

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

Vol. 3

MARCH, 1926

Number 9

BLACK MARSH DITCH

Residents of Grosse Pointe, especially those living in the immediate vicinity of Black Marsh Ditch, will be interested in learning that joint action by the Health District, three of the Grosse Pointe villages, and other interested parties, is under way to correct the unsanitary condition of the ditch. Representatives of Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village, Grosse Pointe Farms and the township met recently with E. L. Hunter, State Drain Commissioner and George A. Dingeman, Drain Commissioner of Wayne County, to consider steps to be taken in dealing with the present problem presented by the ditch. This meeting was called at the request of Dr. Warren, Health Officer, who stated that the present unsanitary condition forms a possible menace to health in Grosse Pointe and urged prompt action in the matter. Various methods of correcting the present condition were offered and discussed at the meeting, the consensus of opinion being that converting the ditch into a closed drain was the most desirable solution.

An attempt to widen and deepen the ditch was made several years ago, at which time the probate court was requested to appoint three commissioners to determine the necessity for such improvement. This petition was not granted because the proceedings were held to be defective. The county drain commissioner advised the committee that in order to start action in the present matter, application for the appointment of special commissioners should be made, to consider the question of the necessity.

The state drain commissioner spoke of the state's interest in the matter, since a recently enacted law makes the state a party in inter-county drain matters. Black Marsh Ditch runs through portions of both Macomb and Wayne Counties. He also urged the committee's closest co-operation with Detroit in carry-

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VILLAGE ELECTIONS NEXT MONDAY, MARCH 8TH

Election of village officials in Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village and Grosse Pointe Farms will be held next Monday, March 8th. Voting booths in the several villages as indicated below will be open from 8:00 a. m. to 8:00 p. m.

Grosse Pointe Park, voting booth basement of Municipal building, 15115 Jefferson Avenue, corner of Maryland Avenue.

Grosse Pointe Village, voting booth Municipal building, 17500 Maumee Avenue, between St. Claire Avenue and Neff Road.

Grosse Pointe Farms, voting booth Municipal building, 54 Kirby Road, one-half block west of Grosse Pointe Boulevard.

Each village will elect the following officers for one year terms: President, Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor. In addition members of the Board of Trustees of all villages will be elected for two-year terms. Grosse Pointe Park will also elect three election commissioners for one-year terms.

The Peoples Party ticket, which has successfully kept in office in Grosse Pointe Park for a number of years, is without opposition this year. As a result a comparatively light vote is expected in this village. No contest exists for several of the offices in the other two villages. The present clerk, assessor and the treasurer in Grosse Pointe Village are candidates for re-election and are without opposition as is the case with the clerk and the treasurer in Grosse Pointe Farms.

There is a noticeable lack of interest in village election this year as is indicated by the fact that for many of the offices there is only one candidate. The budgets of the three villages electing officers Monday total \$800,199.04 for the present fiscal year. In addition to this amount bonds were issued during the year totaling \$500,000 for Grosse Pointe Park and \$75,000 for Grosse Pointe Village. The aggregate of these several sums, \$1,375,199.04,

indicates that the task of running our villages is not a small one and is worthy of the interest of each qualified voter. A large and representative vote should be recorded March 8th in spite of the fact that there is no choice of candidates for several of the offices.

The Citizens' Association, following the practice initiated last year of assembling information about candidates, sent questionnaires to all persons seeking office. A digest of the replies received is given below. Where no information is listed it indicates that the questionnaire was not returned. Several candidates did not return blanks either last year or this year, apparently being unwilling to make public any statement about their qualifications or reason for seeking office.

Grosse Pointe Park

PRESIDENT

George Defer (No reply).

CLERK

Waldo J. Burns, 1157 Maryland ave. Age 35. Education, public school and business college. Occupation, village clerk, 1917-26. Formerly cost accountant Chalmers Motor Company. Candidate for re-election.

TREASURER

Charles D. Heise, Jr., 1115 Buckingham Road. Age 25. Education high school. Occupation, village treasurer for the past year. Formerly bank teller. Candidate for re-election.

ASSESSOR

Edmond F. Poupard, 1011 Yorkshire Highway. Age not given. Education, not given. Candidate has served in the following offices: assessor, six years; village clerk, two years; village treasurer, two years. Candidate states that he believes this service qualifies him for another term as assessor.

TRUSTEES (Two to be elected, two year terms).

W. P. Shoemaker (No reply).

Finton L. Henk (No reply).

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Oscar G. Kirsch, 1008 Beaconsfield Ave. Age 36. Education, public and parochial schools. Occupation, printing pressman. Candidate has served as election commissioner for past seven years.

Bertram Leviller (no reply).

Frank X. Zeck, 1160 Maryland Ave. Age 39. Education, parochial schools and college. Occupation, secretary and general manager, Wolverine Storage Company.

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Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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

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:

H. P. Breitenbach, President.

Wm. M. Mertz, Vice-President.

Raymond K. Dykema, Secretary.

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ELECTIONS

Next Monday, March 8th, voters of three Grosse Pointe villages will be called to the polls to choose their elected municipal officials for the following year. Last Wednesday, March 3rd, the same persons were asked to make a choice of candidates on the party tickets for township offices and in a few weeks will ballot on the successful primary candidates in the township elections. In June the school election will be held and in the fall election of county and state officers.

Within a comparatively short time during the spring the electorate is thus called upon four distinct times to select officials for the local governmental units. The dates on which these various elections are held are fixed by state law and under existing conditions can not be changed by the local governments. However, the fact remains that there is a duplication of effort in holding a separate election for each group of local officials. The present situation, requiring frequent trips to the voting booth, would also seem to discourage qualified voters in casting ballots at all elections and thus often allows the election of officials by a minority.

Rarely do more than half of the persons qualified to vote cast ballots at our local elections. Thus a candidate is elected even though his votes represent a very small part of the qualified electorate.

Such facts as these are everywhere challenging the attention of students of government. Throughout the United States the interest of voters in local elections seems to be at low ebb. What are the causes and what are the remedies are pressing questions today.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL CONTRACT

Detroit will endeavor to make a more satisfactory agreement with Grosse Pointe Park for disposing of the sewage of the village through the city system, according to a statement recently made public by Mayor John W. Smith. The mayor's statement which is based upon cost data compiled by John W. Reid, Commissioner of Public Works, Detroit, shows that at the present time only a fraction of the actual cost of pumping Grosse Pointe sewage is borne by the village. At the present time Grosse Pointe Park pays the city \$1500 a year for the handling of its sewage, which is pumped through the Fairview and Connors Creek stations.

Detroit officials estimate that one-third of the sewage pumped by the Fairview station and 35% pumped by Connors Creek station is from the Grosse Pointe Park system, and contend that the park should bear its fair proportion of the expense of maintaining these stations. Cost data compiled by the Department of Public Works show that the operating cost of the Fairview station for 1925 was \$48,660 and for the Connors Creek station, \$12,912, which in each case is exclusive of depreciation charges. Upon this basis Detroit officials believe that an equitable charge to Grosse Pointe Park would be \$20,739 per year.

The present sewage agreement was made May 27, 1914, at which time Detroit agreed to permit disposal through the city system for an annual charge of \$1,000 per year. This agreement was revised several years later, when annexations were made to Grosse Pointe Park, and provided for an annual charge of \$1500 per year. A connecting fee of \$10,000 was also specified and was paid by subdividers of Grosse Pointe Park property. The contract agreement was not limited to a term of years and made no provision for increasing the annual charge. The agreement is extremely favorable to Grosse Pointe Park and gives it the advantage of exceptional low charges for the service. Should Detroit succeed in breaking the present agreement Grosse Pointe Park will be faced with an annual charge in excess of \$20,000 per year, or will be forced to construct a sewage disposal plant.

BRANCH LIBRARY ESTABLISHED

A branch library at the Mutual Aid and Neighborhood Club, 60 Oak Street has been established by the Wayne County Library Association. The branch will carry a well selected number of books for general reading, and also makes provision for furnishing books not in the branch to any person requesting them. This service includes delivering of books to the patron's home, when not available at the branch, and places at the disposal of Grosse Pointe residents any book in circulation by the Wayne County or Detroit Library.

Another feature of the new branch is a story hour for children each Saturday at 10 a. m.

That the new branch will be well patronized by Grosse Pointe residents is indicated by the fact that 50 library cards were issued on the opening day.

Miss Margaret Peters, who is in charge of the Grosse Pointe branch, announces the following library days and hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2 p. m. to 9 p. m. and Saturday from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m.

STANDARD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE ADOPTED

The first steps toward standardization of traffic laws in the Grosse Pointe municipalities, has been taken by Grosse Pointe Village, by adopting the Uniform Traffic Ordinance, approved by representatives of Michigan municipalities at Grand Rapids, last October. The ordinance becomes effective April 1st. Copies of the new law will be available at the village hall within a short time, and all residents should familiarize themselves with its provisions. According to the Detroit Automobile Club, which has actively sponsored standardized traffic laws, 161 municipalities have adopted the model ordinance. The Citizens' Association has advocated uniform traffic regulations for the Grosse Pointe municipalities particularly because the villages are contiguous territory. The adoption of the model ordinance by all the villages not only would solve the local problem, but would place Grosse Pointe under the same regulations as the remainder of the metropolitan area and the state.

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ing out any plan so as to serve the best interests of both communities. The state drain commissioner also agreed that enclosing the drain offered a logical and permanent solution.

The expense involved, it was stated, could be met by issuing County Drain Bonds.

Finally a plan of action involving the disposal of the original petition to deepen the ditch, and the filing of an application to construct an enclosed drain, and the issuing of drain bonds to cover the expense, outlined by the county commissioner, was agreed on by the committee. The meeting then passed a resolution instructing the township supervisor to confer with the township attorney and the state drain commissioner, to decide on the necessary legal steps.

No further action has been taken since this meeting, but the fact that several of the Grosse Pointe governments have recognized Black Marsh Ditch as a possible health menace, and are jointly planning a solution of the problem, is in itself a very encouraging sign. If Black Marsh Ditch is a health menace, and the local health officer believes it is, its dangers should be quickly and permanently removed.

SIGNAL LIGHT

Grosse Pointe Park Trustees have considered the placing of a warning light at the curve in Jefferson Avenue between Harvard and Bishop Roads. The exact type of signal light has not as yet been determined, but it is gratifying to note that action to reduce accidents at this point is being taken. The installation of a warning signal at this danger point was advocated in the January issue of "Civic News." It is still a question whether the pavement at this point should not be reconstructed in order to bank the curve and re-surface the pavement with material other than the slippery wood block.

The Lenox telephone exchange, established a year ago last January to serve single party lines in Eastern Detroit and Grosse Pointe, was transferred to the automatic dial phones, Sunday, February 14th. The new exchange was established to relieve the greatly crowded Hickory exchange, and is now serving 40,000 telephone subscribers.

VILLAGE INCORPORATION PAPERS FILED

A petition for the fifth village in Grosse Pointe to comprise the balance of the township was filed with the County Clerk February 8th. Lochmoor has been selected as the name of the municipality which will have an area of approximately three and one-half miles, making it equal in area to any of the present Grosse Pointe municipalities. Approximately 175 signatures were obtained for the petition.

The petition, which must be approved by the Wayne County Supervisors, will be considered at their spring meeting April 10th. A special election in the territory involved will be held within forty days after favorable action is taken by the Supervisors.

The proposed village adjoins Grosse Pointe Shores which bounds it on the east. It is bounded on the south by Grosse Pointe Farms and Detroit, on the west by Gratiot Township and on the north by Macomb County. The portion of Grosse Pointe Township lying westerly of Mack Avenue that voted against annexation to Detroit last spring is within its limits.

NEW CAR SCHEDULE

A new schedule on the Shore line of the Detroit United Railways which further curtails car service beyond Weir Lane, became effective January 26th. The schedule now in operation provides for thirty-minute service from the city to Weir Lane and for hourly service between Weir Lane and Mt. Clemens, but provides half-hour service during part of the morning and afternoon.

Considerable dissatisfaction over the new schedule has been expressed by persons living in the upper end of the township. Motor busses are routed only as far as Weir Lane so that the present inadequate car service is the only public means of transportation. For the convenience of teachers and pupils at Vernier School who have to use the D. U. R., the time of opening classes has been changed from 9:00 A. M. to 9:15 A. M.

One of the older residents of Grosse Pointe Park recently remarked that in the last twenty-five years street car service in Grosse Pointe Township has not improved, but has been growing constantly worse.

SCHOOLS ARE GREATLY OVERCROWDED

The second semester of Grosse Pointe Schools, which opened February 1st, has caused even greater crowding in the High School Building, 339 St. Claire Avenue. The increase is due to mid-year promotions and the transfer of eighth grade pupils from Defer School to the High School Building. Increased enrollment in the lower grades at Defer School made the transfer necessary. Defer School is now housing kindergarten and grades 1 to 7, and according to W. L. Walling, Superintendent, is also badly overcrowded.

Enrollment by schools and by grades at the beginning of the second semester is shown below. The total of 2,089 is an increase of 99 over the enrollment at the beginning of last semester, and 640 over the enrollment in September, 1924.

School	Grades in Building	Pupils
Defer	Kdg. & 1st to 7th incl.	564
Hanstein	Kdg. & 1st to 6th incl.	434
Trombly	Kdg. & 1st to 3rd incl.	110
Cadieux	Kdg. & 1st to 6th incl.	234
High School	7th to 12th incl.	372
Kerby	Kdg. & 1st to 8th incl.	225
Vernier	Kdg. & 1st to 8th incl.	109
Total		2089

The High School is housed in the Cadieux School, making the total enrollment of this school 656.

ENROLLMENT BY GRADES

Kindergarten	200
First Grade	315
Second Grade	248
Third Grade	225
Fourth Grade	224
Fifth Grade	208
Sixth Grade	190
Seventh Grade	137
Eighth Grade	97
Ninth Grade	108
Tenth Grade	69
Eleventh Grade	32
Twelfth Grade	36
Total	2089

To relieve overcrowding in the High School, an arrangement has been made with the Detroit School System, permitting high school pupils residing in the territory north of Mack Avenue to enroll in Detroit. This territory voted last fall to become a part of Detroit and will be taken over by the City within a few months. The present arrangement will permit pupils to spend the full semester in Detroit schools, rather than transferring in the middle of the term. Crowding in the high school also has been relieved by extending the school day from 9 to 10 periods.

(Continued from Page 1)

Grosse Pointe Village**PRESIDENT**

Ernest E. Brown, 260 Loraine Ave. Age 40. Education, high school and business college. Occupation, real estate agent. Candidate states that he is seeking office at the urgent request of taxpayers of the village. "I am in favor of anything which will be beneficial and satisfactory to the greatest number. Honesty and a desire to satisfy the majority are my qualifications for office."

Richard P. Connor, 307 Roosevelt Place. Age 53. Education, high school. Occupation, village president. Previous occupation, carpenter-contractor. "During my presidency, with the aid of the council, a progressive administration has been established. Records show that great improvement has been made in the village, yet the tax rate has been reduced."

CLERK

Norbert P. Neff, 513 Neff Street. Age 30. Education, grade school. Candidate has served as village clerk three years and as village treasurer three years. "I believe the policies of the present administration regarding finance, improvements, public service, etc., are sound and constructive and should be continued."

TREASURER

Edmund G. West, 538 St. Claire Ave. Age 31. Education, not stated. Candidate is seeking re-election, having served as village treasurer one year.

TRUSTEES (Three to be elected, two year terms)

D. M. Ferry, Jr., 17100 Jefferson Ave. Age 52. Education, University of Michigan, graduate Columbia University. Occupation, president D. M. Ferry Seed Company; president Standard Accident Insurance Company. Candidate for re-election, having served six years as village trustee. Member of State Legislature 1901-04, State Board of Education 1908-12.

William Fisher, 509 St. Claire Ave. Age, not stated. Education, not stated.

Occupation, retail store owner. Candidate for re-election. Has served as township treasurer two years, member of the township board two years, Trustee, Grosse Pointe Village four years.

Louis C. Rabaut, 605 Notre Dame Ave. Age 39. Education, graduate University of Detroit, graduate of Detroit College of Law. Occupation, president, Standard Homes Investment Company. Appointed trustee of village 1925.

Edmond G. Roberts, 526 St. Claire Ave. Age 35. Occupation, pharmacist. Graduate of Detroit College of Medicine. Candidate's platform: "To protect the interests of the taxpayer, to give everyone a square deal."

Frank Moulin (No reply).
Steven H. VanTein 625 St. Claire Ave. Age 38. Eighth grade education. Occupation, carpenter. Is also republican candidate for township treasurer.

Grosse Pointe Farms**PRESIDENT**

Daniel G. Allor (No reply).
Arthur W. Vernier (No reply).

CLERK

John R. Kirby (No reply).

TREASURER

Ignatius A. Backman (No reply).

ASSESSOR

Douglas T. Allor (No reply).
Ethel M. Tucker, 52 Kirby Road. College education. Occupation, school teacher.

TRUSTEES (Three to be elected, two year terms)

Herman Dondero (No reply).
William J. Mason (No reply).
W. Ledyard Mitchell, 70 Ridge Road. Age 45. Graduate of Yale University. Occupation, vice-president Chrysler Motor Corp.

Neil McMillian, Jr., 40 Moross Road. Age 35. Education, three years at University of Michigan. Occupation, sales division, McCord Radiator and Manufacturing Corp. Has served as village trustee for two years.

Phelps Newberry (No reply).
John Rasmussen (No reply).

CHARLEVOIX PAVING

January 15th Grosse Pointe Village Trustees voted to pave Charlevoix Avenue through the entire length of the village. Bids for the construction of the pavement which is to be thirty feet wide and of 8 inch concrete base with 3 inch asphalt top were considered by the trustees at a special meeting, February 15th. Four construction firms submitted estimates of the work which was awarded to Detroit Asphalt Paving Company, lowest bidder, for \$42,350.05. A bond issue to cover the improvement will be submitted to the voters at the annual village election, March 8th.

The improvement, which is a continuation of village policy to pave one street each year, will add approximately two-thirds miles of pavement to the village. Streets still to be paved are St. Paul and Waterloo throughout the entire village and short sections of Goethe Avenue and Chalfonte Avenue.

The playfield maintained by Grosse Pointe Village at St. Claire and Maumee Avenues has been flooded during the winter months and used by children of the village as a skating rink. More recently the rink has been lighted to facilitate its use during the evening by adults.

Due to several minor accidents in the past hockey playing is prohibited on the Grosse Pointe Village Rink.

A skating and hockey rink has also been constructed on the ice at Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Pier. Here a temporary shack has been constructed to provide shelter for the skaters.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**GROSSE POINTE, MICH.**

<p>1 1/2c Paid Detroit, Michigan Permit No. 335</p>

Politics should not be allowed to become a source of private gain.

—Viscount Byrce.

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

to 57 1926