

**COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 1/19**

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	2,124 (+49)	52 (+4)
Harper Woods	676 (+18)	40 (+0)

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# Grosse Pointe News

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JANUARY 21, 2021  
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes



COURTESY PHOTO  
**Joseph Herd**

## Herd appointed BOE president

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTE** — Along with being the first Black member of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education, Joseph Herd now is the first Black person

to become the board's president as well. After first being appointed to the school board to fill a vacant seat in January 2020, and then officially being voted onto the board in the November election, Herd was unanimously

appointed president during its meeting Monday, Jan. 11. "First of all, I'm honored to be on the board," Herd said. "It is a pretty big position and I think that if I live up to the standard of being the husband that I believe I

should be, the father that I believe I should be and the community member, that I'll do credit, not only to those who would be honored by the fact that I'm an African American in place, but that I'm a member of the community who has the stan-

dards that honor this community." Currently finishing his first year on the board, Herd considers one of his greatest strengths to be that of a good listener and he is committed to

See HERD, page 8A

## Seely resigns from ethics committee

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — With the draft of an ethics ordinance in the Shores around 75 percent complete, councilman and member Matt Seely and member Scott Houghton resigned from the Ethics Ordinance Drafting Committee at its first meeting of the year Monday, Jan. 11.

Mayor Ted Kedzierski and City Clerk Bruce Nichols resigned from the committee in August 2020, at the request of certain members.

"I had remained on, because I wanted to be kind of like a fly on the wall and just see from time to time if there were some suggestions I could make from the point of view of a person on city council that might be helpful," Seely said, "and I think that exercise was futile, so I just decided that probably a great way to start off the new year is to just start fresh."

While the committee does not have the ability to eliminate members since each person was appointed by city council,

some members have stated since its creation that elected officials should not be involved.

"The concern we had from the very first (meeting) was that we had a council member as a member of our committee," Chairwoman Dr. Janice Pemberton said, "and in order for an ethics committee to do their job effectively, you cannot have a councilperson (involved) who this ethics ordinance will affect. It's like the fox guarding the chicken house."

Houghton also resigned Monday night, citing scheduling obstacles and over-commitment/prioritization of his time, according to the draft meeting minutes.

The remaining members are Pemberton, Secretary Rob Squiers, John Clark, Brian Geraghty and Joe Ghanem. No additional members will be brought onto the committee, according to Pemberton.

"I'd love to see them put together a nice proposal for the council and I'd like to see it be some-

See RESIGN, page 3A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Stephen Poloni holds the resolutions he recently received from city councils in the Park and City, for his years serving both communities as director of public safety.

## Poloni honored for 37 years in law enforcement

By Laurel Kraus  
and Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writers

**GROSSE POINTE CITY AND PARK** — After a 30-year career in Grosse Pointe Shores, including serving as its public safety director seven years, Stephen Poloni began his tenure as public safety director in the City of

Grosse Pointe in 2011, and added the dual role of chief in Grosse Pointe Park in 2015, under a cost-sharing agreement between the two cities.

Taking his career full circle, Poloni will return to the Shores as its city manager Monday, Jan. 25, and leave behind a 37-year career in law enforcement.

During his last council meeting with the cities, both Monday, Jan. 11, the director was honored with resolutions of appreciation for his years of service.

"I have built some relationships with people here (in the Park) that will last the rest of my life," Poloni said. "All the credit that you've given

to me tonight is somewhat undeserved, because it should be given to the whole team."

The resolution put forward by the City commended the director on putting together a team of officers and command staff who currently have the highest level of training.

See HONORED, page 3A

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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe Woods' new Ladder 5 includes double mirrors, interior and exterior cameras and a 100-foot ladder.

## Woods gets long-awaited fire truck

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — The Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department received a new fire truck Wednesday, Jan. 13, replacing a 31-year-old vehicle. Acquiring the new truck was two years in the

making. "I'm very thankful to the mayor and council and city administration for being supportive of this project," Public Safety Director John Kosanke said. "This is something that you don't replace every five years; the city is making a commitment to about three decades here."

The \$1,071,000 fire truck is a much-needed investment for the city, as the National Fire Protection Association recommends any "front-line apparatus" be replaced within 25 years.

In choosing the truck, Kosanke asked for the

See TRUCK, page 5A

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

**Pointer of INTEREST**

See story, page 4A

**Joan Frear Capuano**  
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms  
Executive director of Historic Elmwood Foundation loves sharing Detroit, Grosse Pointe history



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