

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 10/26
 Since tracking began in March 2020

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	4,192 (+57)	72 (+0)
Harper Woods	1,590 (+30)	54 (+0)

(Increase 10/19-10/26)

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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 82, NO. 43, 34 PAGES
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OCTOBER 28, 2021
 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Silent night Santa sleigh quietly sold at auction without a word

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Rudolph and the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus sleigh, which flew down Kercheval since 2005 as the highpoint of the annual Christmas parade, have dashed away over the horizon.

They were auctioned for pennies on the dollar and with no advance public notice from its municipal caretaker, sending its bypassed hometown supporters

and would-be buyers ballistic.

"I am so pissed, you've no idea," said Jenny Boettcher, president of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, presenters of the parade. "If we had a chance, we would have bought it. It belongs in our parade."

She'd lined up a sponsor for the float's appearance in next month's 46th annual parade not knowing the sleigh and an accompanying Toys

See **SOLD**, page 11A



The sleigh has been a fixture of the Grosse Pointe Santa Parade since 2005.

FILE PHOTO

Figures show decline of 282 students

By Michael Hart
 Staff Intern

THE GROSSE POINTES — At the Oct. 25 Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, new enrollment numbers were presented showing an enrollment figure of 6,640 students for the 2021-22 school year.

This represents a rounded enrollment decline of 282 students from the previous school year and 980 stu-

See **DECLINE**, page 2A

Pointes split among state districts

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — A pair of Pointe officials are ticked off by the prospect of their cities being sliced into separate districts or isolated from sister Pointe suburbs for representation in state and federal electoral bodies.

In the Woods, a proposal calls for the southern portion of the city — bordered by the south side of Huntington Boulevard west of Mack Avenue — to be carved

from the rest of the five Pointes and lumped in with Harper Woods, east-side Detroit and St. Clair Shores for representation in the Michigan House of Representatives.

"I am not happy that part of our residents are not in the district with the rest of Grosse Pointe Woods," Woods Mayor Arthur Bryant said. "The divisions of the districts should keep whole cities together when they are small communities like ours."

In the Park, the entire city is severed from the

other Pointes and linked with Detroit's near east-side plus portions of Center Line, Warren and Sterling Heights for representation in the state Senate.

"It doesn't make sense to be separated," Park City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

The districts appear among legislative options proposed by the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission for representation in the state House, state Senate and Congress.

Voters established the

commission, consisting of 13 citizen appointees (four declaring themselves Democrat, four Republican and five non-partisan), by passing the Voters Not Politicians amendment to the state Constitution in 2018.

"Voters passed the Voters Not Politicians measure expecting to see some common sense in our boundaries," said Jay Hackleman, of Grosse Pointe Park, the first public speaker at the commission's forum Oct. 20.

See **SPLIT**, page 10A

Master plan draft presented

By Kate Vanderstelt
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Since 2019, Grosse Pointe Park has been in the intensive process of updating its city master plan. The process took one more step toward completion as city planning consulting group MKSK presented a draft of the plan to the planning commission Wednesday, Oct. 20.

The newly drafted master plan presents the city's vision: "Grosse Pointe Park is a walkable, bike-friendly, sustainable, historic, diverse and safe community. The city's residents, unique neighborhoods and convenience of quality businesses and community amenities are its strongest assets. Collaboration and transparency are highly valued and are paramount to successful implementation of this master plan."

The draft outlined recommendations to enhance neighborhoods, business districts, complete streets, sustainability and zoning.

Neighborhoods

For neighborhoods, the

See **DRAFT**, page 4A

Mack unification project receives state funding

By Laurel Kraus
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE CITY, FARMS, PARK & DETROIT — Along with \$750,000 allocated to the Lakeshore seawall project, the recently approved state fiscal year 2022 budget includes another line item directly benefiting the Grosse Pointes.

Thanks to the efforts of State Rep. Joe Tate, \$200,000 in state funding is earmarked for phase one implementation of the Mack Avenue Streetscape Plan for Detroit, the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Mack Avenue Streetscape Plan aims to unify the design standards on both sides of Mack from Cadieux to Moross.

Pointe Park.

"It's a very important initiative that we've been working on for several

years and this is the first element of funding that has been allocated to this," City of Grosse

Pointe City Manager Pete Dame said.

See **FUNDING**, page 3A

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