

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 2/1
 Since tracking began in March 2020

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	7,844 (+274)	101 (+0)
Harper Woods	3,038 (+106)	69 (+0)

(Increase 1/25 -2/1)

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Grosse Pointe News

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FEBRUARY 3, 2022
 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Ethics board declares free speech above decorum

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — It's not why Washington crossed the Delaware, but the right of an elected official to act out on social media against constituents in an admittedly childish fit for attention, otherwise known as a tantrum, is speech protected by the Founding Fathers and also, as determined last week by an empathetic Grosse Pointe Park ethics review board, the municipal code of conduct.

To rule otherwise, the ethics board, established by city council in 2020, would blunt social discourse by degenerating

itself into an arbiter of every slight and fancy. "Under no circumstances did the council ever envision that this body would serve as some kind of chancellery with respect to speech, particularly in the context of a political campaign," said Lawrence Mann, of the review board and an attorney.

The ruling cleared Councilman Vikas Relan of violating the letter of the code by calling three residents "losers" and more on the 4,000-member Grosse Pointe Park Community Facebook page.

Board members found

See ETHICS, page 2A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

From the Wayne County Roads Traffic Division, David Wagner, left, and Jerry Maddox, far right, wait while Randall James takes the one-way sign down, before the pole is removed.

Lakeshore one-way signs in the rearview

By Laurel Kraus
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — More than a year in the making, the Wayne County Roads Traffic Division graced Lakeshore Monday with

the removal of 60 of the one-way signs that have been cluttering the back of a stretch between Warner to just past Moross since October 2020.

Though Farms officials immediately got to work at the time fighting the

necessity of approximately 180 road signs added on the back of a Wayne County repaving project, progress has been slow moving. Because the county used federal funds for the repaving, Farms City

Manager Shane Reeside explained, it has been hesitant to jeopardize the funding or assume liability if it doesn't meet the federal sign standards.

An independent road

See SIGNS, page 3A

Treat your sweetie



Valentine's Day is right around the corner, so it's time to think about how to say 'I love you.' Check out great gifting ideas from local shops on pages 6-7C, like this delicious red velvet cupcake from Chocolate Bar Cafe. From yummy to romantic, we've got ideas you'll adore.

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VILLAGE OLYMPICS

FEBRUARY 12, NOON-4

Village Olympics 2022 coming to St. Clair

By Laurel Kraus
 Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Coinciding with the Beijing Olympics, the opening ceremony of The Village Olympics 2022 kicks off at noon Saturday, Feb. 12, with fire pits acting as the Olympic torch and the national anthem sung by local kids.

"The Olympics are so exciting and people get so behind them," said Adam Steiner, owner of The Campus Shop and event organizer, "and being dead of winter in Michigan, I feel, especially by middle of February, people are really just looking for

anything to do with their kids. ... Really the main goal is just getting people out of their house as a family unit and being able to just re-enter the world after the hibernation post-Christmas."

Intended to be equally fun for adults and kids, The Village Olympics 2022 is free to participants, runs from noon to 4 p.m. and will see a small portion of St. Clair at Kercheval closed for the festivities.

Event stations, offering the ability to play by oneself or with a group, will feature box hockey, cornhole, tug of war, make-shift curling and more.

See OLYMPICS, page 3A

Dispatchers get pay rate hike

By Kate Vanderstelt
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Grosse Pointe Woods residents took to Facebook asking if calling the non-emergency public safety line was even an option anymore. After calling the (313) 343-2400 number, they said, they were met with no response. Unfortunately, this is the case due to a shortage of dispatch workers, with low wages making it difficult to recruit new tal-

ent. Public Safety Department Director John Kosanke brought his problem to the attention of council at recent meetings, asking them to approve an amount of \$16,764.68 in total to increase the dispatcher salary. His difficulty recruiting new talent, Kosanke said, could be because "our wages are not competitive."

Just down the street, Kosanke noted, dispatchers can earn substantially higher pay

than they can in the Woods department. One of Kosanke's current, part-time employees was offered a full-time position with the department and said to the director she may rather go somewhere else or stay part-time if the wage situation does not improve.

Currently, Woods public safety dispatchers, who also serve dispatch for Grosse Pointe Shores, are paid a starting hourly rate of \$17.84,

See HIKE, page 4A

TIFA gets going

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Saying, "Let's roll," TIFA Chairman John Hughes spurred the board into 2022.

Calling to order the board's first meeting of the year Thursday, Jan. 27, Hughes welcomed new members Christina Anton and Trenton

Chamberlain, endorsed extending Grosse Pointe Park's business and residential improvement grants through April 1, and set a timeline for drafting a budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

"Tonight, we're kicking off that process," Hughes said of the budget. "(City Manager Nick Sizeland) is going to provide us with a worksheet by cat-

egory — short, near, long-term initiatives — of items we want to pursue."

The budget is subject to city council approval. "Council's going to adopt the (municipal) budget in May or June," Sizeland said. "TIFA will have to approve its budget beforehand. Then city council will review the TIFA budget and approve that as well."

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Andreas Browne
 Home: Harper Woods
 From Liberia, Pointer serves the community with photography, shoemaking and clothes-designing skills.



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