

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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NUMBER 3

**SPECIAL
SCHOOL ELECTION
WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 24,
4 P. M. TO 8 P. M.**

SPECIAL ELECTION

A special school election and meeting will be held on September 24 for the purpose of voting upon two bond issues for school sites. The meeting will be opened at 2 P. M. in the Cadieux School and the voting will take place between the hours of 4 P. M. and 8 P. M. in the Cadieux School, the Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Building, the municipal building on the Kerby Road and the municipal building on Lake Shore Road at the Vernier Road.

One of the bond issues will be for \$152,000 for the purchase of a site south of Jefferson at Queen Avenue comprising lots 54 to 63 inclusive in the Windmill Point subdivision.

The other bond issue will be for \$184,000. The site in question comprises a block between the Black Marsh Ditch and Kercheval Avenue from the Cadieux Road to Notre Dame Avenue.

LAND PURCHASE

The council of Grosse Pointe Park recently purchased two lots to the rear of the municipal building on the opposite side of Fox Creek.

The lots face upon an alley and are between the rear property lines of lots facing on Maryland and Lakepointe Avenues.

The property was acquired without condemnation or bond issue for the sum of \$7,840.

The council plans to put buildings upon the land for the storage of the equipment of the highway department. A bridge may be built from the newly acquired property to the municipal grounds.

THROUGH TRAFFIC

The Village of Grosse Pointe Farms recently enacted an ordinance designating as through traffic streets Grosse Pointe Boulevard, Seven Mile Road, Mack Avenue and Lake Shore Road.

Any person operating a vehicle on any street, drive, or alley intersecting one of the above named avenues shall bring such vehicle to a complete stop before entering or crossing the through traffic street excepting where the traffic of an intersection is being directed by an officer.

The stop regulation is not applicable to vehicles operating on the Lake Shore Road across any of the through traffic streets, which means that east and west traffic is not required to stop at the intersection of the Seven Mile Road and the Lake Shore Road.

It is also unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle out any alley or driveway onto any through traffic street without coming to a complete stop before crossing the sidewalk.

Violation of the ordinance is punishable by fine not to exceed \$25 for the first offense, \$50 for the second and \$100 for the third with the customary alternative of imprisonment.

Stop signs have been painted on the pavement at the intersections covered by the ordinance and automatic red and green flash lights warn drivers at the dangerous crossing on the much-travelled Seven Mile Road.

Grosse Pointe Farms is the second village of the township to designate through traffic streets. The Village of Grosse Pointe has also designated the continuation of the three east and west streets named in the above ordinance as through traffic streets.

APARTMENT HOUSE

The property on the south west side of Bishop Road from Jefferson Avenue to the lake is under consideration as a site for a large apartment house.

A promoter of apartment houses has approached the building committee of the Village of Grosse Pointe Park with an elaborate plan for the immediate construction of the first of a series of units to cost \$600,000 or more each.

The apartments, according to his plan, would be sold to the occupants on a contract basis.

All the buildings would have access to Bishop Road and views of the lake.

The village has no zoning law and the building code does not prohibit the construction of apartments, although it restricts all buildings as to height and location in reference to lot lines.

The proposed site is one of very few parcels of unrestricted land in Grosse Pointe village or Grosse Pointe Park. This is a feature which has attracted many families to our community.

The construction of the proposed apartment would mark a new era in home building in Grosse Pointe. While there is one apartment in Grosse Pointe Park, it is situated in a congested area near the city limits. On the other hand, the proposed building would stand in the open landscape in the midst of spacious estates.

At the September primary there were 1163 votes cast in the Village of Grosse Pointe Park. Voting took place in one precinct and continued until late Tuesday evening. The counting was not completed until six o'clock the following day.

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.
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Wm. M. Mertz, Secretary.
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DIGGING THE CREEK

A unique event in the history of the Grosse Pointe Flow Association and its development of Fox Creek took place a few Sundays ago when a number of citizens in the neighborhood of the lower part of the Creek took shovels and excavated at the mouth of the stream.

The workers were organized and all the preparations secretly made. The work was done on a Sunday so that an injunction was impossible. The men worked diligently and in a few hours had cut the sand bar that closed the mouth and threatened the existence of Fox Creek as a navigable stream.

The owner of the land at the corner of the Creek and the Detroit River laid a technical claim to the sand bar that had filled in the entrance. The canal made by the enthusiastic diggers is just large enough to accommodate a small boat, making Fox Creek virtually a navigable stream, and presumably subject to Federal jurisdiction.

The surface of the water in Black Marsh Ditch and Fox Creek during the warm month of August has been green with algae. It is hoped that the improved outlet will better this condition.

The Village of Grosse Pointe is in receipt of an unsigned petition for annexation of the area in the township to the north on the opposite side of Mack Road. The paper of course is unofficial without a required quota of signers.

At the September 9 election the City of Detroit annexed all but three square miles of Gratiot Township.

ADJOURNED SCHOOL MEETING

Budget Presented—Treasurer's Report.

The adjourned annual meeting of the school board held Wednesday, August 13, at the Cadieux School, thirty days after the regular meeting of July 14, was featured by a twenty thousand dollar reduction of the annual budget.

The customary appropriation of \$200,000 was reduced to \$180,000 in spite of an increased teaching staff, the addition of one large school, the enlargement of another and the addition of the twelfth grade to the high school.

Copies of the treasurer's report had been distributed before the meeting.

As soon as the minutes of the previous meeting had been approved a motion was made to reconsider the matter of salaries for the members of the school board. At the July 14 meeting the salaries of trustees had been set at one dollar a year with a proviso for engaging a business manager. The motion to reconsider was passed by a majority vote. The vote was challenged on the qualification of some of those who voted; a motion was made increasing the salaries; several amendments were suggested; a motion to lay the matter on the table was lost. Finally the chair refreshed the clogged atmosphere of the meeting by clearing the table of all motions and amendments and calling for a fresh start.

A motion was then made that each trustee receive \$300 a year, and the treasurer an additional \$700, with no addition for the secretary. It had been stated that the secretary was being compensated through holding office as business manager at a salary of \$2,500 a year. The motion was amended to \$100 for trustees and an additional \$900 for the treasurer. The motion as amended was approved. During the discussion on the motion each member of the board was asked to express an opinion on the motion. Two of the trustees explained that they were not interested in the financial remuneration and were satisfied with the salary of one dollar a year.

Since copies of the treasurer's report were in the hands of the voters present it was considered as read. The report was accepted.

It was suggested that a sum be transferred from the \$112,847 general fund to the sinking fund sufficient to cover the deficit and bring the sinking fund up to the required standard. It was stated that such action would encourage the sale of school bonds.

Trustee Hickey in submitting a report on the budget proposed that the sinking fund be reinforced gradually and recommended adding to it at the rate of \$10,000 a year. He read the budget in itemized form, including \$10,000 for the sinking fund.

The anticipated expenditures for the ensuing year totalled \$272,498.28. From this sum was deducted bank interest and uncollected taxes of Grosse Pointe and Gratiot Townships, leaving a total of \$180,000 for the budget.

The budget was approved and with it the recommendation to add \$10,000 to the sinking fund or a larger sum if the board saw fit.

The meeting went on record as approving of the action of the school board in seeking to secure the high school site now under consideration.

The meeting was conducted in a crowded room. Many electors were required to stand and because of the lack of accommodations some left early. The past few school meetings have thoroughly demonstrated the need of an auditorium.

At the last meeting of directors of the Citizens' Association, the board accepted the resignation of Lincoln Maire as assistant secretary and cashier and appointed to the position Howard Fishack, B. S., M. A., now of the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research.

Stress of business has made it impossible for the writer to continue in this capacity. Mr. Fishack will handle the Civic News beginning with the next issue, and will devote his entire time to the duties of the growing association.

WATER CONTRACT

The water pumping station situated on the Lake Shore Road and the Seven Mile Road, from which three of the villages of Grosse Pointe derive their water supply, has been sold by the Detroit Edison Company to the City of Highland Park and the Village of Grosse Pointe Farms. The final tri-party agreement was signed August 14, 1924.

The total valuation set upon the property by appraisal was \$144,012. The land was valued at \$50,000, improvements \$10,312, and buildings and equipment at \$83,700.

The City of Highland Park paid the Edison Company \$102,701.28 for the buildings, equipment, a share in the intake system and a portion of land the station is on, approximately 90 by 250 feet, with a thirty foot strip to the lake.

The Village of Grosse Pointe Farms paid the Edison Company \$40,310.22 for the rest of the land involved and a share in the intake system. Of this sum \$5,000 was paid upon signing the contract, \$20,000 on September 1, 1924, and the balance at 6 per cent is payable September 1, 1925.

Under a separate agreement Highland Park agrees to pump water for Grosse Pointe for ten years with an option to extend the agreement five years more. The agreement calls for a forty pound pressure in the Grosse Pointe mains. Grosse Pointe Farms is to pay Highland Park \$200 a month as an assured amount and in addition \$14 per million gallons as a water rate. A clause in the contract permits an increase in the rate commensurate with any unforeseen increase in the cost of electrical power for pumping.

Should the demands of the communities tax the capacity of the present crib and intake over 90 per cent, a new intake will be built.

In the event that Grosse Pointe Farms builds a pumping station in the rear of the present station, provision is made for the joint use of the present crib, well house and intake.

The pumping agreement does not provide for the chlorination of wa-

ter. In cases of fire there, a pressure of 80 pounds per square inch or 1600 gallons per minute is guaranteed. The water rate for fire pumping is \$10 for the first hour and \$6 for each succeeding hour.

Grosse Pointe Farms has the first option on the property owned by Highland Park. In case of Highland Park's annexation to Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms has the privilege of purchase at an amount to be determined by a committee of appraisers.

The tri-party transaction succeeds a ten-year agreement which the Edison Company negotiated with the two communities in 1914.

At the time Highland Park had purchased a section of lake front property between the Seven Mile Road and the Provencal Road with the intention of erecting a new pumping station for its own use. To save duplication of construction the Edison Company agreed to pump water to both communities from the one plant. Many improvements to the system were made and a new 36-inch intake extended 2500 feet into the lake.

When the agreement terminated, the Edison Company desired to sell. Grosse Pointe Farms had the first option but did not want a complete purchase. Highland Park's purchase of the equipment and the plant assure pumping at the same rate charged by the Edison Company. The water system will be the same and apparently there will be little change to the consumer.

Additional equipment will bring the capacity of the plant up to the needs of both communities. In the past, Highland Park has been consuming water at the rate of 15 million gallons per day and has been obliged to purchase some of its water from Detroit.

Grosse Pointe's consumption is approximately 10 per cent of Highland Park's and as such does not warrant a separate plant. While there has been a rapid increase in the demand on the water supply in the past few years, the purchased land in the rear of the present plant is large enough for a site for future needs.

PLATTING

The rapid sale of a large subdivision in the Mack Road section of Grosse Pointe Farms has hastened the platting of property in this part of the township.

About two hundred acres of lowlands between Mack Road and the Black Marsh Ditch will be in streets and lots within a year. The wholesale platting with its complications of many property holders and varied proportioned parcels of land presents a real problem to the village.

Unwise acceptance of plats now may result in inconvenience to future residents. Nevertheless there appears to be a danger of this very thing.

The council of Grosse Pointe Farms has recently accepted a plat for a subdivision in the section which divides 365 feet of Mack Road frontage into one and one-half streets 50 feet wide and three tiers of lots from 95.1 feet in depth to 105 feet.

At the time of writing, the plat is before the county auditors. Members of the county board when interviewed on this case expressed surprise that a subdivision of such shallow lots was platted in Grosse Pointe Farms. While the county board expresses disapproval of shallow lots in general they hesitate to reject the plat after it has been accepted by the village.

County Auditor Gutman said it was imperative that the Farms have an engineer survey this whole area and make street recommendations from the standpoint of the public regardless of private claims and property lines. He pointed out that only by such action could jogged crossings and blind streets be avoided. The county auditors would heartily indorse such a step for it is difficult for an auditor to pass accurately on plats when the relative location of present and intended streets is unknown.

Work on the George Defer school is progressing rapidly. It appears that the building will be ready for use before the end of the present term.

SCHOOL OFFICES

Rural Agricultural School District No. 1, County of Wayne, has moved offices into the bank building on the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Rivard Boulevard.

The telephone number of the new office is Hickory 9251 and the suite is number 5.

Secretary and business manager Charles Paye, and Superintendent

W. L. Walling have desks in the office; also Leo C. Graff, recently engaged as office assistant.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The total enrollment for the public schools in Grosse Pointe Township this September is 1366 pupils.

Of this number, 155 are high school students attending Cadieux School. Cadieux School also has an

enrollment of 371 pupils in the grades.

Trombly School has an enrollment of 234 pupils from the kindergarten to the 6-B inclusive.

Kerby School enrollment is 175.

Hanstein School has the largest increase with a total of 340.

Vernier School has 91 pupils.

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

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Permit No. 335

"The public is not short of intelligence;
it is chronically short of facts."

—Robert W. Kelso.

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