

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

Vol.2

MARCH, 1925

Number 9

LAND PURCHASE

Because varying reports have been broadcast relative to the purchase of a piece of property at the rear of the municipal hall in Grosse Pointe Park, the Citizens' Association believes the following statements affecting the transaction merit attention.

The land in question is unrestricted property, approximately ninety-eight feet wide by one hundred nineteen feet long, bounded on the east by an alley, on the south by the center line of Black Marsh Ditch, on the west by the rear line of the John Fresch property, and on the north by an alley extending eastward from the junction of Maryland and Hampton Avenues. The property does not front on any thoroughfare.

Mrs. Elizabeth Zeigenfus states that in June, 1921, she sold the property on contract to Mr. Frank Paye and a Mr. Moynihan, for twenty-five hundred dollars, but that Mr. Moynihan's interest was assumed by Mr. Paye about a year after the date of purchase.

The property was purchased by the village August 5, 1924. A thirty day option was obtained from Mr. Paye on that date by the village attorney, the price agreed upon being seventy-eight hundred and forty dollars cash. A motion to accept the option and authorizing the village treasurer to draw a warrant for the full purchase price was unanimously passed the same evening. Minutes of the village trustees' meeting of August 5, 1924, do not show that the question was referred to any committee for consideration or that discussion was had upon it by the trustees.

Village officials state that the urgent need for storage space necessitated quick purchase of the property, and cite the state law which gives villages the power of obtaining private property by negotiation and purchase. Delay occasioned by condemnation of the land was not thought advisable.

The assessed value of the property in 1924 was fifteen hundred dollars.

GENERAL VILLAGE ELECTIONS

GROSSE POINTE
PARK,
GROSSE POINTE
VILLAGE,
GROSSE POINTE
FARMS.
MONDAY, MARCH 9th,
1925.
7 A. M. TO 8 P. M.
Don't Fail to Vote

WATER MAINS EXTENSIONS, GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE

In addition to voting on candidates for village offices March 9th, the electors of Grosse Pointe Village will ballot on the proposition to issue bonds amounting to \$75,000 for the additions and extensions of water mains.

A preliminary survey to determine the need for additional water mains and the cost of the improvement has been made. The plans include laying a twelve inch main on Cadieux Road from Mack Avenue to Charlevoix Avenue, thence East on Charlevoix to Lakeland Avenue and South on Lakeland to connect with an existing eight inch main at Lakeland Avenue at Kercheval Avenue. A twelve inch main will also be laid on Charlevoix Avenue from Lakeland Avenue to Fisher Road to connect with an eight inch main now being installed on Fisher Road. Sixty-four hundred feet of twelve inch main is included in the present plans.

Further improvements include laying an eight inch main on Neff Street to replace the present four inch main from Jefferson to Maumee Avenues, a distance of twelve hundred and twenty feet.

Six inch mains are proposed on Cadieux Road from the existing main at Van Street to Charlevoix Avenue, and on Mack Avenue from Cadieux Road to Loraine.

The present four inch main on Fisher Road from Kercheval Avenue to Maumee Road will be replaced by an eight inch main.

The improvements to be undertaken should bonds be voted March 9th, will

complete the water distribution system of Grosse Pointe Village and amply take care of future growth within the present village limits. A system of cross connections between the lateral mains on Jefferson and Charlevoix Avenues will insure the supplying of water from either main in case of a break down or other emergency. This plan of gridding or cross connections will insure more uniform pressure throughout the distributing system. The extensions are planned for additional water connections with Grosse Pointe Farms and will also allow the village to later connect with the Detroit supply, should it become necessary.

The bonds covering the cost of the improvement must receive a three-fifths vote of approval by the electors voting on the question. The proposal as it will be voted on March 9th, is to issue thirty year bonds for seventy-five thousand dollars which shall be liens on all property within the village. A sinking fund to provide for maturity in 1955 will be provided. Residents of Grosse Pointe Village should make certain that they vote on this question.

CHALLENGERS

The Citizens' Association in July, 1924, established the policy of furnishing challengers for any election within Grosse Pointe Township when requested to do so by citizens residing in the territory holding the election.

Accordingly, the Association will furnish challengers for the election in Grosse Pointe Park on March 9th.

REGISTRATION LAWS

With respect to registration of voters the Public Acts of Michigan provides that inspectors of election shall not receive the vote of any person whose name is not registered.

Persons who on account of sickness or absence from the district were not able to register prior to election may do so election day by swearing to the fact. False statements in such cases constitute perjury.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

P. O. Address, 316 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

H. P. Breitenbach, Consulting Editor.

H. G. Fishback, 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

CITIZEN INTEREST

Complaints about mismanagement in city and village governments are frequent. Rumors of the incompetence of public officials, of petty graft, the granting of political patronage, of careless manipulation of public funds, and wasting of tax money, are not uncommon. They are in fact prevalent in most communities.

Such reports, upon investigation, may prove unfounded, but whether merited or not, they are more than an accusation against the individuals at whom they are directed. They are a challenge to the community at large. For in the last analysis, the character of the government enjoyed by a community is in the hands of the voters. In the words of Lyman Abbott, "Our government is in our hands. It is as good as we deserve, for it is as good as we make it."

On March 9th, voters in three of the Grosse Pointe Villages will be given the opportunity of choosing officials for another year. As a citizen of the community, be sure that you do your part by voting March 9th.

STATEMENTS BY CANDIDATES

In an effort to distribute general information to the voters regarding candidates for village offices, to be balloted on March 9th, the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township sent out uniform information blanks to all candidates.

The replies received are printed below. The fact that fifty-five per cent of the candidates made replies indicates the general co-operation received. It is hoped that voters will find the information of value.

Grosse Pointe Park

Adelbert H. Lindley, 859 Barrington Road. Progressive Party's candidate for Village President. Age 38. Graduate Columbia Law School. Occupation, lawyer. Real estate owner, Grosse Pointe. Mr. Lindley served three years with the Honest Ballot Association, New York City. His statement follows: "The Progressive party came into being because of and in response to an insistent demand for some means whereby the citizens of Grosse Pointe might effectively express dissatisfaction with the manner in which village affairs had been conducted for some six or more years.

"The purchase of real estate by the present administration without condemnation proceedings and from a member of the present administration, at a figure five times its assessed value (Village Council minutes of August 5, 1924), is simply an example of the way village business has been transacted.

"Further, the party in power has not seen fit to order a village re-registration since the village was incorporated.

"A village budget that has but four items, namely, 'General Fund,' 'Highway Fund,' 'Interest Fund' and 'Sinking Fund,' cannot, in any true sense of the word, be called a budget.

"A charter that permits present village officials, even when candidates for re-election, to act as village election inspectors, is to say the least, antiquated.

"The Progressive Party, if elected, is pledged to answer fully every question that any voter may ask. Every citizen is entitled to this service and to the assurance that village affairs will be conducted in a modern way and in a way that will prevent the appearance of wrong doing."

Waldo J. Berns, 1157 Maryland Avenue. Candidate for re-election for Village Clerk on Peoples' Party Ticket. Age 34. Education, high school and business college. Has held present office 8 years, and has also served as Village Treasurer. Previous occupation, real estate agent, cost accountant, Chalmers Motor Car Co. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

Leo J. Muckenthaler, 1226 Wayburn Avenue. Progressive Party's candidate for Village Clerk. Age 32. High school and business education. Occupation, production superintendent.

Charles Dorr Heise, Jr., 1115 Buckingham Road. Peoples' Party candidate for Village Treasurer. Age 24.

High school education. Occupation, teller and bookkeeper, American State Bank, Jefferson Avenue and Alter Road.

Hazel Jewett Phelps (Mrs. Charles L.), 1024 Maryland Avenue. Progressive Party's candidate for Village Treasurer. Age 35. Graduate of Northwestern University and Detroit Business University; Bachelor of Arts, Phi Beta Kappa. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Mrs. Phelps' statement follows: "I am now in position to devote my time to the competent handling of this office, and if elected, pledge myself to keeping the work of the office up to date at all times."

Emil Huber, 1103 Berkshire Road Progressive Party's candidate for Village Assessor. Age 48. Grammar school education. Retired. Previously with Hudson Motor Car Co. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

Wm. E. Krapp, 1222 Kensington Road. Progressive Party's candidate for Village Trustee. Age 44. Education, grammar school. Present occupation, Division Superintendent for Hupp Motor Co. Previous occupation, automobile mechanic. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Mr. Krapp states that he has never held public office. Favors the adoption of primary system, general survey of sewer system of village, resurfacing of worn out pavements and economy in every respect.

Alfred J. Garska, 1046 Lakepoint Avenue. Peoples' Party candidate for re-election for Village Trustee. Age 35. Education, grammar school and commercial college. Present occupation, real estate and insurance agent. Mr. Garska has served as Village Trustee for four years, as Village Treasurer two years, and as Township Treasurer two years. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

Walter Krausmann, 1085 Maryland Avenue. Progressive Party's candidate for Village Trustee. Age 35. Education, grammar school. Occupation, electrical contractor. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Mr. Krausmann states that he is a property owner, has children in the public schools, and possesses business ability sufficient to carry on the duties of the office for which he is a candidate.

Leonard A. Seltzer, 1151 Kensington Road. Progressive Party's candidate for Village Trustee. Age 55. Education, high school, University of Michigan, School of Pharmacy. Oc-

cupation, pharmacist. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Mr. Seltzer served for five years on the Michigan Board of Pharmacy.

John P. Verlinden, 1153 Wayburn Avenue. Peoples' Party candidate for re-election for Village Trustee. Age 35. Education, high school and business college. Occupation, Office Manager and Auditor, American Electrical Heater Company. Previous occupation, General Bookkeeper, Peoples State Bank. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Mr. Verlinden has served one two-year term as Village Trustee.

Robert C. P. Henkel, 1128 Bedford Road. Progressive Party's candidate for Election Commission. Age 35. High school graduate. Occupation, Insurance Broker. Previous occupation, Building Contractor. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Mr. Henkel states that he believes that it is his duty to serve the community as he can and that his principles are honesty and elimination of graft.

William J. Windisch, 917 Lakepoint Avenue. Progressive Party's candidate for Election Commission. Age 42. High school education. Present occupation, President of the Windisch Company. Previous occupation, Jeweler. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

Finton L. Henk, 1167 Beaconsfield Avenue. Peoples' Party candidate for Election Commission. Age 33. Grammar school and Commercial College education. Occupation, Managing Secretary, Detroit Transportation Association. Previous occupation, Chief Clerk, Michigan Central Railway. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

Grosse Pointe Village

Norbert P. Neff, 513 Neff Street. Candidate for re-election as Village Clerk. Grammar school education. Age 29. Occupation, Village Clerk. Previous occupation, Village Treasurer. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Mr. Neff has served two years as Village Clerk, three terms as Village Treasurer, and was appointed by Council during emergency to assist Clerk and Treasurer.

Edmund G. West, 538 St. Claire Avenue, candidate for Village Treasurer. Age 30. Education, business college graduate. Occupation, bookkeeper. Mr. West has served three years as Village Clerk, Grosse Pointe Shores, and has acted as Assistant to Township Treasurer and Grosse

Pointe Village Assessor at various times. He states he is not a member of any political party, and is seeking office on his own past record. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

Neil Blondell, 569 St. Claire Avenue. Candidate for Village Treasurer. Age 23. Education, grammar school and two years high school, one term Detroit Business Institute. Occupation, automatic machine operator for Zenith Carburetor Co. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

Albert Chisnall, 618 Notre Dame Avenue. Candidate for Village Treasurer. Age 32. Education, High School and Business College. Present occupation, Buyer, Buhl Sons Company. Previous occupation, Assistant Business Agent and Auditor of Disbursements, John W. Ladd Company. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Mr. Chisnall's statement follows: "I have had about 10 years accounting and general office experience. Served 31 months under the Director General of Transportation, A. E. F., France.

Julius A. Stork, 524 Notre Dame Avenue. Candidate for Village Assessor. Age 31. Education, Grammar School. Mr. Stork has served as Village Treasurer for 2 years. Previous occupation, plumber. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

Frank A. Diegel, 479 St. Claire Avenue. Candidate for Village Assessor. Age 29. Grammar school education. Occupation, plumber. Mr. Diegel has served as Justice of the Peace, Grosse Pointe Township, and 2 years as member of the Township Board. He states: "As a candidate for Assessor in Grosse Pointe Village, I wish to state that I believe I am qualified for the position and if elected will serve to the best of my ability."

Ernest E. Brown, 260 Loraine Avenue. Candidate for Village Assessor. Age 40. Public school education, commercial course. Occupation, Real Estate Agent. Previous occupation, Chauffeur. Mr. Brown has served on Board of Special Assessors for Village one year term, and considers himself sufficiently acquainted with real estate values in Grosse Pointe Village to fill the position for which he is a candidate. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

Charles B. Hull, 488 University Place. Candidate for re-election as Village Trustee. Age 41. Public school education. Occupation, investment banker. Previous occupation,

banker. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

August S. Steimetz, 1 Woodland Place. Candidate for Village Trustee. Age 38. Public school education. Occupation, chauffeur. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

Grosse Pointe Farms

William C. Saeman, 38 Oak Street. Candidate for re-election as Village Assessor. Age 39. Grammar school education. Present occupation, machinist. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Mr. Saeman has served one year as Village Assessor and as Trustee.

Charles G. Holma, 90 Oak Street. Candidate for Village Trustee. Age 39 years. Grammar and high school education. Occupation, caretaker. Previous occupation, carpenter. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Mr. Holma advocates a filtration plant, widening of Lake Shore Drive, and a sewage plant for Grosse Pointe Farms.

No Reply

Replies to the information blanks sent out were not received from:

GROSSE POINTE PARK:

George Defer, 15223 E. Jefferson Avenue.

Edmond F. Poupard, 1011 Yorkshire Road.

Bertrand C. Spitzley, 624 Yorkshire Road.

Frank X. Zeck, 1160 Maryland Ave.

Bertram Leviller, 917 Beaconsfield Avenue.

Mrs. Gertrude H. Caughey, 1121 Buckingham Road.

GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE:

Richard P. Connor, 307 Roosevelt Place.

Edward Reaume, 17131 Kercheval Avenue.

Albert F. Meininger, 475 St. Claire Avenue.

Wm. C. Bishop, 368 St. Claire Ave.

Cyrus G. Cadieux, 372 St. Claire Avenue.

Napoleon E. Desrocher, 503 St. Claire Avenue.

GROSSE POINTE FARMS:

Theodore Beaupre, 108 Kerby Road.

Edward J. Tucker, 54 Kerby Road.

John R. Kerby, 108 Moross Road.

Ben. J. Allard, 71 Oak Street.

Ignatius A. Backman, 29 Lakeview Avenue.

George S. Hendrie, 209 Lake Shore Road.

Barnard B. Mason, 92 Kerby Road.

Joseph Snay, 101 Oak Street.

PARTY PLATFORMS

Following are replies received on request of the "Civic News" for the platforms of the political parties in Grosse Pointe Park:

Peoples Party

"As per our telephone conversation of recent date I am enclosing herewith the Platform of the Peoples' Party which I have made as brief as possible as per your request.

"The Peoples' Party as indicated by its name is dedicated to a continuance of the present economic administration and any improvement requested by and expressive of the will of the people."

Signed: GEO. DEFER.

Progressive Party

Our Village is only as good a place to live in as we elect to make it.

The Progressive Party is pledged to these constructive measures.

TAXATION. A fair and equitable tax levy on all property in our village.

NEW CHARTER. A 1925 Charter to meet the present day and future needs of our village, to replace inadequate charter 30 years old but still in use.

BUDGET SYSTEM. A method of handling the operating expenses of our village similar to that used by modern private business.

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY. Employment of those qualified for the job in place of using public office as a means of providing jobs for relatives of those elected.

PUBLICITY IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS. All business transactions conducted at public meetings in place of by committees behind closed doors. All expenditures of public money open to public inspection at all times.

BUILDING ORDINANCE. A proper ordinance to protect and enhance the value of our property and homes by prohibiting the building of objectionable structures in any part of our village.

THE PIRATE'S DAUGHTER

An Operetta, "The Pirate's Daughter" under the direction of Mr. Finch, in charge of music for Grosse Pointe Schools, was given in the auditorium of Defer School, March 5th and 6th. Material for the cast and chorus was drawn from the boys' and girls' Glee Clubs of the High School.

The successful staging of the operetta is a credit to the music department and the students taking part. Work of this sort is entitled to the community's support.

THE PLATOON SCHOOL

An unusual program is planned by the Parent-Teacher Association of Defer School for its next meeting, Tuesday evening, March 17th. Miss Rose Phillips, supervisor of platoon schools in Detroit, will give an illustrated talk on the organization of platoon schools. Miss Phillips has been closely in touch with the development of the platoon school in Detroit and is well fitted to discuss the many angles dealing with this type of school organization.

The platoon organization was considered in planning the Defer School, but the traditional or graderoom plan was decided upon. In the planning of future buildings in the Grosse Pointe district the merits of the platoon plan will undoubtedly come up for discussion.

The Parent-Teacher Association of Defer School extend an invitation to all residents of the school district to attend this meeting. The meeting is to be held in the auditorium of Defer School, March 17th, 1925, at 8:00 P. M.

Over one thousand new voters have been registered in Grosse Pointe Park since the last village election.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

1c Paid
Detroit, Michigan
Permit No. 335

"It is believed that the reason for the apparent indifference on the part of many voters is not lack of interest, but lack of accurate information."