

**COVID-19 CASES AS OF 9/28**  
 Since tracking began in March 2020

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	3,949 (+54)	70 (+0)
Harper Woods	1,477 (+20)	54 (+0)

(Increase 9/21-9/28)

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# Grosse Pointe News

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SEPTEMBER 30, 2021  
 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

## Illegal mischief as election nears

By Kate Vanderstelt  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — As a highly contested election approaches this November for city council, mayor and judge in the Park, campaign signage is a prominent sight across town. Rumor has it signs are being stolen from yards supporting candidates across the

board. In Michigan, this is a misdemeanor. According to Michigan Penal Code section 750.356, stealing property valuing less than \$200 is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment up to 93 days or a fine of \$500 or three times the value of the stolen property (whichever is greater), or both imprisonment and a

fine. Council candidate Max Wiener estimates around 40 of his signs have gone missing and had to be replaced. He said the Park's "cabbage patch" area and Balfour residents have asked for replacement signs three times now. Incumbent Darci McConnell also has heard reports of signs

stolen and vandalized. During the primary, she said, a neighbor's sign was stolen after one of the Charlevoix street parties. Just this past weekend, she replaced a sign a voter believed to be vandalized. "Political speech, which is how the display of candidate signs is categorized under the First Amendment, is the most

protected form of speech enshrined in our Constitution," mayoral candidate and Councilwoman Lauri Read said in an email. "I do not tolerate the stealing, defacing or damaging of political lawn signs, whether they are mine, my opponent's or any candidate's, nor should anyone be trespassing on private prop-

erty for the purpose of doing so. "I sincerely hope that this is not happening and I appeal to our better angels that community members are not tempted to engage in such mischief," she added. "It has no place in a civil society." According to Director

See SIGNS, page 3A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Sweet hearts

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce hosted its "Heartbeat of Grosse Pointe" auction Sept. 23, at Ford House. Find more photos from the event online at [grossepointenews.com](http://grossepointenews.com).

## Looking back, moving forward

### Council talks property in Detroit

By Kate Vanderstelt  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — As an extension of conversation introduced by council members Vikas Relan and Aimee Fluitt at an August council meeting, the Park council further discussed properties it owns in Detroit at its most recent council meet-

ing Monday, Sept. 27. Mayor Robert Denner began the conversation expressing his disappointment in the way the topic was handled at the previous meeting. "I was disappointed that these items were raised as part of council comment with no prior

See FORWARD, page 2A

## Martin adds alcohol defense attorney

By Brad Lindberg  
 Staff Writer

**BIRMINGHAM** — The misdemeanor defense of a local high school baseball coach changed course this month with the hiring of a new attorney.

The attorney intends to separate his client from fire, building and alcohol violations allegedly committed at property leased by the coach's limited liability company.

"When you levy misdemeanors for fire exit signs and certificates of occupancy, it easily could have been written in the name of the LLC," said Joseph Cross, newly representing David Harrison Martin,

varsity coach of the Norsemen at Grosse Pointe North High School. "Instead, they're attacking him personally." Martin is charged with

See MARTIN, page 11A

## Protesters call for optional masking

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — The past two Friday mornings, a group of protesters have gathered at Grosse Pointe South High School at 7:30 a.m. to advocate for giving students

and parents the choice of whether or not to mask and vaccinate in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. "We think it should be the choice of the parents — with the input from their child depending on how old they are — but it should be the parents' choice whether or not they want their children to wear a mask to school," Corrine Zimmerman said.

While acknowledging they are not experts on laws vs. mandates, the

protesters say the school board has the choice not to follow Wayne County's mask mandate for school districts put in place Aug. 27. "We legally have to follow all Wayne County Health Department orders," GPPSS Superintendent Jon Dean said via email. "People are welcome to exercise their democratic rights in a peaceful manner that does not disrupt the learning environment, and we had a great day of school, where we remain focused on keeping students and staff safe and in face-to-face instruction." Although the protests

See PROTEST, page 11A

## Shores adopts ethics policy

By Laurel Kraus  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — With the process to create ethical standards for Grosse Pointe Shores having kicked off pre-pandemic, a policy entitled Standards of Ethical Conduct for City

Officials, Employees, Appointees, Representatives and Candidates for Office was unanimously adopted by city council Tuesday, Sept. 21. While the standards were adopted in the form of a policy, rather than an ordinance, with the intent to work out any

issues and return to the matter in 12 months to enact a legal ordinance, the ethics ordinance drafting committee was named such because its members determined early in the process that an ordinance would be preferable to a policy for

See ETHICS, page 3A

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Opinion . . . . . 6A  
 Week Ahead . . . . . 3A  
 Features . . . . . 1B  
 Obituaries . . . . . 3B  
 Sports . . . . . 1D  
 Schools . . . . . 11A  
 Classified ads . . . . . 5D

**Pointer of INTEREST**

See story, page 4A



**Holly Rutherford**  
 Home: City of Grosse Pointe  
 Active with Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League and owner of Fishfly Café at Pier Park



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