

H. J. Fishback

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

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OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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HIGHLAND PARK SEEKS GROSSE POINTE WATER PUMPING STATION. EDISON COMPANY TO SELL

The pumping station situated on the Lake Shore Road near the Seven Mile Road, from which three of the Grosse Pointe Villages derive their present water supply, is for sale and will probably be purchased either by Highland Park or the Village of Grosse Pointe Farms within the next few months.

In 1905 the Grosse Pointe Water Company, which owned and operated the works, sold the plant to the Edison Company and the distribution system to the Village. The Edison Company immediately replaced the steam pumps with electrical apparatus and supplied water to Grosse Pointe at a fixed rate plus an assured amount of \$1200 a year.

In 1914 Highland Park purchased a section of lake front property between Moross and Provencal Roads with the intention of erecting a new pumping station for their own use. To save duplication of construction a ten year agreement was negotiated between the Edison Company, Highland Park, and Grosse Pointe Farms whereby the Edison Company agreed to pump water to both communities. At the time many improvements in the system were made and a new 36-inch intake was extended 2500 feet out into the lake.

The ten year agreement ends next year, in 1924, and the Edison Company must be given one year's notice of an intention to purchase. The Edison Company will sell either to Highland Park or Grosse Pointe Farms, the latter having first option. The price of the property according to the agreement shall be determined by arbitration.

Highland Park has expressed a willingness to pump water for Grosse Pointe at the same rate the Edison Company has been

charging in the event of their making the purchase. This rate is \$14 a million gallons in addition to the \$1200 per year.

The problem before the Council of the Village of Grosse Pointe Farms is a matter of deciding whether to buy and pump for Highland Park or to pass up their option and let Highland Park pump for them. In either case the water system will be the same and the consumer apparently will not be affected.

However, a change will be necessitated in the pumping arrangement. At present there are seven pumps. Four of these pump to Highland Park and two to Grosse Pointe. One pump is adjustable for increasing pressure in times of fire in either community. While such an arrangement is adequate for the three Villages of Grosse Pointe getting water from this system, it is not adequate for Highland Park which is purchasing water from Detroit at the rate of about 2 million gallons per day in addition. The consumption in Highland Park is about ten times that of Grosse Pointe or about 15 million gallons a day. Highland Park can use the entire output of the present plant.

There has been a rapid increase in Grosse Pointe's demand on the water supply in the past few years which indicates that the time is not far off when this community will need more pumps.

The plan as conceived at the present time is for Grosse Pointe Farms to purchase the plant from the Edison Company, operate the pumps on hand for supplying Highland Park, and build a station in the rear of the present one large enough to house sufficient pumping apparatus for the future needs of Grosse Pointe Township.

RURAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL ACT AMENDED

That section of the Rural Agricultural School Act giving the Superintendent of Public Instruction the power of final decision in cases of appeal on actions of Rural Agricultural School Boards has recently been amended by the Michigan State Legislature.

The amendment gives a school board of a Rural Agricultural School District the privilege to submit the decision of the Superintendent of Public Instruction on any appeal to the vote of the electors of the district. If the expression of the electors on the second voting corroborates that of their first voting the decision of the electors is final and shall supersede any decision made by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The amendment became effective August 30, 1923.

NEW ARCHITECTS ENGAGED

The architectural firm Malcolmson, Higginbotham, and Palmer has been engaged by the School Board to submit plans for the new addition to the Hanstein School, which is to cost approximately \$115,000. This firm acted as architects for the present Hanstein School building.

George Haas has been selected to act as architect for the new school to be built on Kercheval site in Grosse Pointe Park. Mr. Haas was designer of the proposed school which was stopped by injunction in 1921. In view of the fact that many of the detailed drawings for the first plan can be used in the newer plans Mr. Haas is making the School Board a concession of \$2000 on his fee.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Printed once a month as the official publication of the Citizens Association of Grosse Pointe Township, under the authority of the following board of directors:

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The Village of Grosse Pointe Shores will soon erect an auxiliary building in the rear of their village hall. The construction will cost approximately \$9,000.

In the Village of Grosse Pointe Park sidewalks have been ordered in on both sides of Kercheval Avenue.

Essex Drive has been opened up thru the property in the center of the Windmill Point Subdivision. The Edison Company will use this highway for an artery in their wiring system.

Pavement has been completed on Lakeview and Moran Roads in the Farms. The Kerby Road pavement is in process of construction.

Frank Harris, living on Lake Shore Road just south of Vernier Road, was recently rendered a favorable court decision upon his right to sell products in the front of his premises. A Village zoning ordinance effective two years hence will subsequently stop all business enterprises in this neighborhood.

NEW TRAFFIC

ORDINANCES SOON

"Stop" signs painted on the pavements at various places in Grosse Pointe have caused many citizens to wonder if a "Through Traffic Street" law is in effect here such as is operative in the City of Detroit.

At the present time there is no law in effect anywhere in the Township regulating the right of way at any street intersections.

However, because of the proximity to Detroit the Villages have always aimed to have their traffic rulings conform as much as possible to those of the metropolis, and so in Grosse Pointe Park and the Village of Grosse Pointe ordinances are now pending that will make Jefferson, Kercheval, and Mack Avenues "Through Traffic Streets."

Detroit does not make Kercheval a through traffic street but local police records show there are more traffic accidents on Kercheval Avenue than any other street in the villages and the precaution is taken in an endeavor to remedy this condition.

As another important provision of the ordinances, all vehicles entering any highway from a driveway will have to come to a complete stop before crossing the side-walk.

The penalties for violation are a fine not to exceed \$100, or imprisonment not to exceed 90 days, or both at court discretion.

Grosse Pointe Village will have its ordinance in effect about the middle of October, and the Park before this time. Proper notices will be posted at various points of advantage to observers and will appear some twenty days before the ordinances become operative. While the ordinances pending in the two adjacent villages are virtually the same they will be acted upon by the respective councils at different dates and consequently will not become effective at the same time.

GROSSE POINTE WITHOUT HIGH SCHOOL SITE PEOPLE RESCIND JOHNSON'S PROPOSAL

At a special meeting of the Electors and the Board of the Rural Agricultural School District No. 1, County of Wayne, held at the Cadioux School on August the 29, 1923, action was taken to annul all progress made to date in the selection of a high and intermediate school site.

Last January our School Board selected the Jane Fisher tract of land, or what is known as the Newberry property, consisting of approximately twenty-two acres on the Boulevard and Fisher Road after a careful study of the price of land per acre, proximity to center of population, intermediate point of five cent street railway fares, freedom from standing buildings, drainage, and contour and shape of land.

The Board submitted this site to the voters at a special meeting and it was accepted, and proper notice of this action filed at Lansing.

However, the Rural Agricultural School Act provides the right of appeal of ten or more school electors of any Rural Agricultural District who feel themselves aggrieved by any action of their School Board. The appeal must be made to the Superintendent of Public Instruction whose decision under the law then in effect, was declared to be final.

Such an appeal on the selection of the Newberry property was made by a group of resident property holders in the neighborhood of the proposed site. Mr. Johnson sent a representative to hold a hearing of the case within the bounds of the school district. As a result of this hearing Mr. Johnson's appointee declared himself favorably impressed with the site selected by the School Board and the people. However, in his report to his superior the appointee recommended a reduction in the area to be purchased, but not a change in the location of the site.

Mr. Johnson's reply to our School Board was not forthcoming for many months. Only after repeated urgent letters and finally the threat of a mandamus suit did he make an official reply. August, eight months after the site was approved by the people.

Mr. Johnson wrote a letter in which he "set aside" the property as selected. The principal reason assigned was that the cost of the site would be too high. As a substitute he designated a site some 200 feet to the north-east on the same street and car line, known as the Dyar property.

Thereupon the School Board called a special meeting of the electors on August 29 at the Cadioux School. The matter was reviewed by the Board and Mr. Johnson's communications read. The atmosphere of the meeting was one of indignation. Several speeches were made. One citizen said he thought the recommendation set forth by Mr. Johnson was an insult to the intelligence of the people of Grosse Pointe and their School Board. It was mentioned that a condemnation jury would put the same price upon the Dyar property that they would upon the Jane Fisher lot and the shape of the Dyar land was too irregular to permit a school development suitable to the ideals of our community.

The meeting expressed itself in a unanimous resolution that rescinded the original resolution by which the electors in January authorized a high school site. Therefore, the site proposed by Mr. Johnson in his report was automatically rejected.

The situation now stands as it was before any site was under consideration.

SCHOOL FUND DEPOSIT

The Rural Agricultural School Board for District No. 1, County of Wayne, has on deposit in various Banking institutions the aggregate sum of \$392,150.53 as shown by the audited report of the Treasurer for the fiscal year to July 1, 1922. The amount of cash on hand is large at this time because the building fund for the proposed school that was stopped by an injunction in 1921, remains in the treasury.

The sums deposited to the credit of the building funds total \$256,756.62, which amount is bringing interest at the rate of two to three per cent. The bonds by which this money was raised carry 6% interest.

The School funds are deposited as follows:

American State Bank;	
Commercial Acct.	\$18,791.82
*Savings Acct.	52,937.24
Savings Acct.	31,792.16
Grosse Pointe Savings Bank;	
Commercial Acct.	3,650.37
Savings Acct.	31,000.00
*Savings Acct.	104,234.26
First National Company;	
†Savings Acct.	38,000.00
Wayne County and Home Savings Bank;	
*Savings Acct.	2,496.11
†Savings Acct.	53,200.18
People's State Bank;	
*Commercial Acct.	500.00
*Savings Acct.	45,884.94
Detroit Trust Company;	
†Savings Acct.	4,163.45
Liberty Bonds	
†Investment	5,000.00
	\$392,150.53

Items marked * are a part of the building fund; those marked † are of the sinking fund.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Note: The Association will endeavor to answer any questions citizens may wish to know about Grosse Pointe Township. Mail questions to Secretary Citizens Association, Grosse Pointe.

M. M. What is the State law on weed cutting?

Answer. In the case of noxious weeds the State acting thru the Township holds the property owner liable. The law requires that all noxious weeds be cut down once before the first day of July and again before the first day of September. The law has a provision that in case the weeds are neglected by the property holder the Township shall cause the weeds to be cut and a tax levied, cost plus ten per centum, against the owner in the same manner as other taxes are collected.

O. W. What are the speed laws in the four Villages of Grosse Pointe?

Answer. In all four Villages the speed regulations are the same as in the City of Detroit. The law states a limit of 15 miles per hour but police have full jurisdiction of arrest for dangerous driving, and unless traffic conditions are very crowded they do not consider any speed under twenty miles an hour fast driving.

H. B. Can any citizen review the Village or Township documents?

Answer. Yes. The law states "That the officers having the custody of any county, city, or township records in this State, shall upon request furnish proper and reasonable facilities for the inspection and examination of the records and files in their respective offices and for making memoranda of transcripts therefrom during the usual business hours which shall not be less than four hours per day to all persons having occasion to make examination

of them for any lawful purpose."

A. M. How did Grosse Pointe Farms remove the bathing nuisance on their shores?

Answer. The stopping of public bathing in Grosse Pointe Farms was not brought about by any special act or ordinance. In this village the police have power of regulating all traffic conditions, and when the bathers became a nuisance, not only because of their numbers and their conduct in some cases, but because of congestion in parking their cars, the police prohibited parking in this neighborhood, and the practice of public bathing by thousands of Detroiters for the past two years was done away with. The village has been very lenient with bathers on village property in the past and they were not molested until the practice became objectionable and regulations became expedient.

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

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Detroit, Michigan
Permit No. 335