

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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PROGRESS ON THE HIGH SCHOOL SITE

A step nearer the realization of a suitable high school for Grosse Pointe was taken recently when a jury sitting with Judge Dingeman in the Wayne County Circuit Court awarded eleven thousand dollars an acre for Lot 7 of the J. L. Fisher Farm. The proposed site located at Grosse Pointe Blvd. and Fisher Road and extending to Kercheval Avenue, comprises twenty-two and one-half acres. The total price will be \$247,500.

The question of obtaining the Fisher site for a high school has been considered by the Board of Education and school electors for nearly three years. In July, 1922, the electors by resolution instructed the Board of Education to select a high school site and recommended the Fisher property. The site was selected by the Board and their action approved by the electors in January, 1923. An appeal was made by several school electors to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction who set aside the decision of the local school authorities. In August, 1923, an act of the legislature providing for a referendum on decisions given by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction became effective. The electors of the district then nullified the State Superintendent's decision by rescinding all previous action respecting the site.

In October, 1923, a special meeting of school electors was called to consider a high school site.

The Fisher site previously set aside by the State Superintendent was again agreed on by the Board of Education and the school electors. An injunction restraining the Board of Education from purchasing the site was obtained in May, 1924, but a permanent injunction was denied by Judge Dingeman in December of last year. The decision of the court was appealed and is still waiting trial.

The decision of the higher court and the voting of the bonds for the

purchase of the land and erecting the building are the only points not yet attained in the long struggle for a suitable high school.

It is expected that an architect will be selected and that plans for the building will be drawn soon. The school board and the building committee will work jointly in matters pertaining to the building.

GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE MUNICIPAL HALL

The administrative offices of Grosse Pointe Village, formerly located at the corner of Roosevelt Place and Maumee Avenue, have been moved to the one-story building adjoining police headquarters on Maumee Avenue, between St. Clair Avenue and Neff Road.

For some time past the quarters on Roosevelt Place have been inadequate. This condition has been especially marked with respect to meetings of the Village Trustees. Space has not been available to comfortably accommodate citizens attending village meetings.

In the new quarters at 17150 Maumee, space is provided for the clerk, treasurer, building commissioner, and public works commissioner. A separate room for meetings of the village trustees is large enough to accommodate all persons wishing to attend the village meetings.

Moving the administrative offices of the village to the Municipal Hall Site is a step nearer the realization of the proposed Municipal Hall which has been considered for some time by Grosse Pointe Village officials. A municipal garage and storehouse was built on the site in the fall of 1924. The present change will centralize all municipal departments with the exception of the fire department.

At present there is no definite plan for proceeding with the construction of the proposed municipal building. The new quarters mentioned above will furnish adequate space at least for the present.

NEW HIGHWAY PROPOSED

The following resolution was passed by the Grosse Pointe Shores Trustees at the regular March meeting:

RESOLVED, That a new road paralleling Lake Shore Road or Jefferson Avenue, is expedient and desirable, and this Village should support the suggestion of such a road; that the Township Board of Grosse Pointe Township be invited by the President to a conference with this Council at its next regular meeting April 6, 1925.

At the joint meeting of the township board and village trustees, the proposal for establishing the back road was reviewed and discussed at length. The desirability of another thoroughfare paralleling Jefferson Avenue and Lake Shore Road was recognized by those present.

A tentative sketch to locate the road was made and Mason L. Brown and Sons was instructed to conduct a survey of the territory affected by the road. The survey will be completed in time to be used by the township board at their meeting April 29th. The meeting of the township board April 29th will be devoted to further considering the new project. It is expected that persons owning property adjoining the proposed road will be given a public hearing at the time.

Although no definite steps have been taken at this time it is planned that the road paralleling Lake Shore Road will be located somewhere back of Grosse Pointe Shores' westerly limits and will connect with Grosse Pointe Blvd. at Wier Lane. With the extension of Kercheval Avenue through Grosse Pointe Farms to connect with Grosse Pointe Blvd. at Moross Road, a second through street to Detroit will be provided.

An amendment to the Grosse Pointe Shores' charter in 1924 provides for the village election on the third Tuesday in May. The day this year will be May 19th.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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

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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:

H. P. Breitenbach, President.

Dr. L. E. Maire, Vice-President.

Wm. M. Mertz, Secretary

Jos. L. Hickey, Treasurer.

Mrs. H. H. Sanger Chas. Parcels

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POSTAL RATES CHANGED

Due to an increase in postal employees' salaries a change of rates and certain classifications of postage became effective April 15th.

Following is a brief digest of the new provisions that will most frequently affect individuals:

For private mailing cards the rate has been raised from one to two cents. The classification and rates of other first class mail remains the same.

Changes have been made for both second and third class matter, affecting printed matter. The third class rate under which the "Civic News" is mailed has been raised from one to one and a half cents for each two ounces or fraction thereof.

Zone rates for parcel post are to remain the same plus a two cent service charge for each parcel. The service charge will not apply to parcels mailed on a rural route when so marked.

The rates, fees and conditions for foreign mail remain the same.

The rates for special delivery on mail weighing less than two pounds is ten cents; from two to ten pounds, fifteen cents; and for mail in excess of ten pounds, twenty cents.

New insurance rates are: indemnity not to exceed five dollars, fee five cents; not exceeding twenty-five dollars, fee eight cents; not exceeding fifty dollars, fee ten cents; not exceeding one hundred dollars, fee twenty-five cents.

For registry service on first class mail not exceeding fifty dollars in value, the fee is fifteen cents; between fifty and one hundred dollars, twenty cents.

Increases in the fees for money orders and for C. O. D. service also have been made.

A new stamp of one and one-half cent denomination has been issued and is now on sale.

In an effort to check the dispatch with which mail was being handled in Grosse Pointe, the Citizens' Association mailed out a number of forms with the last issue of the "Civic News". These forms carried the date and hour mailed and requested that the date and hour of arrival be noted and the form returned to the Citizens' Association. A check on the time of returning the form also was made.

In each case the returned form showed that the mail which was posted downtown at 3 o'clock in the afternoon was delivered in various parts of Grosse Pointe Township before noon the following day.

Similar rapid service was found to prevail with respect to mail posted in Grosse Pointe.

While the test, made on fifteen pieces of mail, may not be sufficiently broad to be conclusive, it does indicate that Grosse Pointe is receiving prompt service. Recent complaints of delayed mail service prompted the test.

FIRE ALARMS

Officials in Grosse Pointe Village have been annoyed for some time by persons tampering with fire alarm boxes. During 1923 two-thirds of the calls sent in over the system were false alarms. In 1924 half of the alarms were false.

In an attempt to curb tampering with the system, the fine for conviction of any person turning in a false alarm has been raised from twenty-five dollars to one hundred dollars. Ninety day sentence in the House of Correction may be imposed in addition to the fine.

A reward of one hundred dollars is offered by the village for the apprehension and conviction of any person sending in a false alarm. It is impossible for the police and fire officers to keep watch over the signal boxes. They are taking this means of appealing to village residents and asking their co-operation in reducing the large number of false alarms. Any person tampering with police or fire signal boxes should be reported at once.

MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE

Advertisements for bids on a number of public improvements have been sent out by Grosse Pointe Village. The opening of bids received will take place at the April meeting of the Trustees.

Bids are to be received on the laying of water main extensions, the paving of part of Rivard Blvd., and the joint paving of part of Cadieux Road by the Village of Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Village.

Several extensions in the water system are planned. A twelve inch main on portions of Cadieux Road, Charlevoix Avenue, and Lakeland Avenue, eight inch mains on Fisher Road and Neff Street, and six inch mains on portions of Cadieux Road and Mack Avenue comprises the major part of the work to be undertaken. Bonds to the amount of \$75,000 covering the expense of the undertaking were approved by more than a three to one majority March 9th.

With regard to street improvements, the Village plans the paving of Rivard Boulevard from Black Marsh Ditch to Mack Avenue. Specifications called for a twenty-four foot asphalt pavement on either six or eight inch concrete base. By joint agreement, Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Village will let contracts for the paving of Cadieux Road from Black Marsh Ditch to Mack Avenue. Each village will bear half of the expense of this improvement.

In addition to the projects reviewed, new sidewalks on both sides of St. Claire Street between Charlevoix and Mack Avenues will be constructed to conform to the established grade line. A twelve inch storm sewer on Kercheval Place between Cadieux Road and Notre Dame Avenue is also to be constructed.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

The Health Officer of the district reports that health conditions in the township were unusually good during the first quarter of the year. The percentages of absences in the public schools due to sickness has been lower than for any similar period since the health district was formed.

GROSSE POINTE WATER SUPPLY

The pumping station in Grosse Pointe Farms has recently installed an additional chlorinating machine as a safeguard against the use of untreated water. Before, the pumping station had only one machine for chlorination. In case of a breakdown raw water had to be used until repairs were made.

The use of untreated water from Lake St. Clair is becoming an increasing menace to public health because of pollution. Recognizing the danger of existing conditions the Board of Health passed a resolution calling attention of the fact to the trustees of Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Village and Grosse Pointe Shores. The need of a filtration plant was pointed out and as an immediate precaution the purchase of the additional chlorinating machine was recommended.

Grosse Pointe Park which receives filtered water from Detroit is the only village not depending on the Grosse Pointe pumping station. Installing the machine will insure treated water for the other villages at all times.

SURVEY BY MICHIGAN INSPECTION BUREAU

The Michigan Inspection Bureau has recently made a survey of the Grosse Pointe Villages with a view to reclassifying them for the purpose of fixing fire insurance rates. The results of the survey have not yet been made public.

The Michigan Inspection Bureau was organized and is supported by fire insurance companies of the state to determine the fire protection offered by cities and villages and from such information to fix fire insurance rates. Factors considered in determining the rates are: area of the village and population, water mains and pressure, width and condition of streets and pavements, fire alarm systems, fire fighting equipment and personnel.

All of the Grosse Pointe Villages have made various improvements along the lines that would tend to reduce the insurance rate. However, it is not known if the improvements have been sufficient to warrant a reduction.

MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS GROSSE POINTE FARMS

George R. Cooke Company, Detroit, have been awarded the contract for paving the westerly side of Grosse Pointe Blvd., between Fisher Road and Wier Lane. The contract calls for a fifteen foot extension of the present pavement to be of concrete nine inches thick. The bid of \$69,280.50 submitted by George R. Cooke Company was the lowest of eight bids received which ranged from the low figure to \$88,800.35.

Bonds to the amount of \$170,000 for the paving of Grosse Pointe Boulevard were authorized by the voters October 15, 1919. Eighty thousand of the total authorization was sold to cover the cost of the existing paving. The sale of part of the unissued balance to take care of the present widening will be advertised soon.

The contract for the municipal dock at the foot of Moross Road was let in March to A. J. Dupuis & Co. for \$42,087.50. The pier, approximately one thousand feet long, by eight feet wide, will be built on wood piling. Provision for small boats in an ample harbor is included in the contract price. A separate contract for the erection of bath houses along one wing of the harbor will be let later.

Bonds for this improvement and for the laying of a sewer along Grosse Pointe Blvd., were sold to the First National Company in Detroit. The total issue of \$85,000 are serial bonds, maturing annually during the next thirteen years. A premium of thirteen hundred and ninety-six dollars for the issue bearing four and one-half percent interest was paid by the First National Company.

Members of the School Board have made several inspections of modern high school buildings in the cities and villages adjoining Detroit. New buildings at the River Rouge and Trenton and the University High School in Ann Arbor have been inspected.

The building committee also plans on visiting a number of new schools in order to be thoroughly familiar with the best methods of school planning and construction.

THE LENOX EXCHANGE

April first the Michigan State Telephone Company began the transfer of all single party and business phones from the Hickory to the new Lenox Exchange. To date all single line numbers of 1100 and less have been transferred. Other changes will be made from time to time during the year.

Approximately twenty thousand phones are now operated through the Hickory exchange and the enormous demand for additional lines has made it necessary to divide the exchange.

Construction of the new headquarters is now under way and changes will be made as rapidly as new facilities permit. An extension of the company's cables to afford better service for Grosse Pointe Shores will also be undertaken this summer.

The Lenox exchange which will serve only single party and business lines is to have mechanically operated switching equipment and dial phones. Complete change to the dial phones will not be made until early in 1926.

TOWNSHIP ELECTION RESULTS

Surprisingly little interest was shown in the township and state election on April 6th. The entire ticket of candidates for re-election was without opposition. Following are the township officers elected:

Supervisor, Charles A. Poupard.
Clerk, Charles A. Paye.
Treasurer, Edmund C. Vernier.
Highway Commissioner, Walter A. Allard.
Justice of the Peace, John Labelle.
Member of Board of Review, John F. Kerby.

Drain Assessors, Jerry Vanderbush, William C. Diegel.
Constables, Andrew T. Phillips, Henry Graul, Jr., William Dansbury, Frank M. Allard.

On the State and County ticket, Republican candidates were elected by a large majority. The proposition to provide pensions for county officials carried in Grosse Pointe Township but was defeated in Detroit and the County at large.

Less than ten percent of the registered vote cast ballots April 6th.

A large number of children over six months old have been immunized against diphtheria at the weekly child welfare clinic.

VILLAGE ELECTIONS

Returns of the Village elections in Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village, and Grosse Pointe Farms March 9th may be summed up as a vote of approval for the administrations of the past year. The fact that in no case was a candidate for re-election defeated indicates the voters' general approval of their present officers and existing conditions.

The campaign and election in both Grosse Pointe Village and Grosse Pointe Farms was comparatively quiet and no issues with respect to the candidates were raised. Of a total of approximately seven hundred eligible voters in Grosse Pointe Farms; three hundred and eighty-seven or 55 percent cast ballots. In Grosse Pointe Village five hundred and eleven or 64 percent of the registration voted.

The election in Grosse Pointe Park furnished a most spirited campaign waged by both the people's party and progressive party. The people's party have been in office in Grosse Pointe Park since 1918 and this year in spite of active opposition succeeded in returning to office by a wide margin of votes.

Certain irregularities with respect to the election have been charged. It is alleged that persons living on the west side of Wayburn Avenue which is considered by the Detroit Election Commission as being in Detroit were permitted to vote in Grosse Pointe Park. Included in

this number are persons who were registered and voted in Detroit. It is also charged that the election law providing that challengers may be present during the counting of the ballots was violated by election and village officials.

Approximately 1,480 persons voted in Grosse Pointe Park, or 65 percent of those registered.

The percentage of registered voters casting their ballots was high in all the villages and indicates the interest of the public in their village affairs.

The results of the several village elections follow.

GROSSE POINTE FARMS

President

Theodore Beaupre204
Edward J. Tucker181

Clerk

John R. Kerby297

Treasurer

Ignatius A. Backman221
Ben. J. Allard146

Assessor

William C. Saeman279

Trustees (Three Elected)

Barnard B. Mason285
Joseph Snay254
George S. Hendrie252
Charles G. Holma138

Total ballots cast387

Total registration, approximately .700

Percent of registration voting ...55%

GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE

President

Richard P. Connor379

Clerk

Norbert P. Neff399

Treasurer

Edmund G. West208
Neil Blondell114
Cyrus G. Cadieux113
Albert Chisnall60

Trustees (Three Elected)

Edward Reaume346
William C. Bishop312
Charles B. Hull253
August S. Steimetz91

Assessor

Julius A. Stork168
Napoleon E. Desrocher142
Frank Diegel110
Ernest E. Brown73

Proposition to issue \$75,000

water bondsYES 365
NO 106

Total ballots cast511

Percent of registration voting ..63.8%

Total registration, approximately ..800

GROSSE POINTE PARK

President

George Defer1,043
Adelbert L. Lindley425

Clerk

Waldo J. Bern1,097
Leo J. Muckenthaler361

Treasurer

Charles Heise, Jr.,1,066
Mrs. Hazel J. Phelps383

Assessor

Edmond F. Poupard1,040
Emil Huber441

Trustees (Three Elected)

Alfred J. Garska1,036
Bertrand C. Spitzley1,025
John P. Verlinden1,018
William Krapp441

Walter Krausmann424

Leonard A. Seltzer409

Election Commission (Three Elected)

Fintan L. Henk1,024

Frank X. Zech1,014

Bertram Levillier1,014

Robert C. P. Henkel439

William J. Windisch430

Registration2,308

Total ballots cast, approximately ..1,480

Percent of registration voting ...64.5%

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

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Detroit, Michigan,
Permit No. 335

"Government, anywhere and everywhere is not only an art but it is undoubtedly the science which bears most heavily upon the well-being and prosperity of a free people."

W. R. Hopkins, City Manager,
Cleveland, Ohio.

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