

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

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	4,135 (+68)	72 (+0)
Harper Woods	1,560 (+19)	54 (+0)

(Increase 10/12-10/19)

ED RINKE CHEVROLET BUICK GMC CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

26125 Van Dyke • Center Line
 (Just south of 696 on Van Dyke)
 (586) 754-7000 • www.edrinke.com

\$189* per mo. 36 Months \$999 Down

2022 Trax AWD LS

FIND NEW ROADS™

*Pricing is priced on 36 month lease, 10,000 miles per year, plus tax, title, plate, 1st payment waived. See Salesperson for details. Expires 10/31/21

Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 82, NO. 42, 52 PAGES
 ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 86¢)

Your community newspaper since 1940

OCTOBER 21, 2021
 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Our numbers are going up

Some 10 months under new ownership — all of them in the midst of an ongoing pandemic and related downturn in business — we at the Grosse Pointe News have some good news to report: Our numbers are going up!

Our revenue has mostly returned to pre-pandemic levels, both in advertising and circulation dollars. We are most excited to be able to report our paid circulation is up 13 percent over a year ago. That is something to brag about into today's newspaper industry.

Further, subscriptions in the 48230 ZIP code — Grosse Pointe Park and

City — are up 17 percent, while subscriptions in 48236 are up over 11 percent.

Even more outstanding — especially in this digital age — our paid online subscriptions shot up 45 percent over the past 12 months.

The reasons for this are manifold — technology, promotion and content.

Our main stumbling block going back three years was a software glitch. In 2018, we were forced, due to credit card legislation, to accept a software upgrade that, basically, shut down our ability to

See **NUMBERS**, page 3A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT
Construction of a new seawall along the three-mile stretch of Lakeshore is estimated to cost \$25 million to \$30 million.

State funding allocated for seawall

By Laurel Kraus
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS AND SHORES — As efforts to address the eroding three-mile stretch of Lakeshore seawall between Warner Road and the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club slowly move forward, the parties involved may soon be one step closer to constructing a new seawall.

Through efforts by State Rep. Joe Tate, \$750,000 has been earmarked for the Lakeshore seawall project as a line item in the state's fiscal year 2022 budget assigned by Gov.

Gretchen Whitmer.

How the dollars will be spent must be decided in conjunction with Wayne County, as the Lakeshore seawall is ultimately the county's jurisdiction and responsibility.

However, two potential uses, Farms City Manager Shane Reeside said, include the temporary repair of compromised areas, as well as using the funds for the detailed engineering design of a permanent solution in the form of a new seawall.

"Once the engineering is done, you will have the ability to actually get a See **SEAWALL**, page 11A

Donor funding possible for EERV

By Kate Vanderstelt
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The storm events of June and July left Grosse Pointe Park at a massive loss, costing the city nearly \$900,000 and most residents their basements. Trying to pick up the pieces, City Manager Nick Sizeland believes the most effective way to prevent future flooding is to install a relief point in the city's infrastructure for extreme flooding emergencies. Though the city still awaits approval to create an extreme emergency relief valve, or EERV, the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, or GPPF, and anonymous donors have come for-

ward to almost fully fund the project when approval comes.

The city has been seriously considering the inevitability of an EERV since the summer storm events, according to Sizeland, though it had been discussed previously in the city's history. In the late '90s, the Park's Fox Creek outfall was shut down due to a lawsuit. Since then, the city has not had any opportunity

for relief in severe storms and has weathered storms in 2016, 2017 and 2021, where a relief point likely could have saved countless homes from flooding. "At this time right now," Sizeland said, "the city has been aggressively pursuing the extreme emergency relief valve with (the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, or EGLE)."

While the city works toward approval with EGLE, GPPF and anonymous donors hope to contribute to the project, should city council approve their wishes.

"We had previously approved \$300,000 for a new playscape at Patterson Park," GPPF Treasurer Barbara Dettwiler said. "Then we started discussion that, I

See **EERV**, page 9A

Housing foundation expands qualifiers

By Kate Vanderstelt
 Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Housing Foundation, a nonprofit organization which assists college students, graduate students, medical professionals, teachers and police officers, is expanding its criteria for eligible grantees to include low-income employees in the Grosse Pointes.

The decision comes at a time when businesses, especially small, local ones, have demonstrated difficulty in recruiting employees.

"Especially given COVID, we said, 'OK, the business community here is really hurting,'" founder Jon Cotton said. "... We want people to open businesses. We want retail to thrive and our restaurants to thrive. (We want) our small businesses to thrive."

The housing foundation was established in 2011, after Grosse Pointe Park struggled from economic downturn from 2007 to 2010, as well as property value decline. The foundation

decided to pay up to half of renters' monthly payments in the "cabbage patch" area in order to bring new faces into the community.

"The idea was to get people who had never seen Grosse Pointe, (or) never been here," Cotton said. "Quite frankly, (Grosse Pointe) wasn't even on their radar, (they couldn't) afford it (or they had) never heard of it. ..."

"These are people who are not going to stay renters," he added. "They're going to want to buy homes. They (will) live here and then they say, 'This is now my community.'"

Since its inception, the foundation has spent \$3,632,810 on revitalizing the rental neighborhood with 476 grantees. What started as a project just to support college students quickly evolved into providing grants for graduate students, local medical residents, medical professionals, teachers, police officers and now, employees in the Pointes.

See **HOUSING**, page 3A

FEMA denies public assistance to Wayne County; state to appeal

By Laurel Kraus
 Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Federal Emergency Management Agency notified the state last Friday of its denial for public assistance to Wayne County for the June 25-26 rain event.

"Based on our review of all of the information available," the denial letter reads, "it has been determined that the damage to the infrastructure from this event was not

of such severity and magnitude as to warrant the implementation of the Public Assistance program under major disaster declaration FEMA-4607-DR."

With 30 days from the date of denial for the state to file an appeal, the Pointes have been informed Gov. Gretchen Whitmer intends to do so.

Through that process, county representatives will meet with each of the cities that filed to go over FEMA's feedback on the

submissions and offer the opportunity to provide additional details, invoices, background information and other materials to prove the need for public assistance.

The City of Grosse Pointe has expenses related to the flood that are eligible but weren't turned in initially because the documentation didn't come within the tight timeframe for submis-

See **APPEAL**, page 3A

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
CALL (313) 343-5578
GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

Week Ahead 3A
 Opinion 6A
 Schools 12A
 Features 1B
 Obituaries 7B
 Sports 1D
 Classified ads 5D

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Brian Brenner
 Home: Grosse Pointe Park
 Chef with chemical engineering degree starts culinary business.



PHONE: (313) 882-6900 ♦ FAX: (313) 882-1585 ♦ MAIL: 16980 Kercheval Ave., 48230 ♦ ON THE WEB: grossepointenews.com ♦ E-MAIL: editor@grossepointenews.com

ED RINKE BUICK GMC CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

26125 Van Dyke • Center Line
 (Just south of 696 on Van Dyke)
 (586) 754-7000 • www.edrinke.com

\$239* per month 39 months \$999 Down

2021 Buick Encore GX Select

*39 month lease 10,000 miles per year, plus tax, title, plate. See Salesperson for details. Expires 10/31/21

Backer LANDSCAPING inc. Michigan's Premier Landscape Company

586-774-0090

www.backerlandscaping.com