

**COVID-19 CASES AS OF 10/5**  
Since tracking began in March 2020

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	4,014 (+65)	70 (+0)
Harper Woods	1,512 (+35)	54 (+0)

(Increase 9/28-10/5)

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# Grosse Pointe News

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OCTOBER 7, 2021  
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

## Pointes demand accountability from GLWA

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Since storm events in June and July flooded the Pointes, the cities have been picking their brains trying to figure out the best way to proceed in finding a solution for the problems that have oc-

curred time and time again. Thanks to Park City Manager Nick Sizeland, demanding accountability from Great Lakes Water Authority is starting to happen. The “Eastside community member partners” had its first meeting Wednesday, Sept. 29. The group consists of city

members from Wayne County, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods, Macomb County, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District and GLWA. Around 40 city managers, engineers and department of public works directors took to

Zoom, estimated Sizeland, to converse and collaborate on the cities’ storm and sewer issues. The idea for the group came from Sizeland’s initial collaboration with GLWA on behalf of the Park. “Because we all share similar piping or area together, it only makes

sense,” Sizeland said. “Oftentimes during storm events, we’re calling communities upstream, they’re calling us, (saying) ‘What are you seeing?’” “So to have that communication with the Great Lakes Water Authority I thought would be really essential

for us moving forward,” he added, “just to understand our issues that we’re having or what we’re experiencing.” At the meeting, GLWA admitted to needing to improve communication to its communities, according to Sizeland.

See GLWA, page 3A

## More retirees affected amid healthcare stalemate

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — A discussion on retiree healthcare appeared on the Grosse Pointe Shores City Council agenda late last month, but not in the way retirees have been pushing for since significant changes to their plans were made last May. Rather than revoking the changes or working to find an agreeable compromise, four additional retirees were added into the plan design changes after their respective collective bargaining agreements expired June 30. “The reason I came to the meeting tonight was because I saw the agenda and I saw (item) 11A says ‘retiree healthcare discussion’ and I was cautiously optimistic that the last 19 months (of the

pandemic) might have resulted in some change in the opinion of the council with respect to our retirees’ healthcare,” resident Dr. Raymond Rahi said. “Sadly, I am very disappointed that that does not turn out to be the case.” Mirroring the healthcare plans of current employees in the city, the changes made last year include a 20 percent premium cost share, which retirees cite as the largest burden. Pre-Medicare retirees have a \$2,000/\$4,000 annual deductible with annual funding made into a health savings account by the city equal to \$2,000 for individual coverage and \$4,000 for two-person and family coverage, while Medicare-eligible retir-

See RETIREES, page 3A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Fired up!

Grosse Pointe Woods held its annual open house during National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 3-9, which honors first responders and teaches kids and adults fire prevention. Henry Kline and his dad, Evan Kline, pose in front of the Ladder 5 fire truck, as Henry gives a tip of the hat to the first responders. Find more photos online at [grossepointenews.com](http://grossepointenews.com).

## Charter amendment on Woods ballot

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — Accompanying an uncontested city council election, the Woods ballot this November will feature two proposed charter amendments. The amendments would alter language in two sections of the city charter, 4.5 and 4.7. If approved, an ordinance would be able to place the city clerk and treasurer positions, and their respective departments, under the authority of the city administrator.

As it stands, these positions report to city council. Council would still have the power to appoint and remove the positions under a new ordinance. “It will make things run smoother at city hall,” Mayor Arthur Bryant said of the purpose behind the amendment. According to Clerk Lisa Hathaway, the clerk position has reported to city council her entire career — 28 years — as did her

predecessor. Bryant said it likely has been this way since the beginning of the city. Approving the amendments would move the Woods city government to look more like its surrounding communities; in a city with a city manager, as the rest of the Pointes have, all positions within city hall report to the manager.

— Kate Vanderstelt

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## Park provides updates on flooding causes, solutions

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Since storms caused backup of sewage in a majority of residents’ homes, the Park has been working to provide monthly updates of work it’s doing as administration looks into potential

causes and solutions. At its council meeting Monday, Sept. 27, administration addressed downspout disconnection, outreach and collaboration with various entities, as well as sewer televising and manhole condition assessment, a bid for which was approved unanimously by council,

with Councilman Vikas Relan absent. **Downspout disconnections** An ordinance approved at a council meeting Aug. 23 requires all downspouts in the Park be disconnected, or homeowners will face a penalty. OHM Advisors,

the Park’s city engineering firm, is helping educate residents on how to disconnect them. “The goal is to really make this first connection a productive one,” principal engineer Patrick Droze said, “to help get people to understand why a downspout disconnec-

tion is important and then what some of their options might be if they’re not familiar with what could happen out there.” OHM Advisors has put together an example flier explaining how to disconnect down-

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**Pointer of INTEREST**

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**Eva Welsher**  
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods  
Becoming a Pickleball pro



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