

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

VOL. 2

NOVEMBER, 1924

NUMBER 5

## LAKE SHORE ROAD WIDENING

The following resolution was introduced by Supervisor Murphy on the last day of the Wayne County Supervisors' fall meeting:

"RESOLVED, By the Board of Supervisors for the County of Wayne that the Board of County Road Commissioners be, and they hereby are, authorized and empowered to start the proper condemnation proceedings for the widening of Jefferson Avenue for boulevard and park purposes as follows:

1. To widen Jefferson Ave. to a width of 120 feet from the East line of Fisher Road to the West line of P. C. 261, Township of Grosse Pointe.

2. To widen Jefferson Avenue, from the West line of P. C. 261, Township of Grosse Pointe, to the Vernier Road by the condemnation of all land lying between Jefferson Avenue as now established to Lake St. Clair, and be it further

"RESOLVED, That the Board of County Road Commissioners and the Board of County Park Trustees be, and they hereby are, authorized to make a study of the matter of widening and improving that part of Jefferson Avenue lying between Vernier Road and the County line relative to its possibilities for park and boulevard purposes."

At present it is not possible to get any definite information on the plans of the County Road Commissioners for undertaking this work, but it is believed that the widening will not be started within a year. When Lake Shore Road was paved the amount of traffic along Jefferson Avenue and Lake Shore Road was comparatively light, so that the present pavement was thought adequate. However, the increase in traffic along Lake St. Clair has been so great that the County Road Com-

missioners apparently believe a wider pavement is necessary.

The Village of Grosse Pointe Farms plans to widen Grosse Pointe Boulevard next spring, which should relieve Lake Shore Road from a large part of its present traffic.

## BONDS VOTED

The Village of Grosse Pointe Farms held a special election October 29th for the purpose of submitting two bond issues to the people. The first issue of fifty thousand dollars for the construction of a municipal dock carried by a vote of 222 in favor to 71 against. The other issue of thirty-five thousand dollars for the construction of a sanitary sewer on Grosse Pointe Boulevard carried by 269 votes in favor to 24 against.

The vote favoring the erection of a municipal pier makes it possible for Grosse Pointe Farms to go forward with a plan that has been considered for some time. The question was originally submitted to the voters in 1920 but was defeated.

The Pier will be built at the Municipal Park site at the foot of Moross Road. Tentative plans, drawn by the Village Engineer's office, are for a structure one thousand and nine feet long. A harbor two hundred by three hundred and fifty feet is planned to take care of sailing yachts and small motor boats. Provision is also made for an enclosed shelter to house canoes and row boats. Dressing rooms and lockers for bathers will be built along one wing, enclosing the harbor.

The type of construction to be used for piers has not yet been determined. The engineer's office is collecting cost data on both concrete piers and wood piling. Actual work on the dock will be started next spring as soon as weather permits.

Work on the sanitary sewer on Grosse Pointe Boulevard will be started immediately. On November 3rd the Village Trustees opened bids for this work. James Dimitroff, of Pontiac, was the lowest of eight firms competing.

This sewer is the first section of the sanitary system planned by Grosse Pointe Farms. While it is not planned that the sewer will be put in use until other sections are completed, it was deemed necessary to complete this section before paving the other half of Grosse Pointe Boulevard.

The portion of the sewer to be completed at this time extends along Grosse Pointe Boulevard from Fisher Road to a point about six hundred feet west of Kirby Road. Shorter sections are to be laid from Moross Road to Cambridge Road and Moross Road to Country Club Drive.

## SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION

A special school election for the purpose of revoting bonds for the purchase of school sites was held November 11th.

The purpose of this election was to again submit the questions approved by the electors of the district September 24th. At that time the electors voted to purchase two school sites, one at Queen Avenue and Essex Boulevard, the other at Kercheval Avenue and Cadieux Road. The question as submitted stated that bonds to be issued should bear four per cent interest.

After advertising for bids on four per cent bonds, the School Board found it impossible to get par bids for long term bonds at so low an interest rate.

The election held November 11 in no way affects the location of the school sites. It was held only for the purpose of authorizing bonds bearing interest up to four and a half per cent instead of four per cent.

## 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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### TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

At present there is no uniform practice within the four Grosse Pointe villages relative to designating through streets and other traffic regulations.

While this condition might not appear serious on first thought, there is reason to believe that such lack of uniformity may be responsible for traffic accidents at street intersections.

For example, a person living in a village that has designated through traffic streets may take it for granted that adjoining villages have the same traffic regulations. As a result he is less cautious when approaching street intersections, for he believes he has the right of way.

Due to the fact that the Grosse Pointe villages adjoin one another, it is practically out of the question for persons living outside of Grosse Pointe to know what traffic regulations apply to different streets. Even Grosse Pointe residents may easily be confused.

Traffic problems in all of the villages are essentially the same. With reference to through traffic streets, no difference exists. In the interest of safety, and for the convenience of drivers, uniform regulations for all the villages would seem desirable.

### STREET LIGHTING GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE

The Trustees of Grosse Pointe Village have authorized the installation of street lights on University Place between Kercheval and Mack Avenues. These lights will be the same as those recently installed along Lincoln Road.

### THE NEED OF ZONING

Although no definite action has been taken on the proposed apartment building, reviewed in the September issue of the "Civic News," the fact that such an apartment building is under consideration makes zoning a subject of local interest. In the near future the Grosse Pointe Villages may find it desirable to control the erection of buildings for various purposes through some form of zoning legislation.

The power to zone is derived through the police power held by a municipality, which allows it to regulate the location, use and height of buildings.

Zoning is not a new or radical movement. At present two hundred and sixty-one municipalities of the United States have enacted such legislation. Forty-one cities have put zoning ordinances in operation during the present year.

According to a bulletin issued by the United States Department of Commerce, zoning is "the application of common sense and fairness to the public regulations governing the use of private property." Its aim is to restrict districts of the community for particular uses. These zones or districts are laid out with reference to the existing and probable future character of a locality. Residential communities are protected against the invasion of commercial and manufacturing plants. Districts laid out for single residences are protected against multiple dwellings and large apartments. Through zoning the orderly development, safety and general welfare of a community is assured. The rights of the property owner are protected and real estate values are stabilized.

The present character of Grosse Pointe has established it as a high class residential district. However, with the increase in population which it is reasonable to expect, commercial interests and business places will be attracted to the community. Undoubtedly, apartment houses will be built. Such developments are not necessarily objectionable and under proper zoning regulations

can be a benefit. However, a haphazard growth which will permit the location of buildings irrespective of surrounding property is likely to prove a menace.

At present the several Grosse Pointe Villages all have building codes that regulate the construction and restrict the area of the lot that can be used by buildings of different heights. The Village of Grosse Pointe building code prohibits the erection of a commercial building on any street unless the written consent of sixty percent of the property owners within the block is obtained. Many streets are protected to some extent by restrictions placed on the property by real estate companies. Such restrictions cover only certain localities, vary with each subdivision and have not the advantages of giving uniform protection to the whole community.

The Village of Grosse Pointe Shores is the only one that now has a zoning ordinance. A digest of its provisions will be covered in a later issue.

A well planned zoning law for the Grosse Pointe villages would define districts or streets for various types of buildings. It would insure the orderly development of the community. Such an ordinance would benefit the entire community without working a hardship upon any individual.

The directors of the Citizens' Association believe that concerted action by all the Grosse Pointe villages should be taken in the near future. They do not advocate any particular zoning program but recommend that the whole subject have careful official study.

### REPORT ON HEALTH DISTRICT

The second report prepared by the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research at the request of the Citizens' Association will be published in the December issue of the "Civic News."

No other governmental unit in Grosse Pointe affects so large a number of people as does the health department. For this reason the report should be of more than usual interest.

### EDUCATION WEEK

November 17th to 23rd has been set aside by the President for the observance of Education Week. During this time a special effort will be made to center interest upon our educational institutions and to bring the public closer into touch with the schools. It is a week for developing contacts between the teacher, parent and taxpayer in order to develop that co-operation which is so essential in educational programs.

Both parent and teacher have a common interest in the proper development of the school boy and girl. Parent-Teacher associations have taken great strides toward centering such interest in school problems and have aided both the home and the school.

It is the aim to make Education Week a stimulus to such co-operation.

The amount of money spent each year for the support of public schools represents a large percentage of the money raised by taxation. In Detroit for the present year 30% of the tax levy for city purposes is being spent for public schools. Demand for more funds to take care of additional work is being made constantly. Broader courses, special teachers in art, manual training and vocational subjects, gymnasium and other special equipment are only a few of the increased facilities being offered the school child.

The taxpayer should not forget that he has an interest in public education. Through Education Week he is offered the opportunity to see how part of his tax dollar is spent and to determine the necessity of the work undertaken.

Sixty teachers are now employed in Grosse Pointe schools, fourteen new positions being created this fall.

Four members were added to the high school staff to take care of the twelfth grade.

The opening of the new Hanstein addition required nine new teachers. Formerly pupils in this school were required to attend classes in the Cadieux building for courses in manual training and domestic science.

### MACK AVENUE PAVING

The paving of Mack Avenue jointly by the City of Detroit and the Village of Grosse Pointe Park is now under way. The contract for this paving in both the city and village was awarded to The Detroit Asphalt Paving Co. Grosse Pointe Park's share of the cost will be approximately one hundred thousand dollars. With the exception of intersections, the pavement in the Park will be paid for by a special assessment on benefited property.

The improvement will be fifty-four feet wide and built according to City of Detroit paving specifications. A three and one-half inch asphalt top laid on an eight inch concrete base is specified. It is expected that the Mack Avenue improvement will be completed this fall.

The final arrangement between the City of Detroit and Grosse Pointe Park to pave Mack Avenue terminates a controversy of some length. As originally suggested by the City, the pavement was to be sixty-six feet from curb to curb, with an unpaved strip in the center to provide for future street railway extension.

Members of the Grosse Pointe Park council believed that by widening the present pavement the problem could be settled without the expense of repaving the entire street. Because the present roadway had been built at a grade that did not correspond to grades used by the City, it was impossible to carry out such a plan. In order to have a roadway of uniform construction it was necessary to discard plans for widening the present pavement and to construct a new pavement in its place.

The question was finally settled after a joint inspection of the property by the engineers and councils of both municipalities.

Condemnation proceedings will be started soon to widen the Mack Avenue right of way to one hundred and twenty feet. This action will be taken to conform to the plans for a system of super-highways recommended by the Rapid Transit Commission.

### STREET LIGHTING GROSSE POINTE PARK

The Trustees of the Village of Grosse Pointe Park have taken steps to complete the street lighting system of the village. The contract has been awarded to E. A. Brown, of Kansas City, Mo., for \$22,800, which was the only bid received.

The equipment to be installed will be King Senior ornamental standards placed on a cast iron base set in concrete. The standards, which are to be placed one hundred and fifty feet apart, will be staggered or alternated so that the maximum area may be served by each light.

The lighting units for each standard will be six hundred candlepower bulbs enclosed in frosted glass shades.

All wiring is to be placed in underground conduits.

Funds necessary for this improvement will be raised through taxes. Notes will be issued to cover the amount of the contract, which in turn will be paid by including an item in the budget for the next few years to cover both principal and interest. The first installment for \$6,000 was included in the current budget.

### EVENING SESSION AT HANSTEIN SCHOOL

In conjunction with National Education Week, the Hanstein School is arranging to hold a special school session Monday evening, November 17th, from seventhirty to nine-thirty. Afternoon classes in all grades will be postponed until the hours indicated to allow residents of Grosse Pointe to observe the school as conducted during regular class periods.

This plan will permit the attendance at classes of persons who are unable to visit the school at any other time. A double treat is in store for those who have not been in touch with school work since their youth. A comparison of methods used and subjects taught then and now no doubt will be surprising.

The principal and staff at Hanstein School are eager to have a large attendance.

**ELECTION RETURNS**

Final tabulation of the votes cast in the four precincts of Grosse Pointe Township November 4th, is as follows:

**NATIONAL BALLOT****President**

Coolidge (R) .....2,797  
Davis (D) ..... 571  
LaFollette (I.P.) ..... 250

**STATE BALLOT****U. S. Senator**

(Full term)

Couzens (R) .....2,905  
Cooley (D) ..... 738

**U. S. Senator**

(To fill vacancy)

Couzens (R) .....2,822  
Cooley (D) ..... 722

**Governor**

Groesbeck (R) .....3,126  
Frensdorf (D) ..... 509

**Lieutenant Governor**

Welsh (R) .....2,944  
Doyle (D) ..... 597

**AMENDMENTS****School**

Yes ..... 557  
No .....3,209

**Income Tax**

Yes ..... 200  
No .....3,360

**Reapportionment**

Yes ..... 832  
No .....2,542

**Congress**

Hudson (R) .....2,794  
Brewer (D) ..... 587

**Secretary of State**

Deland (R) .....2,998  
Jarvis (D) ..... 465

**State Treasurer**

McKay (R) .....2,907  
Merrick (D) ..... 484

**Attorney General**

Dougherty (R) .....2,902  
Cavanagh (D) ..... 506

**COUNTY BALLOT****Circuit Court Judges**

Webster (R) .....2,844  
Hunt (R) .....2,856  
Miller (R) .....2,814  
Merriam (R) .....2,811  
O'Brien (D) ..... 723  
Conklin (D) ..... 437  
Wilson (D) ..... 444  
Harward (D) ..... 454

**Circuit Court Commissioners**

(Two Elected)

May (R) .....2,823  
Nichol (R) .....2,672  
Gormley (D) ..... 465  
Kane (D) ..... 482

**Probate Judge**

Durfee (R) .....2,870  
Sanders (D) ..... 452

**County Treasurer**

Friewald (R) .....2,932  
Kent (D) ..... 533

**Register of Deeds**

Stoll (R) .....2,803  
Stillwagen (D) ..... 460

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Toms (R) .....2,760  
McClellan (D) ..... 599

**County Clerk**

Farrell (R) .....2,926  
Flynn (D) ..... 464

**County Auditor**

Gutman (R) .....2,864  
Teifer (D) ..... 466

**Sheriff**

Walters (R) .....2,866  
Campau (D) ..... 698

**Road Commissioner**

Hines (R) .....2,883  
Sally (D) ..... 448

**Drain Commissioner**

Dingeman (R) .....3,109  
Key (D) ..... 448

**STATE SENATOR****1st District**

Herald (R) .....2,762  
Langdon (D) ..... 475

**2nd District**

Bristow (R) .....2,753  
Henderson (D) ..... 534

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# CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

## GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

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Detroit, Michigan  
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"Let me emphasize the duty of all educated men to serve their country in peace as well as in war. Serve her by your personal exertion in the towns, in the cities, in the communities where you live."

—Dr. Charles William Eliot.

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