

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 12/14
 Since tracking began in March 2020

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	5,138 (+152)	72 (+0)
Harper Woods	1,950 (+71)	54 (+0)

(Increase 12/1-12/14)

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 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe Farms Deputy Director John Hutchins sits next to outgoing Director of Public Safety Dan Jensen.

Hutchins is new PS director

By Laurel Kraus
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — In a succession that was 15 years in the making, current Farms Deputy Director John Hutchins was unanimously appointed the department's next public safety director by city council Monday night.

The position is effective Saturday, Jan. 1,

2022. "Law enforcement and fire service are a true calling and for the select few of us who are fortunate enough to do both jobs, working for our department and the city of Grosse Pointe Farms has been a dream," Hutchins said. "Following in the footsteps of directors (Robert) Ferber and (Dan) Jensen, whose tenures comprised over

51 years of leading this department, we will carry forward the tradition of upholding the highest standards, level of service and commitment to the community we serve. And we will continue to get better." Although Hutchins made it through most of his college career with the intent to go into advertising, a bit of doubt on his path and two interest inventory

tests convinced him his interests were geared toward police work. After exploring his options, the then-recent graduate set his sights on local law enforcement and put himself through the Oakland Police Academy in January 1990.

"I literally just said, I'm going to take the first job opportunity

See HUTCHINS, page 12A

Brenner joins Park council

By Kate Vanderstelt
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — In a unanimous team effort, Grosse Pointe Park City Council members voted to appoint Brian Brenner, who ran for council in the general election and was eliminated in the primary, to fill the 2-year partial term vacancy following former Councilwoman Aimee Fluitt's resignation. Candidate interviews were conducted during a council meeting Monday, Dec. 13.

After candidate interviews, Brenner led with three votes, from Mayor Michele Hodges and councilmen Tom Caulfield and Max Wiener. Candidate Michael McCuish followed with two votes, from Councilwoman Christine Gallagher and newest Councilman Marty McMillan. Councilman Vikas Relan, stating he was torn, voted for candidate



Brian Brenner

Jay Bonnell, who was unable to attend the interview.

"I would love to hear from my team here on why they voted for certain people, what aspects (they) see," Relan said. "... I really am torn. I see four great candidates here."

Proponents of McCuish were impressed by his resume and thought he could add

See BRENNER, page 3A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The holiday spirit

Houses throughout the Grosse Pointes are showing their holiday spirit with beautiful light displays, like this one on Lakeshore at Oxford.

Parking plans produced in the Park

By Kate Vanderstelt
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — At meetings of the Tax Increment Finance Authority and the Downtown Development Authority, the boards discussed and approved parking measures that will change the landscape of the business districts in Grosse Pointe Park.

In the TIFA district, the board

approved the tearing down of a house at 1166 Maryland at a meeting Tuesday, Dec. 7.

A few residents objected to the demolition, saying the city should follow action items specifically laid out in the parking study conducted by MKSK.

"The report calls for a myriad of action items long before it suggests the need for additional parking," TIFA resident and former Park Councilwoman Darci

McConnell said.

Those in favor of tearing down the house pushed that the building currently is an "island," with an alley entryway to its left and an existing parking lot to its right. With City Manager and TIFA Director Nick Sizeland emphasizing a comprehensive parking lot would be designed with stormwater management in

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Schools, public safety build post-Oxford partnership

By Kate Vanderstelt
 Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — After a shooting tragedy at Oxford High School left four students dead and others injured, with threats circulating metro Detroit and the Grosse Pointes, the Grosse Pointe Public School System called on local public safety departments

to help prepare for anything that may come the community's way.

"We have a really good relationship with all six of our municipal police departments," GPPSS Superintendent Jon Dean said. "And when we have a tragedy like (what) happened (at Oxford), followed up by the various localized threats that we were dealing with, we're talking to our police depart-

ments throughout those constantly."

Throughout the week of and after the shooting at Oxford Tuesday, Nov. 30, Dean was in contact with the chiefs of the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods multiple times a day as threats in the school district were brought to light.

"We were doing that because obviously when we're analyzing

threats to our school district ... there's no way to talk about those without involving our local police," Dean said.

As discussion continued, a meeting was set for the six municipalities' chiefs of public safety to meet with the school district and discuss moving forward.

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Pointer of INTEREST

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Will Thompson

Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
 Marine Corps veteran, attorney
 finds joy in family, outdoor
 adventures



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