

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION MONDAY, JUNE 14th

The annual election of Grosse Pointe School District will be held Monday, June 14th, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 P. M. At 8:00 P. M. or immediately after counting of ballots the annual meeting of electors will be held in the Cadieux School, 399 St. Claire Ave.

Three matters will be submitted to the electors this year. (1) Election of two members of the School Board to serve three year terms. (2) Authorization of thirty year sinking fund bonds totaling \$1,400,000 for the construction of the high school at Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Fisher Road. (3) Authorization of \$275,000 thirty year sinking fund bonds for the construction of the first unit of a school on elementary site number 3, located in Windmill Pointe, at the corner of Beaconsfield Avenue and Essex Drive.

The important issues to be balloted on this year make this election one of unusual importance and should prompt every qualified elector to vote. Not all voters of the township can qualify as school electors. In addition to being a citizen of the United States, twenty-one years of age and a resident of the township for three months preceding the election, a qualified voter must be the owner of property or the parent or legal guardian of a child of school age, 5 to 20 years. Owners of property, including both husband and wife where property is owned jointly, may vote both on the election of school board candidates and on questions involving the raising or expending of funds. Parents or legal guardians of children between the ages of five and twenty years are permitted to vote only for school board candidates.

Locations of the voting places for the four precincts are:

Precinct 1. Grosse Pointe Village. Voting booth, Cadieux School, 399 St. Claire Street.

Precinct 2. Grosse Pointe Park. Voting booth, basement of the Municipal Building, 15115 Jefferson Avenue.

Precinct 3. Grosse Pointe Farms and the portion of Grosse Pointe Township

lying westerly of Grosse Pointe Farms. Voting booth, Municipal Building, 54 Kerby Road.

Precinct 4. Grosse Pointe Shores and all township territory lying westerly of Grosse Pointe Shores. Voting booth, Municipal Building, Grosse Pointe Shores, corner of Lakeshore Road and Vernier Road.

It is important that electors understand the purpose of the bond issues to be presented. Authority to issue \$1,400,000 bonds is being requested for the construction of a high school building, the landscaping of the grounds and the construction of an athletic field. Preliminary plans and elevations for the building have been prepared and working drawings are now being developed by the architect. The building is designed for ultimate use as a senior high school of 1200 standard capacity and with the addition of other class rooms and study halls can be expanded to 1500 standard capacity. Until such time as the entire building is needed for senior high school it will house both junior and senior high school grades 7 to 12, inclusive. The proposed building has been given much study by men familiar with present-day school methods and according to expert opinion is planned to properly accommodate the various phases of a modern high school program. The building will face the corner of Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Fisher Road and will be of early American architecture. The School Board expects that the school will be in operation by September, 1928. The present crowded condition and inadequate housing of the high school makes authorization of the bond issue of utmost importance in order that construction may be started without delay.

Another authorization of bonds totaling \$275,000 is requested for the construction of the first unit of a school on the Windmill Pointe Site. This building is badly needed to replace the inadequate Trombly School. The size of the first unit, which will contain eight class-rooms,

kindergarten, auditorium, gymnasium, and which will have a standard capacity of 500, was determined after a survey of the locality was made by Dr. Arthur B. Moehlman, Professor of School Administration, University of Michigan. Dr. Moehlman has specified the number of rooms, room size and arrangement to be followed. Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, an outstanding firm of Detroit architects, have been selected as architects for the building and have assured the school board that, barring unforeseen circumstances, the building will be completed for the opening of the school term in February, 1927. Favorable action by the voters on the question of the bond issue is, of course, a prerequisite.

All candidates for the school board were requested by the "Civic News" to submit statements for publication. Following is the only reply received:

Charles A. Parcels, 438 Rivard Blvd., Grosse Pointe Village, age 38, graduate of Yale University, including two and a half years study in Yale Graduate School. Present occupation, Investment banking. Prior to entering his present occupation, the candidate was assistant to the Dean of Yale College. He also has served as an Associate National Director of a Bureau of the Department of Labor. Mr. Parcels owns real estate in Grosse Pointe and has two children attending the public schools.

He states as follows: I am intensely interested in the public school system of Grosse Pointe and in the problems of education generally. I believe Grosse Pointe should develop a school system with standards that are in keeping with the high character of the community. If elected, I pledge myself to a progressive and constructive program of public school improvement and will lend my best efforts to co-operating with other members of the school board in carrying forward improvements that are now planned or under way.

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:

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Wm. M. Mertz, Vice-President.

Raymond K. Dykema, Secretary.

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THE SCHOOL ELECTION

On next Monday school electors will have the opportunity of choosing two school board members to share in determining school policies during the next three years.

The selection of able representatives at this election is of greatest importance for upon them will largely depend the future development and further improvement of our public school system.

Grosse Pointe schools for a number of years lagged behind other districts of the metropolitan area. This unfortunate condition was traceable to the voters themselves, since comparatively few citizens were actively interested in school affairs.

A step in advance was taken when the fractional school districts of the township were consolidated, and in matters of education at least Grosse Pointe recognized the advantage of a single administrative unit to include the entire community. Year by year since this date improvement in the schools has been noted.

Former conditions have already been corrected to considerable degree and within a comparatively short period. As a result of renewed interest by the voters, men of broad vision and proven ability have been elected to the school board. Greatly improved methods have resulted as is indicated by the following accomplishments of the past two years.

The school board has adopted a detailed budget which sets down definite amounts for the several activities of the school system. Sinking funds have been placed upon a sound basis to assure funds at the time bonds mature. Teacher's salaries have been materially increased and standard qualifications for employ-

ment and advancement have been adopted. With the aid of competent school men an educational program has been developed for elementary grades and for junior and senior high schools. A building program has been planned which will assure that every section of the district will be served by buildings sufficiently large and properly designed to serve the needs. The first unit of this program is now being carried forward, and a leading firm of Detroit architects has been employed to develop elevations for the first unit to be erected. Plans for the high school, which were seriously criticised by school men of Detroit and the state, have been completely revised by an expert in educational planning and have at last been approved by the state department of public instruction.

Much of the work accomplished to date has been in correcting faulty methods existing in the past and in developing fundamental plans and policies as a guide in the future. The extent to which these and still more advanced policies will be interpreted into concrete accomplishments will of course depend upon the interest of future school board members in the important task of developing the Grosse Pointe system. Although much remains to be done, the progress made to date indicates that Grosse Pointe may soon have a school system equal to the best. Further progress hinges upon the determination of the voters to place in office the best candidates available. The selection of two school board members committed to carrying forward progressive policies is therefore the important task of citizens this year. Every qualified school elector is urged to familiarize himself with the candidates and to vote intelligently for two school board members, Monday, June 14th.

Salary Schedule Adopted

Recently the school board adopted a definite standard for the employment of teachers and substantially increased teachers' salaries in Grosse Pointe schools.

The increase, which becomes effective July 1st, brings the salaries of Grosse Pointe teachers more nearly on a par with salaries paid in Detroit, Highland Park and other communities of the metropolitan area. Further, the new schedule sets a fixed rate of advancement

based upon periodic rating of the teacher's ability and provides for retirement of those who do not prove capable.

The new schedule gives elementary teachers increases ranging from \$50 to \$300 a year. High school teachers are given from \$100 to \$300 increases and special teachers \$150 increases. The salaries of all principals and the superintendent have also been raised.

Teachers will be divided, in the future, into two general classes. Class A, which includes junior and senior high school teachers and special teachers, requires graduation from a four year college course, including sixteen hours' work in education and at least two years' teaching experience. Minimum and maximum salaries for this class are \$1,700 and \$2,800 respectively. Class B, including elementary and kindergarten teachers, requires graduation from a normal school course of two years or its equivalent, the possession of state life certificates and at least two years' teaching experience. The minimum salary for this class is \$1,500, the maximum \$2,200. Class B teachers who are properly qualified with the exception of teaching experience are scheduled as cadet teachers with a minimum salary of \$1,200. The number of cadet teachers in the system will be limited to 10 per cent of the teaching staff.

Three times each year teachers will be rated by the principal and their advancement or retirement will depend upon such ratings. Annual increase of \$50 to \$150 per year, until the maximum salary is reached, is provided for those recommended for advancement.

The definite standards set up by the School Board and the substantial increases granted should be an incentive to those already employed in Grosse Pointe schools, and should attract the best teaching talent to the community.

No action or expenditure by the school board could forecast a greater improvement in our school system, providing the new schedule is properly administered and faithfully followed. The efficiency and the impartial operation of the schedule will depend solely upon future school board and administrative personnel.

SCHOOL BUILDING PLANS OBSTRUCTED

The possibility of indefinite delay in the plans of the School Board to construct immediately a school in Windmill Pointe developed recently when Grosse Pointe Park trustees denied the School Board's request to vacate the street and alley intersecting the school site at Beaconsfield Avenue and Essex Drive. Plans for the school had been adopted by the School Board, who had been assured by the architect that barring unforeseen delays the building could be completed for the opening of school in February, 1927. Unless the present obstacle raised by Grosse Pointe Park trustees is removed such expectations must be abandoned.

When the school district condemned the Windmill Pointe site several years ago, additional land was taken in order to provide a sixty foot right of way along the entire northerly boundary of the site. An agreement to deed this property to Grosse Pointe Park in exchange for closing Nottingham Avenue and the alley running through the school site was not made a matter of record at the time. An understanding to this effect was made according to school officials as a "gentlemen's agreement" between the President of Grosse Pointe Park and the School Board. The President of Grosse Pointe Park was also President of the School Board at the time.

As the matter now stands, however, Grosse Pointe Park officials request that the School Board acquire additional land in order that the street may be extended to Westchester Road and, further, that the school district assume all expense of paving. School board members state that to divert tax money raised for educational purposes for the opening and paving of village streets is illegal and might properly be contested by the school electors.

A large group of residents in Windmill Pointe have been eagerly following progress in developing plans for the new building, and at the last meeting of Grosse Pointe Park trustees, June 2nd, presented a petition with numerous signatures urging immediate action in vacating the street.

ANNUAL MEETING CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

The fourth annual meeting of the Citizen's Association of Grosse Pointe Township was scheduled for Tuesday, June 8th, at the Cadieux School, 399 St. Claire Avenue.

With this meeting the Association concluded the third full year of activity. A review of the Association's work during the three years was to be given by the officers, followed by a discussion of future plans. The report to be presented by the treasurer shows that the Association has lived within its income from dues and has successfully concluded the period without a deficit and without further demands on those who subscribed the larger amounts when the Association was incorporated.

Summer School

Beginning Monday, June 28th, an eight weeks' summer session, to include classes in grades 5 to 8 inclusive, as well as a limited number of high school courses, will be held in Cadieux School, 399 St. Claire Avenue. Classes will be held daily from 8:00 A. M. to 12:15 P. M.

The summer session offers pupils who have been unconditionally promoted an opportunity to advance a half grade. An average mark of 3 or better must be maintained to gain advanced credit. The subjects to be given in the elementary grades are: English, Arithmetic and one of the following social sciences, Geography, History or Civics. Spelling will be included as an important part of the English course.

Pupils who have failed or have been conditioned during the regular school year are urged to repeat the work during the summer. A failure may thus be made up in eight weeks and the pupil will continue with his regular class.

High School subjects offered will depend upon the demand for the work. The Superintendent states that approximately ten pupils should be enrolled in each high school course to warrant its being repeated during the summer. High school pupils who have maintained a "B" average during the preceding semester may enroll in the summer session and gain additional credit. Pupils who have failed or been conditioned should attend to strengthen their weak subjects. High school pupils will be limited to two subjects. Those attending on account of previous failure or condition are advised to take only one subject.

High School Graduation

Graduation exercises of the second class to complete the course of study in Grosse Pointe High School will be held in the auditorium of Defer School at 8:00 P. M. on Wednesday, June 23rd. O. T. Corson, formerly superintendent of Public Instruction of Ohio, will be the speaker.

This year's class of 21 girls and 7 boys contains only four more members than the class finishing last year. Following is the class roll and officers:

Ellen Rice, President; Marian Wallwork, Vice-President; Bernice Gill, Secretary; Frances Schneider, Treasurer; Donald Balfour, Dorothy Berendt, Alex Boillotat, Nona Booth, Lucia Brock, Irene Brys, Laurrine Chene, Jerome DesRocher, Elsie Fischer, George Foster, George Grove, Walter Knapp, Beatrice Kuenzel, Margaret Meininger, Violet Meininger, Clara Millar, Harold Moore, Marguerite Mundt, Jane Pardee, Isabell Rivard, Dorothy Stainbrook, Corinne Stoetznner, Richard Tripp, Isobel Williams, Frances Worchester.

A number of events are planned by the class and high school incident to concluding the school year. On Friday evening, June 11th, members of the class will present James Montgomery's play, "Nothing but the Truth," in the Defer School auditorium. On Saturday, June 12th, an excursion and picnic at Bob-Lo Island is planned. The outing is open to all pupils of the school, their parents and friends. A nominal fare of 75c will be charged for persons over 14 years old, for those under 14 years, 40c. On Tuesday evening, June 22nd, class night will be held at the Defer School. A junior senior dinner is also planned, but the time and place have not as yet been arranged.

One of the major activities of the senior class is the preparation of "The Pointe," the annual publication reviewing the accomplishments of the school during the past year. The book should be of general interest as a record of the school year and it is hoped will find a ready sale in the school and community. The price will be one dollar.

Residents of Grosse Pointe Village are co-operating with village officials in completing arrangements for the second annual Independence Day celebration to be held during the afternoon and evening in the village park at Jefferson Avenue and University Place.

DANGER WARNING NEEDED

In December, 1925, a serious accident occurred at the curve on Jefferson Avenue, between Bishop Road and Harvard Road. The "Civic News" in reporting the accident suggested that a danger signal, to give warning of the curve, should be placed at the point and that steps might properly be taken to bank the curve and repave it with a non-skid material.

Officials of Grosse Pointe Park advised, almost immediately, that steps were being taken to place a signal at this curve and that the Detroit Automobile Club has been called upon to make suggestions regarding the proper warning.

Up to this time no signal, light or other warning has been placed at the curve. In the interest of safety, some immediate action should be taken. Further delay in the matter may be responsible for another accident and loss of life.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

The health officer of the local health district states that health conditions in the community have been unusually good since January 1, 1926.

Only two diphtheria cases have appeared in the district since January 1st. In spite of substantial increases in population and school enrollment, this is a better record than the district has had during any previous period. According to the health officer, this improvement is due largely to the co-operation of parents and physicians in having children treated with toxin anti-toxin.

COMMUNITY CENTER SEEKS BUILDING FUND

On June 1st, Mutual Aid and Neighborhood Club started a campaign for an \$80,000 building fund to provide much needed additions to its present quarters. Adequate housing of the many activities of the community center has been a pressing need for some time and has now become a necessity since the extension of Kercheval Avenue will cut through the present site of the gymnasium.

The new building, the plans and elevations of which have been carefully worked out, will provide additional club rooms, a reading room, game room, offices for the staff, and an assembly hall to be used for general community gatherings and gymnasium work. It will be erected on property in the rear of the present club building and Cottage Hospital, and will face on Kercheval Avenue as extended. It will be the first unit of the club's enlarged program of community service. Later a new home for the Cottage Hospital located across from the community building is planned. Part of the funds for this latter project are already available through bequests.

The widespread service of Mutual Aid and Neighborhood Club is not generally known to residents of Grosse Pointe. Since its organization eighteen years ago Neighborhood Club has fostered and successfully carried on the recreational and welfare work of the community. The first public health and school nursing service was begun by the Club in 1911. This work proved so es-

sential that it was later taken over by the Grosse Pointe Health District and financed from public funds. Other activities have increased year by year, until the Club now provides quarters for sixteen clubs with a total of more than 500 members. These organizations alone conducted 812 meetings at the community center during the past year, an average of 2.6 meetings every week of the year. That the Club's playground has been recognized as the recreational center of the township is indicated by the fact that forty-six athletic events were conducted there during 1925. During the same period 566 families and individuals were given material aid and friendly advice by the visiting housekeeper and social worker. The first public library service was recently established at the Club and is already demonstrating the need of an adequate library in the township.

In short, in all things affecting the community welfare Neighborhood Club has been quietly and efficiently rendering an important service under the handicap of inadequate quarters. New and larger quarters are now necessary if the Club is to keep pace with the increasing demands being placed upon it. It is hoped that Grosse Pointe residents will recognize the important part the Club is performing in the community life of the entire township and will make the Club's present plans for greater service a reality by liberal contributions to the building fund.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

The duty of an educator is not simply to establish free schools, make provision for their support and employ teachers to instruct children but to create and maintain a healthy public sentiment toward popular education.

—Duane Doty, 1866

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