

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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NUMBER 4

## COMMUNITY FUND CAMPAIGN

The Seventh Annual Campaign of the Detroit Community Fund for the support of more than seventy local and national charity organizations will be held October 20th to 29th. This year's goal, \$2,750,000, an increase of 10 per cent over 1923, is necessitated by the increased work to be undertaken due to the normal growth of the city. The 1924 campaign figure is based on the following estimates:

Detroit Community Union (for 70 local organizations) .....	\$2,500,000
Detroit Community Fund (Administration) .....	120,000
National Funds (approved relief organizations of national scope) .....	65,000
Reserve .....	65,000
	\$2,750,000

The work of the Detroit Community Fund and the organizations supported by it through the Detroit Community Union is well known to residents of Grosse Pointe. The advantages of a single campaign eliminating more than seventy separate solicitations and the improved methods made possible through the central control of finances is apparent, but the scope of the work carried on by the agencies is not generally known.

During the past year 234,714 persons received aid from agencies supported by the Community Fund. Clinics, hospitals and nursing organizations gave health service to 98,366 persons. Family relief cases covering 48,507 persons were handled, while 12,600 orphans and destitute children were cared for in foster homes and institutions. Character building agencies such as the Boy Scouts; Camp Fire Girls, Y. M.

**NOTICE**  
**GENERAL ELECTION,**  
**NOVEMBER 4, 1924**  
**National, State and County**  
**officers to be elected.**

C. A. and Y. W. C. A. were factors in the lives of 32,188 boys and girls. This brief review of the Community Fund's scope gives some idea of the way your Community Fund dollars worked during the past year.

While Detroit has given liberally to the support of this necessary and worthy task there is still much to be done. As the city continues to grow the many problems of its social agencies increase. The additional subscription asked for this year is necessary in order that Detroit through the Community Fund, may continue in the humanitarian work of caring for its unfortunate.

In addition to a large number of contributors who are residents of Grosse Pointe, there are many citizens of the community who are giving their time to the Community Fund. Among them are sixteen of the thirty-six members of the Board of Directors of the Fund in addition to others who serve on the boards of the various social agencies and campaign workers.

### BUILDINGS SOLD

Buildings on property condemned for the extension of St. Paul Ave. were sold recently at auction by the Clerk of Grosse Pointe Village. A house and garage at 600 Notre Dame Ave. sold for \$1570, the house at 559 St. Claire brought \$425.

Work on extending the street and establishing sidewalk grades will be started in the spring.

## SCHOOL BONDS AUTHORIZED

School bonds to the amount of \$336,000 were authorized by the electors of Rural Agricultural School District No. 1 at a special election held September 24th, the vote being 160 in favor of the issue to 30 against.

These bonds are to be issued to purchase two school building sites; one located on the corner of Essex Blvd. and Nottingham Road, and the other on Kercheval Avenue between Cadieux and Notre Dame Avenues. The Nottingham Avenue site of approximately six acres will cost \$152,000; the site on Kercheval Avenue of over six acres will cost \$184,000.

Bids for the sale of the bonds were opened Tuesday evening October 14th, at the regular meeting of the School Board. Advertisements sent out called for bids on \$336,000 thirty year bonds bearing 4% interest. All bids offered were for less than par value and were rejected by the Board. A readvertisement of the sale calling for bids on bonds of 4% and 4¼% interest was ordered. An adjourned meeting of the School Board to consider bids offered as the result of this advertising will be held October 21st, at 8:00 P. M. in the office of the Superintendent.

This land will be used for elementary building sites and its purchase does not affect the question of a suitable location for a high school.

### STREET LIGHT EXTENSIONS

At the last meeting of the Grosse Pointe Trustees action was taken for the extension of street light service on Lincoln Road from Kercheval to Mack Avenues.

The lights on this installation will be 250 candle power spaced about 125 feet apart.

## Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

H. P. Breitenbach, Consulting Editor.  
H. G. Fishack, 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:

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### ASSESSMENTS IN GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

At the annual meeting of the Citizens Association last June the Board of Directors was instructed to investigate action of the Board of State Tax Commissioners with reference to the township assessment roll for 1924.

The State Board, through one of its representatives, had peremptorily instructed the Township Supervisor to increase assessments of a large number of lots and parcels of real estate in the township. The increases in many cases were drastic; certain of the proposed assessments were believed by the property owners to be considerably above actual values. The action of the State Board, in effect, deprived the Township Supervisor and Board of Review of their function of fixing values. The action was taken in such manner that some taxpayers had no knowledge at all of the proceedings until it was too late to be heard, and others had only short notice.

Investigation by the Association of this tax situation has led to the conclusion that while the specific procedure followed in this instance may not have been in exact accord with the state law, the State Board has general authority over Township assessments.

It is the intention of the Board of Directors to keep itself informed of any future development of similar character and to furnish advance information to citizens through the Civic News.

### REGISTRATION

The state laws of Michigan require the registration of all voters every presidential year. This year a special effort is being made to have every qualified voter register and vote in the fall election. Thru the combined efforts of the city clerk's office, the press, and civic organizations of Detroit 343,736 had been registered up to October 15th. This is a substantial increase over the total registration of four years ago.

Grosse Pointe Township has made an equally good record. The township clerk states that registration in the township will reach 3,000. Altho the exact figures of those registered or of the number of persons who are eligible to register are not obtainable at this time, the township clerk believes that 98% of the voters will be registered.

The final opportunity to register was Saturday, October 18. However people who, on account of sickness or absence from the district were unable to register, may vote by swearing to the fact at their election booths on election day. To qualify, a person must be twenty-one years old, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State six months and of the township or precinct twenty days.

### A REMINDER TO VOTE

A campaign to get citizens throuth the state to register and vote in the coming election is being carried on by the Michigan League of Women Voters. The campaign is solely for the purpose of getting people to the polls. No attempt is made to further the cause of any candidate or party.

At the last presidential election 865,239 eligible voters of the state failed to exercise their franchise. In other words, slightly less than half of the voters did not meet their responsibility as citizens by casting their ballots. If you are one of those who four years ago was willing to let the minority dictate the policies of government, a double duty falls upon you this fall. Be sure and vote and, by encouraging others, be responsible for at least one other vote.

### MUNICIPAL GARAGE AND STOREHOUSE

A further step was taken October 2nd toward the realization of the proposed municipal center for Grosse Pointe Village when bids were opened for the construction of a garage and storehouse on the municipal site bounded by Maumee, Neff, and St. Claire Avenues.

N. E. Desrocher was the lowest of three bidders with a bid of \$8,817.00. An item of \$10,000 for the construction of a garage and store house was included in this year's budget.

The building will be of brick construction, one-story high, thirty feet wide by one hundred feet long. Space will be provided for housing all motor vehicles except those of the fire and police departments and for the storing of all supplies. In the past heads of departments have been forced to store municipal supplies and equipment on their private property.

The problem of providing additional space for the departments of Grosse Pointe Village has been considered for sometime. In 1920 a piece of land 115 by 587 feet was purchased on Maumee Avenue as the site for municipal buildings. Three years later the corner lots adjoining this property at Maumee and Neff Avenues were purchased.

The village trustees have in mind the erection of a municipal building, on this site, large enough to house the police and fire department and administrative offices. The present garage and storehouse will be at the rear of the completed unit.

At present no definite plans for the construction of this municipal building have been made. However, it is the aim of the village trustees to erect a structure in keeping with the character of the community. The building will face Maumee Avenue and will be planned so that it will not be objectionable to adjoining residents.

A cement sidewalk along the south side of Vernier Road extending from Lake Shore Road to the west limits of the Village was recently completed at a cost of 23 cents a square foot.

### WATER MAIN EXTENSIONS

On October 2nd the Village of Grosse Pointe Park opened bids for the extension of water mains on Essex Blvd., Kercheval and Mack Avenues. Lester J. Clancy, the only bidder, was awarded the contract for \$61,731.00. Engineering fees amounting to 5 per cent of the contract price and the expense of inspection, which are additional charges, will bring the total cost of the improvement to approximately \$65,000. Bonds to this amount were authorized by the electors of the village November 5, 1923.

Plans of the work call for a twelve-inch main on Essex Blvd. connecting with the Detroit mains at the city limits and extending to Pemberton Rd., where it will connect with a short line which is a part of the present system. An extension of the present Essex Blvd. main from Westchester Rd. to Trombly Rd. will also be made. The bid on this section of the work was \$8,260.

By far the largest part of the work will be done on Kercheval Ave., where a sixteen-inch main is to be laid from Lakepointe Ave. to Harvard Road. The cost of this portion of the improvement will be \$43,638.

Several short lines of six-inch main on Mack Ave. will connect sections of the present system on that street. The bid on this construction amounted to \$9,833. Connections with the Detroit water supply will be made on Essex Blvd. and Kercheval Ave.

At present an eight inch main along Jefferson Ave. is the only source of water supply for Grosse Pointe Park. The Park is the only village in Grosse Pointe using the Detroit supply and for several years has been handicapped because the Jefferson Ave. main has not been adequate to take care of the rapidly increasing demand. During the past summer frequent complaints have been made of the low pressure. This condition will be corrected as soon as the plan for extensions are put in operation. A system of gridding on cross connections will tie up each supply main with the entire system and will insure to consumers a constant and uniform pressure at all times.

Bonds for the improvement were sold at the regular meeting of the trustees October 7th. The Fidelity Trust Company of Detroit, the lowest bidder of eight competing companies, offered a premium of \$16.50 on \$65,000 thirty year bonds bearing  $4\frac{1}{4}\%$  interest.

### RIVARD DRAIN

Work on enclosing the Rivard Drain through Grosse Pointe Village is under way. The question has been considered for some time by both the county drain commissioners and the village trustees. A large part of the area served by this drain lies beyond the village limits so that action could not be had without the approval of the county commissioners.

The fact that the drain, running along one side of Rivard Blvd., was an open ditch prevented the paving of Rivard. The present work will make further improvement possible and it is expected that the paving will be done next year.

The expense of the present improvement is being born jointly by the village and county.

### POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

In order to expedite emergency calls to the police or fire departments of the Grosse Pointe Villages, the Michigan Bell Telephone Company requests that, in the future, calls be made by number rather than by name of the village as is indicated in the telephone directory.

Often a person making such calls is confused and fails to give the name of the village police or fire department wanted. The delay occasioned by the operators having to ask for this information or the mistake of being connected with the wrong village department may prove costly.

In the future use the following numbers in making police or fire calls:

Grosse Pointe Park, Hickory 2384 or Hickory 0815.

Grosse Pointe Village, Hickory 2950.

Grosse Pointe Farms, Fire Dept. Hickory 0625.

Grosse Pointe Farms, Police Dept. Hickory 0626.

Grosse Pointe Shores, Hickory 1857.

Tags giving these numbers will be distributed to all telephone subscribers.

### DELINQUENT TAXES

Monday, October 20, is the last day for the payment of 1924 taxes at the several treasurers' offices. After this date payment must be made at the Wayne County Treasurer's office in the county building. The law requires that on the third Monday in October the tax roll be delivered to the county treasurer for the collection of delinquent taxes. A collection charge of 4% will be added to all tax bills collected after October 20, in addition to interest at the rate of  $\frac{3}{4}\%$  a month.

The property of the sewage disposal plant of Grosse Pointe Village has been enclosed by a seven foot galvanized wire fence erected on iron posts set in concrete.

The expense of this undertaking was \$4,200.

### SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

This years enrollment in Grosse Pointe Schools has taxed the capacity of the present buildings to the utmost and children are being housed in temporary quarters. A dwelling on Notre Dame Ave. is being used for the kindergarten of Cadioux School and a basement room in the Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Building is serving as the kindergarten for the Trombly School. A second room will be used for the overload in the first and second grades of the Trombly as soon as equipment arrives.

A temporary building has also been placed back of the Cadioux School to accommodate the increase in the high school. With the opening of the George Defer School for the second semester much of the crowding now existing will be corrected.

A table printed on the last page of this issue shows the increase in school enrollment since 1922.

### GROWTH IN SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

It is generally known that the enrollment in Grosse Pointe Public Schools has been steadily increasing but up to the present time comparative data on the subject have not been available.

The tables printed below give the September enrollment both by schools and grades for the years 1922, 1923 and 1924, as compiled by the Superintendent's office.

	Enrollment by Schools			Increase Over 1922	
	1922	1923	1924	No	%
Cadieux .....	412	429	565	153	37
Hanstein .....	155	247	367	212	136
Kerby .....	190	164	180	-10	-5
Vernier .....	83	96	93	10	11
Trombly .....	159	193	244	85	53
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>999</b>	<b>1129</b>	<b>1449</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>45</b>
Inc. by years.....		130	321		

	Sept. 1922	Sept. 1923	Sept. 1924	Inc. over 1922	% Inc.
Kindergarten .....	122	127	123	1	1
1st Grade .....	114	161	227	113	100
2nd Grade .....	133	120	167	34	25
3rd Grade .....	119	118	148	29	24
4th Grade .....	97	128	164	67	70
5th Grade .....	82	106	141	59	72
6th Grade .....	86	92	118	32	38
<b>Total Elementary</b> .....	<b>753</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>28</b>
7th Grade .....	84	91	99	15	18
8th Grade .....	74	80	99	25	34
9th Grade .....	53	68	89	36	68
<b>Total Junior High</b> .....	<b>211</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>36</b>
10th Grade .....	29	31	36	7	24
11th Grade .....	6	7	27	21	350
12th Grade .....	0	0	11	11	
<b>Total Senior High</b> .....	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> .....	<b>999</b>	<b>1129</b>	<b>1449</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>45</b>

Return Postage Guaranteed.

## CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

1c Paid  
Detroit, Michigan  
Permit No. 335

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

"Good citizenship consists in shaping sound public opinion, in building community morale, in exercising faithfully the right of suffrage. The good citizen is a public servant."

Marion LeRoy Burton.