

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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NUMBER 4

## SIXTH ANNUAL DRIVE FOR COMMUNITY FUND

The sixth annual Community Fund Campaign will be conducted in Detroit and environs during the week from October 29 to November 6. The drive will be for the sum of \$2,500,000.

The amount to be raised is \$500,000 more than last year's budget. The increase is for a planned broadening of the scope of work in some very much distressed quarters of Detroit. For example, the Department of Health reports that at the present time there are 4730 cases of tuberculosis under their watching and but 750 beds available for the care of such cases. The Community Fund organization, if successful in raising the extra \$500,000, will take a section in the heart of the east side down town district comprising a population of 21,000 and put on a rigid campaign to blot out tuberculosis in this area, and plans to extend this work in the future to all districts where the disease is common.

There are other new plans in existence. The Community Fund sponsors 65 local organizations of public aid at the present time.

In Grosse Pointe they maintain the Cottage Hospital, The Mutual Aid, and The Neighborhood Club.

Mrs. John S. Newberry, Mrs. Henry B. Joy, and Mrs. Chas. A. Dean, Jr. are among those to head districts or teams in Division D of the drive which is the division that takes in the eastern section of the County.

Twelve Grosse Pointe citizens are members of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Community Fund. Many others are active on committees.

Grosse Pointe has always been a very great help to the Community Fund, and will no doubt play a vital part in putting the sixth annual drive over with its increased quota of \$500,000.

## NEW DOCK NOW READY

The municipal dock at the foot of the park in the Village of Grosse Pointe, which has been in the process of construction since last winter, is now completed and ready for public use. A bond issue for the construction of the dock was authorized a year ago last July against considerable opposition.

The structure is eight and one-third feet wide and 650 feet long from the beach to its extreme easterly point. There are 600 feet of straight walk going out into the lake, then a turn of 110 feet towards the south, and again 100 feet towards the west. These two angles form an inclosure or harbor 140 feet across, protected on two sides, and partly on the third, and open towards the shore line.

The construction is of sturdy white oak timbers supported by piles 12 inches in diameter and with a deck of 3 by 12 inch planks. Two clusters of spring piles protect the outer corners of the dock from ice flows.

The harbor has storm protection derived from closely driven piles in that portion of the dock forming its outline, and on the northeast and east this close column work is filled up with what are termed "one man stones," i. e., rocks weighing from 25 to 100 pounds. The westerly extension of 100 feet, which forms the southern outline of the harbor, is not filled in with stone; but this portion of the dock is so constructed as to make such work possible if it is found that south winds create a "rough sea" within the harbor.

The cost of construction was covered by a \$10,000 bond issue of ten years duration.

The actual cost of the dock as charged by the contractor was \$9,899.

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## SPECIAL ELECTION

This being the Fall season of an odd numbered year there are no general elections or primaries to take place.

However the Village of Grosse Pointe Park will hold a special election Monday, November 5. Polls open at 7 A. M. and close at 8 P. M.

There will be two 30-year bond issues before the electors at this time. One is for \$65,000.00 for installing water mains on Mack, Kercheval, and Essex Drive and the other is for \$48,000.00 with which to purchase the property to the south of and contiguous to the Village Hall site.

## AUDITED SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

The financial report for the year ending July 9th, 1923 of the Rural Agricultural School District 1 of Wayne County as audited has been filed at Lansing by the Secretary of the School Board.

The Secretary, Charles Paye, of 468 Cadieux Road has a supply of copies of the report printed for distribution and will send one to any citizen making application.

The report appears in the form of a balance sheet showing totals in receipts and expenditures.

The total receipts for the fiscal school year amounted to \$530,749.15 inclusive of a balance on hand July 10, 1922 of \$79,644.35. The total expenditures for the same period were \$140,922.78. This leaves a balance on hand July 1923 of \$389,826.37 of which \$138,245.78 is of general fund.

## Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Consulting Editor,

H. P. Breitenbach.

Editor,

Lincoln Maire.

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:

H. P. Breitenbach, Pres.; Dr. L. E. Maire, Vice Pres.; Wm. M. Mertz, Sec.; Jos. L. Hickey, Treas.; J. J. Crowley, Chas. Parcels, and Oscar Webber.

### A LETTER

A few days ago the Civic News received a letter from a very highly respected citizen of Grosse Pointe which reads in part as follows:

"I want to congratulate you on the little publication called Civic News No. 3, of which I have received a copy, and presume that there was a publication No. 1 and No. 2, which I have not seen, but in any event this one number is sufficient to demonstrate that this publication is in very competent hands.

"It states facts clearly and concisely without argument, in an intelligible way, and its continued circulation will undoubtedly be beneficial to the whole community."

The letter coming unsolicited at a time when our paper is in its infancy and in an experimental stage is encouraging. The sponsors of this paper have spent a great deal of thought in getting up a publication that will give citizens important civic news of the Township in a clear, concise manner. Naturally they have wondered if their method was successful, and such encouraging statements as the above lead them to believe that they are on the right track.

Continued from page 1, col. 2

The privileges are limited to residents of Grosse Pointe Village. As yet no docking regulations have been devised, but the village plans to enact suitable restrictions as needed.

## SOME "FOLLOW-THRUS"

Often a situation described in an issue of the Civic News will be pending, in which case the reader of these columns will expect to be kept informed on the subject as matters develop. Here are a few "follow-thrus" which aim to gather up the loose ends of some of the questions previously discussed.

1. The "through" traffic ordinance as explained in our last issue has been passed by the Council in the Village of Grosse Pointe and becomes effective October 15, 1923.

The same ordinance was postponed by the Council in Grosse Pointe Park. Motorists are expected to slow down in making turns into main thorough-fares in this Village but as yet an actual stop is not required.

2. Highland Park and Grosse Pointe Farms have not yet reached any conclusion on the intended purchase of the Water Pumping station. The large amount of detail encountered in the exchange of the property in question makes negotiations very slow.

3. In regard to the high school situation, a petition is now being circulated asking the school board to take early action in selecting a site.

4. A condemnation jury has completed proceedings on the John Berry property on the northeast corner of Jefferson and Maryland Avenues. The jury set the price at \$48,000.00.

## HANSTEIN SCHOOL WINS HONOR

The children of the Hanstein School have brought credit to their teachers and honor to themselves by winning the 100% health habits banner in competition with the schools of Wayne County.

The contest was conducted under the auspices of a department in the Detroit Community Fund.

## SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The five public schools in the township, namely, the Trombly Hanstein, Cadieux, Kerby, and Vernier, start the present school year with an aggregate enrollment of 1117 students.

The Cadieux School has a high school course that takes in the eleventh grade and next year will handle the twelfth also and will be on the University of Michigan list. The present junior and senior high school enrollment at the Cadieux School is 264. Of this number 68 are in the ninth grade, 31 in the tenth, and 7 in the eleventh.

The eleventh grade class is abnormally small because this is the first year the school has had this grade. Under usual conditions, the school will have a graduating class of about twenty students.

## BUILDING COMMITTEE REVIEWS PLANS

The building committee appointed by the school board at their annual meeting in July 1922 considered the plans prepared by the architects on the Hanstein School addition and on the proposed school for precinct 2 to be built on Kercheval Avenue and Nottingham Road.

The plans for the building of the addition met with approval, but the plans on the new school were considered by the committee too elaborate in some respects and a simpler arrangement was recommended.

The new drain sewer running from the Black Marsh Ditch north on Bedford Road and the Russell Farm into the northeast section of the City of Detroit is now complete within one block of Harper Avenue. In the event of the Black Marsh Ditch being deepened all that section of Detroit drained by this sewer will be assessed for a portion of the cost.

# The Black Marsh Ditch In Probate Court

The matter of deepening the Black Marsh Ditch has passed thru the petition stage, into the office of the County Drain Commissioner, and is now before the Probate Court.

Two years ago when a property holder at the mouth of Fox Creek caused embarrassment to boat owners coming in and out of the Creek many of the citizens owning boats formed themselves into an Association which initiated a petition for the deepening and the establishment of the bed in Fox Creek and the Black Marsh Ditch. The result of this activity was that the Grosse Pointe Health Board felt it advisable to get an opinion of the State Sanitary Engineer on the conditions existing. This State Department referred the matter to the County Drain Commissioner for investigation and action. Then a petition was presented to all the property holders concerned and more than a majority signed in favor of the deepening. This brought the matter to the Probate Court for a decision.

Court proceedings have been postponed and meanwhile a complication has come up thru the recent passing of a law that puts the act of determining the excavations of drains in the hands of a disinterested committee and not a jury as under the old law.

The new law was approved May 25, 1923 and became effective three months after.

There is an urgent demand among the citizens of the township to have a jury appointed and a hearing given, and these citizens feel that inasmuch as the subject was advanced to the Probate Court before the new law became effective they have the privilege of the older regulation.

On October 3 the Court postponed the case until October 16 at 2 P. M., at which date it is believed the Court will decide upon the appointment of 12 disinterested jurymen or of a special committee.

In the office of the County Drain Commissioner one may see an engineer's plan of the prospective excavation of the Black Marsh Ditch and get a comprehensive idea of the work in view.

The profile of the ditch bed drawn to scale on blue print exhibits an unevenness that resemble the teeth of a saw. These bumps or mounds at frequent points have been formed by the banks caving in and by deposits at the ends of drains. They cause the water to form in pockets during the dry seasons creating an unsanitary condition.

The plan in view is to dig the bed to a single level 6 feet below the surface of the lake water. This would necessitate only shallow digging for a mile or so at either end of the drain. Excavation work in Grosse Pointe Park and the Shores would be very light compared with that at the center of the township. Near the Cook Road the bed is now over three feet above lake level and here the excavation would need to be more than nine feet.

The Drain Commissioner, Mr. Dingeman, feels certain that a current would be established in the event of deepening, but does not think the excavation would be permanent. The depth would have to be maintained by cleaning out or redigging from time to time. According to estimate the cost of excavation would be slightly over \$200,000. The money for the work would be raised by a special tax spread upon the property receiving benefit from the drain and would be commensurate with the amount of benefit received. The area drained extends considerably north of Gratiot Avenue. In all probability the work would be done as far as the Cadieux Road by a river dredge starting at Milk River. From this point on, a lateral dredging system would be used because of the number of bridges and the small amount of digging to be done.

Dr. Warren, as health officer,

takes the position that something ought to be done to improve the unsanitary conditions that now exist. The nature of the improvement he believes is a matter for civil engineers to determine. Justice Robert Trombly, under whose direction the Ditch was first dug in 1875-6, is opposed to the deepening project. As township drain commissioner fifty years ago, he made the first survey of the drain situation and lined out the present course of the ditch. This survey shows only a fraction of an inch fall from Milk River to Fox Creek. The ditch has been dredged three times. After the last digging in 1908, Grosse Pointe suffered an epidemic of 60 typhoid cases. Dr. Belanger with a committee of three other physicians made an investigation which revealed the presence of typhoid bacteria in the disturbed muddy water. In these days a great deal of the drinking water was gotten from wells.

The Judge has seen three unsuccessful attempts to get a flow thru the ditch and believes the proposed deepening would not effect a permanent improvement.

## ADVERTISING FOR BIDS

Bids on public construction in Grosse Pointe Township are advertised in the following ways:

Grosse Pointe Village uses the Michigan Contractor and Builder; and the Detroit Legal News; Grosse Pointe Farms uses the Detroit Legal News; Grosse Pointe Shores uses the Detroit News. In the case of the Township and the School District bids for contractors are obtained by direct solicitation.

The new consolidated district in Redford Township voted in August to bond for \$375,000.00 for new buildings.

The pavement construction is completed on the Kerby Road.

The village of Grosse Pointe is advertising for bids on 10,000 square feet of side walk.

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.*

E. W. Is vehicle traffic required to stop with the street cars in Grosse Pointe?

Answer. Yes. There is a state law recently enacted and now effective that requires traffic to come to a complete stop behind a standing street car headed in the same direction that passengers are entering or leaving and to remain stopped until passengers have cleared the road. In cases where safety zones are used it is considered that passengers have cleared the road when they remain within the zone. This ruling is easily understood with reference to the street car

conditions south of the Fisher Road.

In the Farms it is difficult to say just how this law bears upon south bound traffic. In the Shores the car tracks are separate from the road and no stop is required in either direction.

B. W. Is a voter limited in the time he may take for voting his ballot?

Answer. "The board of inspectors of election may make such regulations as they deem proper, reasonably limiting the time in which an elector may remain in the room or booth while preparing and voting his ballot."

N. N. What is the legal and proper proceedings by which one municipality may annex another?

Answer. Both municipalities

must desire the annexation. The first step is the circulation of petitions among the electors of the districts involved which, when signed by one percentum of the population, as determined by the last federal census, will call for an election by the people. A majority of the votes determines the issue. The several municipalities must vote separately. If a portion of a district votes in favor of being annexed to another that portion is annexed. See "Compiled Laws for State of Michigan 1915, 1-5190, Act 3309, Section 6, page 1259."

A. M. Have the villages in Grosse Pointe building codes?

Answer. Yes. This will be taken up at length in a future issue.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

**CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**  
**GROSSE POINTE, MICH.**

1 c Paid  
Detroit, Michigan  
Permit No. 335

"A popular Government without popular information, or a means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy."

JAMES MADISON.

Mr. Bernard B. Vogt,  
696 Cadieux Rd.,  
Grosse Pte. Village, Mich.

*[Handwritten scribbles and signatures, including a large 'N' and a signature that appears to be 'J. B. Vogt']*