

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

VOL. 2

JULY, 1924

NUMBER 1

ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

JULY 14, 1924

On Monday, July 14, from 12 o'clock noon to 8 P. M. the annual school election will be held.

The school electors residing in precinct No. 2, which comprises the Village of Grosse Pointe Park, will vote at the municipal building on Jefferson Avenue at Maryland.

The school electors of precinct No. 1, which is comprised of Grosse Pointe Village and that area of the school district north of it to Harper Avenue in the Township of Gratiot, will vote at the Cadieux School on St. Clair Avenue.

The electors residing in precinct No. 3, which comprises the Farms and the area north of it to the Durross Road, will vote in the village hall on the Kerby Road.

The electors residing in precinct No. 4 or the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores and the area north of it within the limits of the school district, will vote at the municipal building, Lake Shore and Vernier Roads.

Only a qualified school elector can vote. Any citizen of voting age who has resided in the school district for a period of three months, and is a tax payer, or is the parent or guardian of a child of school age, is a qualified elector.

All qualified school electors should register on Saturday, July 12; and all school electors are urged to vote without fail on Monday, July 14, whether previously registered or not.

From every point of view the coming school election should challenge the active interest of every school elector. The business of the school board in this district is perhaps the most important public business in Grosse Pointe at the present time. The policies of our school board in the immediate future will very much determine the character of our educational system for years to come.

Candidates

Two school trustees will be elected at the coming election. The following persons have qualified as candidates: George Defer, Edward J. Hickey, Charles A. Poupard and Edward J. Tucker.

It is the custom of the CIVIC NEWS to give a few essential facts about each candidate running for any office within the township.

George Defer resides at 15223 Jefferson Avenue in the Village of Grosse Pointe Park. He has been active in the political life of Grosse Pointe Township for many years. He is now serving as president of the Village of Grosse Pointe Park, also as president of the school board of this district. He is a candidate for re-election.

Edward J. Hickey resides at 16424 Jefferson in the Village of Grosse Pointe Park. He is proprietor of the E. J. Hickey Company, at 1533 Washington Boulevard. Mr. Hickey has been one of the leading merchants and business men of Detroit for many years. For the past two years he has rendered valuable service as a member of the building committee in this school district.

Charles Poupard has been in public office in Grosse Pointe for many years, and is a much respected citizen. He resides at 382 St. Clair Avenue in the Village of Grosse Pointe. He is a member of the present school board and is a candidate for re-election. As the present Supervisor of the township he is chairman of the township board.

Edward J. Tucker lives at 54 Kerby Road in the Village of Grosse Pointe Farms. He conducts an ice business in Grosse Pointe. Mr. Tucker has not been a holder of public office, but ran for school trustee in 1923.

The CIVIC NEWS has asked the candidates to make public statements for the benefit of our readers.

Following are the statements received:

"I can only say that if the people of Grosse Pointe Township elect me a member of the school board I will do my utmost to have the business of the board conducted along strictly business lines and shall endeavor to give the people the best schools possible."

(Signed) Edward J. Hickey.

"If re-elected to the school board I will endeavor to carry out the work to be done to the best of my ability. I solicit votes of electors on the strength of my work in the past."

(Signed) Charles A. Poupard.

"If the people of Grosse Pointe elect me to the school board I will fight for adequate buildings and efficient teaching."

(Signed) Edward J. Tucker.

The CIVIC NEWS has been unable to get in touch with Mr. Defer who is out of town on a prolonged stay.

THE ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING

The annual school meeting will be held in the Cadieux School on the evening of July 14, following the school election.

The budget for the coming year will be presented to the people for their approval and the annual reports of the board will be read.

This meeting has had a large attendance in the past two years and because of its great importance this year it is expected that many citizens will avail themselves of this opportunity to meet with the school board in the consideration of the business for the year.

The survey of the school board as reported by the Bureau of Governmental Research and printed in the last issue of the CIVIC NEWS should aid the electors in familiarizing themselves with the school situation.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

H. P. Breitenbach, Consulting Editor.
Lincoln Maire, Editor.

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, President.
Dr. L. E. Maire, Vice-President.
Wm. M. Mertz, Secretary.
Jos. L. Hickey, Treasurer.
Mrs. H. H. Sanger Chas. Parcels
Raymond K. Dykema

ABOUT THE BUREAU

On March 22, 1916, the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research was organized as the representative of busy citizens in keeping track of public acts and tax dollars.

It is apparent that the modern municipality has practically all the problems of the modern industry—financing activities, selecting employees, purchasing, disbursing, caring for property, etc.

Furthermore, a municipality has the additional problems of assessments and collection of taxes; operation of police, courts, and prisons; control of disease and living conditions; street cleaning; the handling of public waste, public recreation and the task of making itself responsive to the will and needs of the community.

Under these circumstances there would appear the same need for research in, and publicity of improved methods of administering government, as there is for discovering and publishing improved methods in industry.

If governmental costs are to be made reasonable, and governmental operations to be made efficient, it is necessary that thorough-going study be substituted for general criticism of old methods and ignorance of new ones.

With our congestion of population and traffic, higher standards of living, increasing humanitarianism and scientific development the per capita cost of government in every large municipality has increased and public debts advanced until government, formerly simple and cheap, has necessarily grown to be technical and costly.

To keep in touch with the public servants responsible for each of

these activities, to know how each public dollar is gotten and spent, and to judge the effectiveness with which each technical public task is performed, is more than any one citizen can undertake.

Effective government cannot result unless the public can criticize from facts rather than from misinformation.

It has been the practice with the Bureau, when consistent with Detroit requirements, to undertake a limited amount of work for other communities at their expense.

The people of Grosse Pointe were exceptionally fortunate in getting the services of the Bureau for a survey of our governmental activities without expense.

This generosity was perhaps prompted by the presence of the following five Grosse Pointe citizens on the Bureau's board of directors: Sidney T. Miller, Joseph J. Crowley, Frederick T. DuCharme, Eugene W. Lewis and Fred T. Murphy.

The portion of the survey that pertains to the schools of Grosse Pointe published in the last issue of the Civic News should be read and studied closely by every school elector in our district.

The Citizens' Association is proud to sponsor and distribute this splendid addition to our public annals.

Its value to our citizenship is untold. The benefits derived therefrom are entirely up to us.

The Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research has done its part well.

MAUMEE "STOP-STREET"

Maumee Avenue in the Village of Grosse Pointe is now a "Through Traffic Street."

At a recent meeting of the council of the Village the ordinance designating Jefferson, Kercheval and Mack Avenues as "Through traffic streets" was amended so as to include the newly paved thoroughfare of Maumee.

Stop signs have been painted at the intersections in conspicuous points.

The amendment becomes effective July 15, 1924.

RE-REGISTRATION

The law requires a complete re-registration of all electors every fourth, or presidential year, and this re-registration will be held in the township of Grosse Pointe during the summer of 1924.

From June 1st until August 20th (inclusive) qualified electors may register at the Clerk's office, 468 Cadieux Road. The office will be open from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M. daily, according to notices posted. Those electors who do not qualify at the clerk's office during the period mentioned, may be registered at the booth located in their voting districts on any one of the five days the booths are open—namely July 12, August 2, 21, 22, and 23, from 8 A. M. to 4 P. M.

The qualifications for registration and voting, as defined by the constitution, require that persons shall have obtained the age of twenty-one, be citizens of the United States, residents of the State for a period of six months, and of the township and precinct for twenty days, prior to any election. Naturalized citizens should be in a position to furnish information as to the time when, and place where final or second papers were granted, and it would facilitate matters if such papers were presented when making application for registration.

All electors desiring to vote at the fall primaries to be held September 9, 1924, must re-register during the period above mentioned, either at the clerk's office or at the booth. Electors failing to do so will not be allowed to vote at the fall primary, notwithstanding the fact that they may have registered for, and voted at previous elections.

Registration for School Election

On July 12 a school registration will be held for Rural Agricultural School District No. 1, Wayne County, at the time and places for the first public township re-registration. Electors registering with the township on this day should avail themselves of this opportunity to register with the school district at the same time.

STATE TAX COMMISSION

The action of the State Tax Commission in raising the valuations of Grosse Pointe Township on the aggregate thirty-three and one-third per cent and in some instances raising parcels of land one hundred per cent over the assessments of last year has startled the taxpayers of Grosse Pointe.

Following are some typical examples of the Tax Commission's work:

In the Wind Mill Pointe subdivision Lot 494 was assessed last year at \$10,500 and was raised to \$17,000. Lot 863 was valued in 1923 at \$23,000 and is now assessed at \$40,000. Lot 879 was \$28,000 last year and was raised to \$52,000.

In Grand Marais, Lot 44 last year was valued at \$6,000. It is now assessed at \$11,250.

A premises on the lake front in the Village of Grosse Pointe Park was raised from \$139,000 to \$205,000.

A premises in the Village of Grosse Pointe was raised from \$71,000 to \$119,000.

In Grosse Pointe Shores Subdivision, Lot 129 was assessed in 1923 for \$2,200 and is now \$4,000. Lot 121 was raised from \$2,000 to \$4,000 or an even 100 per cent.

On Beverly Road one premises was raised from \$54,000 to \$97,000 and another from \$39,000 to \$60,200.

On this same street the vacant property was assessed for \$175.00 per front foot.

One owner of this property has made a sworn statement as follows: "Said deponent says that he has offered this land to certain real estate men at \$85 per foot and that he stands now ready and willing to sell said lands at \$85 per foot."

This and scores of other affidavits and complaints were filed with the supervisor in hopes that he and the Board of Review could alter the situation by compromising with the Tax Commission. The Board of Review altered only those figures that affidavits of taxpayers indicated an assessment above the cash value of the property. Other than this the figures of the Commission were accepted.

The Citizens' Association has appointed a committee to investigate the matter. The committee is proceeding in a methodical manner to collect data and to get accurate legal interpretation on the jurisdiction of the State Tax Commission.

The personnel of the Tax Commission is as follows: W. S. Linton, chairman, Saginaw; Nathan F. Simpson, Hartford; George W. Lord, Detroit, and Benjamin F. Burtless, secretary, Lansing.

The total assessment on the township in 1923 was \$62,158,890, and the State Tax Commission raised this figure to \$86,009,089 for 1924.

Following are two newspaper extracts of significant bearing upon the subject. It is obvious from these items that the startling increase in valuation placed upon the property holders of Grosse Pointe Township are by no means universal in the state at the present time.

Manistee to Cut Tax Valuation \$5,000,000

Special to the Free Press.

Manistee, Mich., June 24.—The equalization committee of the Manistee county board of supervisors hopes to complete the lopping off of \$5,000,000 from the county's valuation, Wednesday, a task upon which it engaged today after Chairman R. R. Ramsdell demanded that the cut be made. The reduction of \$5,000,000 in the county's valuation would be 25 per cent under the 1918 valuation, as established by the board of state tax commissioners, and approximately 38 per cent under last year's valuation of \$17,725,072.

Township Assessment Cut by Monroe County

Special to the Free Press.

Monroe, Mich., June 27.—The board of supervisors meeting here today adopted the minority report of the committee on equalization as amended, giving a three per cent cut to the townships on their assessed valuation. The assessed valuation of Monroe county is now fixed at \$48,780,334. The assessed valuation of Berlin township was set at \$2,543,810 instead of \$2,867,704. There was no change made in the assessment of Monroe city.

TAXES DUE

The village taxes in the four villages of Grosse Pointe are now due and payable at the respective municipal buildings.

In the Village of Grosse Pointe there will be no collection fee added and the tax collection will be without penalty until August 15, or until a date of extension fixed by the Council. Thereafter will be added a flat penalty of 2 per cent. Taxes will be payable under this penalty for three months at which time the tax roll will be turned over to the county treasurer.

In Grosse Pointe Farms the taxes are due and payable without penalty until July 31. Thereafter a charge of 1 per cent each month will be added and such charge rendered in the statements as a collection fee until the tax roll is turned over to the county treasurer.

In Grosse Pointe Park the taxes will be due within 10 days and for 30 days thereafter payable without penalty. About August 10 a 2 per cent penalty will be added for a period of 60 days, after which the rolls will be given to the county treasurer.

In the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores a 1 per cent collection fee is charged in the month of July. Thereafter a 3 per cent collection is added until the tax rolls are turned over to the county treasurer.

In all cases where village taxes are paid to the county treasurer a delinquent fee of 4 per cent will be added and a $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent interest charged.

Taxes in Grosse Pointe Park are payable to the village treasurer at the municipal building on Jefferson at Maryland Avenue; in the Village of Grosse Pointe at the municipal building on Roosevelt Place near Maumee Avenue; in the Farms at the municipal building on the Kerby Road, and in the Shores at Lake Shore and Vernier Road.

The Citizens' Association is in no way responsible for the circulation of any literature in Grosse Pointe other than that which has appeared through the pages of this paper.

OUR LOCAL OFFICERS**Grosse Pointe Township Officers**

Supervisor.....Chas. A. Poupard
 Clerk.....Chas. A. Paye
 Treasurer.....Edmund C. Vernier
 Justice.....Noah G. Paye
 Justice.....John R. Kerby
 Justice.....Robert Trombly

Village Officers**Grosse Pointe Park**

President.....George Defer
 Clerk.....Waldo J. Berns
 Treasurer.....Clyde C. Burgess
 Assessor.....Edmond F. Poupard

Grosse Pointe Village

President.....Richard P. Connor
 Clerk.....Norbert P. Neff
 Treasurer.....Julius A. Stork
 Assessor.....Napoleon E. Desrocher

Grosse Pointe Farms

President.....Theodore Beaupre
 Clerk.....John R. Kerby
 Treasurer.....Walter A. Allard
 Assessor.....William C. Seaman

Grosse Pointe Shores

President.....George Osius
 Clerk.....William C. Roney
 Treasurer.....A. H. Bennett
 Assessor.....H. B. Hoyt
 Assessor.....C. J. Chandler
 Assessor.....Ford Ballantyne

OUR TOWNSHIP AND**VILLAGE BOARDS****Grosse Pointe Township Board**

Supervisor.....Chas. A. Poupard
 Office 382 St. Clair Road
 Clerk.....Chas. A. Paye
 Office 468 Cadioux Road
 Justice.....John R. Kerby
 Justice.....Robert Trombly

Board of Health

Frank W. Hubbard.....President
 606 Penobscot Bldg.
 Dr. A. J. Neumann.....Secretary
 Dr. F. C. Kidner.....Treasurer
 John H. French
 Dr. B. H. Warren.....Health Officer
 315 Fisher Road

School Board

George Defer.....President
 Chas. A. Paye.....Secretary
 Office 468 Cadioux Road
 Chas. A. Poupard
 John F. Kerby
 Dr. W. G. Merdian

Board of Review

John F. Kerby.....130 Kerby Road
 Michael C. Beaupre

Village Boards or Councils

Grosse Pointe Park
 Village Hall 15115 E. Jefferson

George Defer, President
 Arthur Scratch
 Samuel Bastian
 Alfred J. Garska
 Theo. Gorenflo, Jr.
 Dr. W. G. Merdian
 John Verlinden

Grosse Pointe Village:
 356 Roosevelt Place

Richard P. Connor, President
 D. M. Ferry, Jr.
 William Fisher
 William C. Bishop
 Edgar Trombly
 Chas. B. Hull

Grosse Pointe Farms:
 Kerby Road

Theo. Beaupre, President
 Jos. Snay
 Barney B. Mason
 Arthur W. Vernier
 Neil McMillan
 William P. Stevens
 Daniel G. Allard

Grosse Pointe Shores:
 Lake Shore and Vernier Roads

George Osius, President
 H. M. Jewett
 Ford Ballantyne
 W. E. Roney
 C. J. Chandler
 Hobart B. Hoyt
 John T. Hurley

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

"Governmental research applies citizen interest for effective and economical government 365 days in a year instead of only on election day."

—The Citizen and the Government.

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

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