

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 12/28		
	Since tracking began in March 2020	
	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	5,737 (+401)	82 (+10)
Harper Woods	2,264 (+202)	58 (+4)
	(Increase 12/21-12/28)	

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*Wishing You & Your Family a Happy New Year!*

# Grosse Pointe News

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ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 86¢)

DECEMBER 30, 2021  
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

*reee*

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**Complete news coverage of all the Pointes**

## Best wishes for you in 2022!

As we bid farewell to 2021 and all of its topsy-turvy ups and downs, we at the Grosse Pointe News wish everyone a 2022 full of peace and prosperity, which we sense in George Henry Hall's classic "The Snow Flurry."

COURTESY PHOTO



**2021 IN REVIEW**

## Park drowns in contention

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The Park endured a contentious council throughout the year, ending with one of the most divisive elections in recent history. Outcries for justice and equality in the community ran high. New Public Safety Director Bryan Jarrell brought with him community outreach programs, and flooding caused by intense rainstorms in June had the public demanding answers to infrastructure issues.

This is the year in review.

**January**

◆ Despite the pandemic interrupting restaurant business, Alma Kitchen celebrates a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its location on Mack Avenue. The restaurant features food from all over the world, which owner Gary Mui dubbed, "borderless cooking."

◆ Director of Public Safety Stephen Poloni leaves the Park for a city manager position in Grosse Pointe Shores.

**February**

◆ Home invasions in the Park and Shores are connected to a South

See PARK, page 5A

**2021 IN REVIEW**

## Farms has a year of changing posts

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — As the Farms pursued grants to address flooding mitigation, seawall deterioration and roadwork throughout the year, it also saw the retirement of several longtime community leaders.

This is the year in review.

**January**

◆ City administration continues pushing for removal of a portion of the 180 signs added to Lakeshore Road from

Warner to just past Moross. Wayne County and the Michigan Department of Transportation point toward each other for the responsibility of addressing the situation.

◆ City council begins considering sewer separation of the systems north of Moross — a new storm sewer would be constructed along the road with the old sewer converted into the sanitary system — as well as those on Mount Vernon, McMillan and McKinley;

See FARMS, page 3A

## Fishery habitat considered for seawall

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS AND SHORES** — As one of several potential opportunities with federal infrastructure dollars becoming available, the Farms, Shores and Wayne County intend to apply for a grant to consider a soft shore fishery habitat as a fix to the chronic deterioration of the three-mile stretch of Lakeshore seawall in the two Pointes.

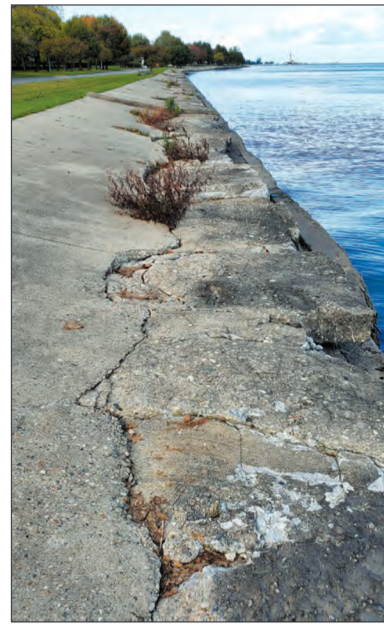
The grant, available through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, is intended to create a better ecological environment for a fishery, but also could provide

the long-term solution to ongoing seawall concerns the cities have been seeking.

The main idea of the project, Farms City Manager Shane Reeside said, is "softening the shoreline, so it's not just all concrete and steel. It's using boulders and more natural features to help mitigate wave action and just be more environmentally friendly."

The natural habitat would include layers of walls, just off the shoreline and of different shapes and depths, to slow down wave action, as well as pools dug deep in certain areas with sunken trees and wooden structures to create fish

See FISHERY, page 2A



The fix for the Lakeshore seawall's chronic deterioration could come with the added bonus of creating a better ecological environment for fishery.

FILE PHOTO

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## Flood suits in hands of judge

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTE** — The Great Lakes Water Authority has seen the light.

The authority, targeted by lawsuits alleging it mismanaged rain and sewer water that backed up from faulty pumping

stations into thousands of basements during big storms last summer, claims immunity due to being victimized from above.

"They're arguing it's an act of God," said Steve Liddle, an attorney representing about 6,000 households flooded during a storm beginning the

evening of June 25. "Under Michigan case law, 'act of God' means a weather event so massive it could not be anticipated."

To qualify for immunity, the authority also must prove the storm was the sole cause of sewer backups and flooding. As lawyers term it,

there was "an absence of human agency," or, simply, people had nothing to do with it.

"Yet admissions by the authority that pumps weren't working and pumping capacity was down defeats their argument," Liddle said. "But, that has to be determined by the court."

Hundreds of Grosse Pointe residents had yet to fully drain their base-

ments of sewer water, disinfect soiled floors, walls and basement stairs, and discard ruined furniture, electronics and keepsakes when representatives of the authority began citing the storm as a rare, 1,000-year event — a downpour unfathomable to occur more than once a millennium and which no sewer

See FLOOD, page 3A

Week Ahead . . . . .	3A
Opinion . . . . .	6A
Schools . . . . .	8A
Features . . . . .	1B
Obituaries . . . . .	3B
Sports . . . . .	1D
Classified ads . . . . .	4D

**2021 Pointers of INTEREST**

The Grosse Pointe News congratulates our 2021 Pointers of Interest.

Page 4A



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