

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 9/7
Since tracking began in March 2020

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	3,767 (+76)	70 (+3)
Harper Woods	1,396 (+19)	54 (+0)

(Increase 8/31-9/7)

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Grosse Pointe News

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SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

20 years since 9/11

Tributes planned

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE AND HARPER WOODS — Twenty years have passed since terrorist attacks on American soil took the lives of nearly 3,000 men, women, children and first responders Sept. 11, 2001.

To observe the anniversary Saturday, Sept. 11, moments of silence and commemorations will take place around the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

At 1 p.m. the Woods emergency alarm horn will sound for 30 seconds, followed by a minute of silence. A large flag will fly atop the city's fire truck parked outside the station throughout the day.

"Patriot's Day, recognizing the day when the towers fell in New York, it's very important, I think to all of us," Mayor Arthur Bryant said.

The Farms will hang a large banner over its firebay doors; the Park will station a fire truck on Jefferson with a flag hoisted above the street; the City's public safety department will hang a banner; and the Shores will drape a flag on a fire truck parked at city hall.

The War Memorial service of remembrance

Intended to memorialize the lives lost in the New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia attacks,

See 9/11, page 4A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Welcome back!

From left, Gianna Coury, McKenna Shimko, Henry Rizzo, Noah Mitchell and Lizzie Ferguson are all smiles with their teacher, Brooke Farrell, as the bell rings and they get ready to head inside for their first day of second grade at Kerby Elementary School.

Last chance to apply for FEMA grants

THE GROSSE POINTE — Those impacted by the flooding and basement backups caused during the June 25-26 storm have less than a week left of access to federal disaster grants and U.S. Small Business Administration long-term, low-interest disaster loans.

Midnight Monday, Sept. 13, marks the deadline to register for assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Anyone who has not already done so may apply online at disasterassistance.gov; by calling

See GRANTS, page 3A

'Beauty' agreement has council members up in arms

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — At the close of the council meeting Monday, Aug. 23, council members Vikas Relan and Aimee Fluitt called attention to the fact that the Park, from five to 13 years ago, bought property in Detroit, which it still owns.

Relan introduced the topic by asking, "Do all real estate transactions have to go through city council for approval?"

He continued to express concern over why the transaction was not approved by city council, why the city was using taxpayer money to buy property in Detroit and why the

financial transaction is not seen on finance reports.

"It's very disturbing in my eyes," he finished.

After Mayor Bob Denner responded by asking for time to gather information instead of speaking from memory on a transaction occurring years prior, Fluitt questioned the topic further.

"We found out a long time ago that we had spent money via the (Downtown Development Authority) on Joe's Garage as well, which is also located in Detroit," she said. "And, apparently we also own 1296 Alter and 1264 Alter. So I have the same question: Why is the city buying property in Detroit, or why did we buy property in Detroit?"

Fluitt said her concern stems from the lack of transparency related to the agreement.

"My concern is that we spent taxpayer funds on property outside Grosse Pointe Park and we don't know why that purchase was made, nor what the end goal was," she said in an email.

"... Based on the details available in meeting minutes, either council voted on the purchase in closed session, which is a violation of the (open meetings act), or they didn't vote at all, which is a violation of our city charter," she added. "It's also very concerning that any part of this transaction would be paid from our water and sewer fund, which as we all know

should be fully dedicated to water infrastructure."

Multiple attempts to reach Relan for comment on the issue went unanswered.

The two residential properties referred to in the meeting by Fluitt are 1296 and 1264 Alter Rd. According to City Manager Nick Sizeland, who was not involved in the city at the time, the transaction was approved by council in 2008. Relan brought up a property at 2226 Alter Rd., what used to be the site of Phil Pitters Inc., a purchase approved in 2016.

The property purchases stem from a time when the Park hoped to rid the border with Detroit of blighted areas,

See COUNCIL, page 2A

Grant will fund majority of master plan update

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The City of Grosse Pointe's efforts to become a Michigan Economic Redevelopment Ready Community are beginning to reap benefits even before certification has been achieved. Because

of the City's participation in the program, it is eligible to receive 75 percent of the funding for an upcoming update to its master plan from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

With the City agreeing to add steps to the update process, including a pre-

process master plan training session with city council and additional meetings specific to the economic development strategy, the MEDC has approved a \$20,000 grant toward the project. City council unanimously authorized execution of the grant agreement during its meeting Aug. 16.

With the update, conducted by McKenna and set to cost \$27,000, the city now will only need to cover \$7,000 of the cost.

"The only reason that we get this grant is because we're participating in the Redevelopment Ready Communities program," City Manager Pete Dame said, adding

the update is a necessary step to earning certification.

The master plan update is set to focus on identifying strategies for priority redevelopment areas; addressing land use, infrastructure and complete streets principles — ensuring streets are accessible to people of all abilities; a zoning

See PLAN, page 3A

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Pointer of INTEREST

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