

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 6/1			
	Cases	Deaths	
All Pointes	3,409 (+12)	64 (+0)	
Harper Woods	1,303 (+8)	50 (+1)	

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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 82, NO. 22, 32 PAGES
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JUNE 3, 2021
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Shores seeks applicants

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Having served on the Grosse Pointe Shores City Council since November 2015, Doug Kucyk resigned from the position May 5, to move to South Carolina with his wife, Mercedes.

The council now is inviting residents to turn in applications for the council seat to city hall by 5 p.m. Friday, June 4. Applications may be

picked up at city hall or found on the city's website at bit.ly.ws/dHiA.

To serve as a Shores councilperson, a candidate must have resided in the city at least 30 days.

"We're looking for people who are interested in joining our council," Mayor Ted Kedzierski said.

A special meeting to interview the applicants who have interest then will be held at 7 p.m.

See SHORES, page 4A

Amendments to sign ordinance

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — A lawsuit filed against the city of Grosse Pointe Shores in early December — after resident and attorney Todd Perkins was cited for a Black Lives Matter sign said to violate the city's sign ordinance size requirements — prompted an extensive review of the ordinance, but it wasn't the only reason amendments were necessary.

According to the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court case *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*,

it is a violation of the First Amendment to have to read the content of a sign in order to regulate it. Since the city's sign ordinance was written to specifically regulate ballot initiative and election-related signage, reading the content was necessary for regulation.

"The long story short is that our sign ordinance under the Reed case and under cases that have been cited since is pretty much unenforceable," City Attorney Brian Renaud said.

The Shores was made aware in 2016 that the sign ordinance was unconstitutional, according to Councilman Matthew Seely.

In response, Ordinance No. 270 was approved during the city council meeting Tuesday, May 25. The new language splits rules between the three categories of directional signs; ground signs, which essentially are three-dimensional monument signs fixed to the ground; and temporary signs, which are all

See SIGNS, page 3A

District starts legionella remediation

By Peggy Walsh-Sarnecki
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — Grosse Pointe Public School System officials believe the nine schools with positive legionella tests will be fully remediated by the end of the school year.

Currently remediation is complete in Brownell Middle School, Grosse

Pointe North High School and Monteith and Kerby elementary schools.

Maire, Mason and Richard elementaries, Grosse Pointe South High School and Trombly Early Childhood Center will be remediated next.

The district is adding a supplemental chlorinating system to each school, whether it tested

positive for legionella disease or not, to further prevent the bacteria from forming. It also will test annually for legionella bacteria along with the annual tests for lead and copper.

GPPSS has tested annually for lead and copper since the Flint lead disaster. The district's director of buildings knew the stagnant water in building pipes

that have seen little or no use during COVID-19 shutdowns could lead to legionella bacteria, and recommended adding the test to the annual copper and lead test, said Amanda Matheson, deputy superintendent for business operations.

Any building, including office buildings, that shut down during the

See DISTRICT, page 11A



COURTESY PHOTO

In bloom

Abbott Fuller Graves' "Peonies" reminds us to stop and smell the blooming flowers as we welcome warm June weather.

Moves to unmask

By Whitney McDonald
Staff Writer

MICHIGAN — The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services released the updated Gatherings and Face Mask Order May 24, effective Tuesday, June 1.

The order states, "A person responsible for an establishment, or agent of such person, must prohibit gatherings at their establishment unless the person makes a good faith effort to ensure that all persons at their establishment (including employees) comply with section 4(a)."

Section 4(a) requires all persons who are

See MASKS, page 8A

New officer standout starts position

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The newest Grosse Pointe Park public safety officer, Esho Matty, aspired to be a policeman since he was a boy.

"It was a childhood dream," Matty said. "I always enjoyed being able to help people and making some difference at least."

As a 24-year-old recently sworn into the Parks public safety department, Matty's living his dream — though it took quite the backstory to get here.

Matty was born in Iraq, where he lived until he



COURTESY PHOTO

Esho Matty recently completed training at the Macomb Fire Academy.

was 14 years old. His experience there, though he doesn't remember much of it, was threatening.

"It's just not as safe there now," Matty said.

"My dad got a lot of (threats), of like, if you don't leave, if you don't wear a hijab, they could kill them. That escalated and escalated and my dad was like, 'It's time to

leave."

His family fled to Turkey when he was 14. There, they waited about a year and a half for receipt of a visa to get them into the United States. He took a few English classes while in Turkey to try to familiarize himself with the language before arriving in America. He said it didn't help much.

When the family arrived in the States, they moved to Michigan where they had family. Matty was placed in his sophomore year of high school at the standard age of 15 or 16 years old.

See OFFICER, page 2A

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See story, page 4A

Brandon Justice

Home: Grosse Pointe Park
Coach shines light on high school baseball with new podcast



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