

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 11/30			
	Since tracking began in March 2020		
	Cases	Deaths	
All Pointes	4,829 (+204)	72 (+0)	
Harper Woods	1,813 (+75)	54 (+0)	
	(Increase 11/22-11/30)		

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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Shores plans to appeal 2020 Census count

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — As the only Pointe to see a decrease in population in the 2020 Census results, Grosse Pointe Shores emerged from the count with a population of 2,570, a decline of 12.3 percent.

The smallest Pointe

now has announced intent to enter an appeal process with the U.S. Census Bureau and prove it was under-counted.

“It’s really difficult to get into that appeal process, but that’s what we’re looking at right now,” City Manager Stephen Poloni said, of the process anticipated to open in December.

“... We have to see what formula they would let us use to prove them wrong. That’s where the difficult part comes in.”

While data from park passes may not be accepted under the rigid appeal rules, he said, the city could end up conducting its own census count by reaching out to each resident of the roughly 1,050 homes

in the Shores.

“We haven’t started that process yet until we get a little more direction,” Poloni said. “... There are only certain ways they will accept data, so we’re waiting to find out what data we need to track to try to figure that out. Our hands are tied at this point until we get some direction from them.”

Without a successful appeal of the 2020 Census results, the current count could result in the city losing more than 10 percent of its state revenue funding, according to Finance Director/Treasurer Candace Giles.

For example, approximately \$25,000 to \$35,000 from the state would be lost in road

funding alone.

“For a small community like the Shores,” Poloni said, “especially when we’re already running a budget deficit, anything that adds to (it) just increases more of a deficit for us, so it is concerning to us.”

Adding to the concern is the fact the state cur-

See APPEAL, page 2A

FEMA approves public assistance

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — President Joe Biden approved a Michigan Disaster Declaration in July for the June 26 rain event in Wayne and Washtenaw counties, bringing individual assistance to homeowners.

Four months later, public assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA — meant to assist in the restoration of community infrastructure to pre-disaster conditions — now has been granted to Wayne and Ionia counties following an initial denial and appeal by the state.

The program provides a 75 percent federal match for any eligible cost.

“Michiganders have already been through

See FEMA, page 4A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Sign of the season

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus brought smiles to the many faces lining Kercheval during the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce’s annual Santa Parade, which took place last Friday. For more photos from the event, see page 3A.

Four of five Pointes seek accreditation

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK AND WOODS — With the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department announcing its desire and the Woods department already in the process, four of the five Grosse Pointes have begun seeking certification through the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

A process which typically takes around two years to complete, the Grosse Pointes are in

agreement that certification will enhance the departments and boost public trust.

“Most importantly, it’s going to push Grosse Pointe Park into the 21st century whether we like it or not,” Park Director Bryan Jarrell said at a council meeting Monday, Nov. 8. “... It’s forcing us to look at everything we do in the police department and reevaluate it.”

With the Park’s intent to apply discussed at its November council meeting, Jarrell said it will not officially apply until the spring, though the

department is making steps toward accreditation already. The department in the Woods has expressed similar plans.

“When you apply for accreditation,” Woods Public Safety Director John Kosanke said, “the clock starts ticking. It’s a 24-month process. ... You don’t want to apply for a 24-month process and spend two or three months trying to get organized.”

For the Woods, the wait comes while it gets acquainted with a new data management system, required for seeking

accreditation. The policy management software, PowerDMS, will allow the department to edit policies and store all information on one platform.

“(PowerDMS) is going to help us also manage our paperwork and information better,” Kosanke said. “I’m really looking forward to that.”

Kosanke said once the department gets more familiar and comfortable with using PowerDMS, it will officially apply to the 24-month long accreditation program.

In the Park, the hold

See SEEK, page 3A

Employee assistance enacted

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Grosse Pointe Park enacted an employee assistance program, effective Nov. 1, allowing all city employees, from full time to part time to seasonal, up to five confidential counseling sessions through CARE of Southeastern Michigan.

The employee assistance program was introduced due to the public safety department’s pursuit of certification through the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation program, which requires such a program to be in place in the organization.

“It’s something that probably every organization in the country has except Grosse Pointe,” Park Public Safety Director Bryan Jarrell said. “I’ve personally never worked anywhere, certainly in government, that didn’t have an employee assistance program.”

With the program, all city employees or their immediate family members have access to up to five counseling sessions, where they can discuss anything from depression or anxiety to divorce, life changes and more.

The program also allows for critical incident debriefings. In the event of traumatic accidents, officials with CARE of Southeastern Michigan will arrive at the scene and debrief

See ASSIST, page 5A

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