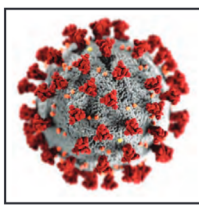

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 5/3

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	3,309 (+56)	58 (+1)
Harper Woods	1,233 (+39)	47 (+0)

Grosse Pointe News

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MAY 6, 2021
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Dean, Bay City candidate are sup't finalists

By Peggy Walsh-Sarnecki
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Board of Education has named Jon Dean, deputy superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, and Stephen Bigelow, superintendent of Bay City Public Schools, as its two finalists to replace retiring Superintendent Gary Niehaus.

Those two were supported by four members of the school board, including President Joseph Herd, Vice President Margaret Weertz and board members Lisa Pappas and Christopher Lee. Board member David Brumbaugh voted for Bigelow and Ryan McLeod, superintendent of Eastpointe Community Schools.

Board member Ahmed Ismail said he could not support any of the four semifinalists. That led Lee to suggest Ismail should recuse himself from further superintendent deliberations — a suggestion Ismail adamantly rejected.

Board members praised Bigelow for his experience, for the fact he is coming from a similar district and prepared well for his interview.

"He appears to be transparent, open and engaged, (has) strong community engagement and talked about building relationships," Brumbaugh said.

Dean's experience and knowledge of the district were among his strong points, according to the board.

"Dean was active to get our bond issued and knows the district inside and out," board member Christopher Lee said.

Finalist interviews will be May 11 and 12.

Bigelow's day is May 11. He will be accompanied by two board members on a tour of schools in the morning. There will be a public meet and greet from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Brownell Middle School, 260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms,

See FINALISTS, page 8A

Ethics ordinance draft completed

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — After announcing the creation of an ethics committee in December 2019, a completed draft of the Grosse Pointe Shores ethics ordinance was submitted to city council April 20.

The proposed ordinance would apply to elected and appointed city officials, city employees, committee members, advisors and candidates for office. Also drafted were an annual disclosure statement form, ethics complaint form and request for ethics guidance form.

"We've had seven months of intense research, writing and communication among the members who produced this document," said Dr. Janice Pemberton, chair of the Ethics Ordinance Drafting Committee.

See ETHICS, page 4A

COURTESY PHOTO

To moms, with love

We pass along our sincerest Mother's Day wishes to the hard-working moms of Grosse Pointe and beyond — the moms always willing to share their patience and understanding, unconditional support and love, healing touch and words of wisdom. The tenderness reflected in Hamilton Hamilton's "The Silver Rattle" makes us think of you. Happy Mother's Day!

TIFA approves parking study

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The Tax Increment Finance Authority board gave the OK for its director to pursue a parking study with MKSK in the TIFA business district at a meeting Wednesday, April 28.

Parking has been a constant discussion point among residents, especially as the Park undergoes updates to its master plan.

The parking study was not included on the board's agenda; however, Chairman John Hughes made a motion before moving to public comment at the end of the meeting directing TIFA Director Nick Sizeland to

See TIFA, pge 3A

War Memorial construction in demolition phase

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The $20 million Grosse Pointe War Memorial campus improvement project is moving along steadily into its fourth month of construction.

Demolition is now 90 percent complete on the upper level of the ballroom, with temporary walls installed around the ballroom until the new windows and walls arrive. The Patriot Theater also is awaiting minor demolition work for new mechanical, electrical and plumbing to be installed.

"It's a very, very busy time, especially given our projected timeline of spring/summer (2022)," President and CEO Charles Burke said, "and we're excited about the progress we've made."

With the site work currently 15 to 20 percent complete, the formal gardens and fountain in front of the ballroom have been removed to make room for the new addition and the promenade walkway has been demolished. Stormwater structures

See PHASE, page 4A

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

Demolition is 90 percent complete on the upper level of the ballroom.

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Pointer of INTEREST

Meaghan Brewster
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Creator of Little Bee Book Club wants to encourage young readers

See story, page 4A

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