

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 1/26

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	2,151 (+27)	52 (+0)
Harper Woods	690 (+14)	40 (+0)

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Director John Alcorn is new City PS director

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — As the next stage in a career spent entirely within the City's public safety department, John Alcorn was sworn in as director Monday, Jan. 25. His father, Mark, a retired Detroit police officer, pinned on his badge during the ceremony.

"My dad was a police officer in Detroit for 36 years and it finally just dawned on me late in college that I wanted to be like him," Alcorn said of his decision to enter law enforcement, "and probably more than being a police officer, I just wanted to be like him, so I turned my eye toward that."

Starting his journey in the City as a public safety officer in 2001, the new director has served as a detective, field training officer, fire marshal, sergeant, lieutenant and, most recently, was promoted to deputy director in 2018.

"I'm thrilled that John

See **ALCORN**, page 4A



IMAGE COURTESY OF SEAN COTTON

Winter wonderland

Johann Culverhouse's oil painting "Winter Skating — Central Park," reminds us of the joy that can be found outdoors, regardless of the weather.

Dine-in service to resume

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Following an order announced by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services last week, restaurants and bars will be allowed to reopen with restrictions Monday, Feb. 1. The order will last three weeks until Sunday, Feb. 21.

Among the restrictions, occupancy will be limited to 25 percent capacity with up to 100 people, businesses will have a curfew of 10 p.m. and tables will be allowed to seat no more than six people. Outdoor tents with four sides will be required to follow the same standards.

"The pause has worked," Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in a press release, which also noted the state's positivity rate at 6.8 percent and declining, with 225 cases per million, as well as that only 9.9 percent of hospital beds are filled by COVID-19 patients. "The

See **DINE-IN**, page 2A

Contact sports start date pushed back

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer gave a new order at a press conference Friday, Jan. 22, that included further delay in

the start of high school winter contact sports. The message was delivered a little more than one week before the sports' practices and competitions were set to begin. The Michigan High

School Athletic Association had not been in contact with the Michigan Department of Health at the time of the order. The MHSAA released a statement regarding the new delay. "We did not anticipate

this delay in winter contact practices and competition and today's announcement has created many new questions," Mark Uyl, executive director of the

See **SPORTS**, page 8A

Werenski named director after three decades in Shores

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — The last 34 years, Kenneth Werenski has worked exclusively in Grosse Pointe Shores, beginning with a part-time job at Osius Park when he was 19 and transitioning to a stint with the department of public works through college, before entering a 28-year career in the public safety department.

Exactly a week prior to the departure of nine-year Director of Public Safety John Schulte Tuesday, Jan. 26, city council unanimously approved Werenski's appointment to the position.

"He's always had attention to detail and to taking care of the residents, pro-



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Kenneth Werenski was selected to replace recently retired Director of Public Safety John Schulte.

viding exceptional service and, in that regard, he has really earned the position," Schulte said. "I couldn't be happier about his appointment ... (and) I feel the department is in excellent hands as I depart."

Cross-trained as an officer, firefighter and EMT, Werenski held the positions of public safety officer, sergeant and patrol supervisor before being promoted to lieutenant

See **WERENSKI**, page 5A

Expenses frozen while financials are automated

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — A freeze has been placed on unessential expenses in the Shores, as the city's finance department transitions from manual to electronic reporting.

The change is set to make city hall more transparent by allowing it to report more detailed information than it was able to before, such as in the case of water billing, where high rates have raised significant concern.

"This will benefit the efficiency of the whole department and also streamline its interactions between other departments," Councilwoman and Finance Committee Chairwoman Sandra

Cavataio said, adding that currently, reporting from other departments to the finance department is done manually.

The software to automate the department has been in place, she said, but not used to its full capacity.

Expenses needed to run the city will continue to be incurred, but those that are not 100 percent necessary, such as recently requested funds to improve communication within the city, currently are on hold.

"Because of the new improvements we're making, the needs might be different," Cavataio explained, "so we don't want to go ahead and make expenses when we might not be needing those expenses or that

See **FINANCES**, page 3A

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