkins and every resident of our city,” the statement reads. “So much so, we unanimously approved a replacement sign ordinance.”

See LAWSUIT, page 4A

## Deck fire closes Pierson

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — A fire that broke out on the third-floor decks at the Henry Ford Medical Center-Pierson Clinic at 5:10 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, was put out before entering the interior of the building and did not result in any injuries.

When officers arrived, heavy smoke and flames were coming from the wooden decks, with one six-foot section of lattice almost burnt down and another on fire.

While crews from the City, Park and Shores came to assist under mutual aid, Farms officers were able to quickly put out the flames using tank water from the ladder truck.

“However, because it was hot (with) the flames, two of the win-

See FIRE, page 3A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

From left, Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent M. Jon Dean; Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors CEO Bob Taylor; Alexis DeLuca, GPBR president; John Minnis, publisher, Grosse Pointe News; and Tobi Voigt, community engagement director, Michigan Historical Commission.

## MLK marker dedicated at South

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — More than 50 years after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his speech “The Other America” in the gymnasium of what was then Grosse Pointe High School on March 14, 1968, a historical marker commemorating the event was dedicated Monday at Grosse Pointe South High School along Fisher Road.

A crowd, gathering in the 82-degree heat to celebrate the marker’s ded-

See MARKER, page 3A

## Park continues storm discussion; partners with GLWA

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Park city administration and engineers have been tasked with providing monthly updates of storm mitigation efforts at council meetings. At a meeting Monday, Aug. 23, Great Lakes Water Authority interim Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Coffey addressed the city and OHM Advisors, the city’s engineering firm, was approved to conduct a sewer system study. The pur-

suit of an Extreme Emergency Relief Valve, or EERV, also was discussed in depth and met with potential opposition from a few council members.

### Partnering with GLWA

City Manager Nick Sizeland, in efforts to proactively work to lessen the impacts of flooding, reached out to GLWA to “scratch (their) heads together” about flood mitigation options. Sizeland believes, if he

See STORM, page 2A

## Farms loses power; City, Park flood

By Laurel Kraus and Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writers

**GROSSE POINTE CITY, FARMS AND PARK** — The hits keep coming in the Pointes as a storm Friday, Aug. 27, brought an inch of rain in 17 minutes according to meters in the City of Grosse Pointe, and knocked out power to more than 1,000 homes in the Farms, many of which remained out until Sunday afternoon.

Contributing factors to the Farms outages included downed power lines, trees and limbs that came crashing down throughout the city, temporarily closing a number of streets.



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

The intersection at Kercheval and Cadieux was shut down so officers could prevent cars from creating waves and pushing the flood waters into Village businesses.

The hollow section of a large silver maple in the 300 block of Moran Road fell onto a vehicle, while branches from separate trees in the 400

block of Lothrop broke house windows and ripped one door frame from its front door.

See POWER, page 2A

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See story, page 4A



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