

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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Number 9

VILLAGE ELECTIONS NEXT MONDAY, MARCH 14

Voters in Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village, Grosse Pointe Farms, and Lochmoor Village will elect village officials on next Monday, March 14th. In each of the villages named, there will be elected a president, clerk, treasurer, assessor, and two or more trustees. In addition, three election commissioners will be chosen in Grosse Pointe Park.

The polls will be open from 7:00 A. M. to 8:00 P. M., and will be located in each village at the following places:

Grosse Pointe Park, basement of the Municipal building, corner of Jefferson Avenue and Maryland Avenue.

Grosse Pointe Village, basement of the Township Hall, corner of Maumee Avenue and Roosevelt Place.

Grosse Pointe Farms, booth at the Municipal building, Kerby Road, near Grosse Pointe Boulevard.

Lochmoor Village, booth at the Township Police station, Mack Avenue, near Vernier Road.

Several of the municipal offices this year are being vigorously contested. In Grosse Pointe Park the Independent Party has been formed in opposition to the Peoples' Party, which has controlled all political offices of the village for the last eight years. This party is asking for the support of its candidates for president and three trustees, but has endorsed the opposition candidates for clerk, treasurer, and assessor. The members state that they are not interested in a general overthrowing of the present village form of government, but that they do feel that the village council should be more representative of the village at large.

The Peoples' Party has nominated candidates for every office of the village. The outstanding "plank" of its platform favors the incorporation of the village as a city. This change is explained further by the party candidate for president who, in a written statement requested by the Civic News, points out that "no legislative body has the authority to make such a change without a vote of the people

and that portion of the platform is merely expressive of our wish to investigate and consider the benefits to be derived from such a change."

The several issues involved in the Grosse Pointe Park election require the close study of voters in that village and no doubt will be responsible for the record vote expected at the election.

Several of the offices in Grosse Pointe Village are being sought by two or more candidates this year. Of chief importance is the contest centering around the election of president and of clerk. Mr. Connor, who has served as village president for the past eight years, states that he is seeking re-election to continue "the efficient and economical administration of the village" and to provide "added fire and police protection if found necessary." What changes in the administration of the village are advocated by the opposing candidate are not known, inasmuch as the Citizens Association's request for information about his candidacy was not complied with. For the office of clerk the candidates are: Norbert P. Neff, the present clerk, and Edmund C. West, retiring village treasurer. Statements by both these candidates will be found on page 4 of this issue. Four candidates are seeking the office of assessor and seven residents are candidates for three trusteeships.

In addition to selecting candidates, voters in Grosse Pointe Village will be asked to pass judgment on three bond issues totaling \$115,500 for the paving of Waterloo Avenue and St. Paul Avenue, and for the widening of Rivard Blvd. as far as Maumee Avenue.

With only two exceptions not more than one candidate is running for each office to be filled in Grosse Pointe Farms. John B. Kerby, the present village clerk, and Walter A. Allard, are candidates for village clerk, and four candidates are seeking the three trusteeships to be filled. No bond issues or other questions needing public approval will appear on the Grosse

Pointe Farms ballot.

In Lochmoor Village, the election will be merely the formality of again approving the public officials that were elected in January of this year. Lochmoor elected officials at the time of its incorporation, but to satisfy provisions of its charter, is holding another election at this time. The only candidates are the present officers of the village.

Two years ago the "Civic News" started the practice of furnishing voters non-partisan information about candidates for office. This service has been continued. The replies of those who returned the questionnaires sent out by the Citizens' Association are printed below.

Grosse Pointe Park Independent Party

(Note platform, page 2, col. 3)

PRESIDENT (One year term).

P. Hudson Bradley, 867 Barington Rd. No reply.

TRUSTEES (Three to be elected, two year term).

Albert Klem, 1365 Buckingham Road. No reply.

Edwin Kreighoff, 1111 Nottingham Rd., age 42. Educated Detroit Elementary Schools, Eastern High School and University of Michigan. Occupation, general builder. Taxpayer.

C. Stanley Morgan, 1036 Devonshire Road, age 38. Education, High School. Occupation, manufacturer of asbestos products for 20 years. Taxpayer.

Peoples Party

(Note platform, page 2, col. 3)

PRESIDENT (One year term).

Alfred J. Garska, 1021 Lakepointe Ave., age 37. Education, high school and business college. Occupation, real estate and insurance broker; Vice-Pres. and Treas. of Wolverine Storage Co. Taxpayer. Has served in the following offices: Village Trustee, 6 years; Village Treasurer, 2 years; Township Treasurer, 2 years. Candidate endorses the platform of the Peoples Party, including incorporation as a city. He states: "We are all interested in better government, and if the incorporation of the Village as a city under the Home Rule Act will be a distinct benefit to the Village and its residents, I feel sure that residents of the Village would favor

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Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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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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VITAL ELECTION ISSUES

At the village election in Grosse Pointe Park next Monday, voters will decide on candidates of two political parties. In the platforms of both of the parties are "planks" advocating decided changes in the existing government. This, it appears, is the outstanding fact of the campaign; that both parties are now stressing changes that have been much needed in the administration of the village. For several years the present administration has been strongly urged to adopt several of the changes that both parties now advocate.

The platforms, given in another column of this issue, deal with problems and future policies of far-reaching effect. They should be studied carefully by every citizen and certainly every voter should go to the polls and express his choice on March 14th.

As an example of the many questions involved in each issue, the "Civic News" gives below arguments both for and against changes in the village charter that are being advocated by both parties. Equally vital questions are involved in other issues, but space does not allow their review. The material printed here is given solely as an example of the complex nature of the issues before the voter and is not intended to give weight to either side of these partisan issues.

One party advocates the adoption of a charter incorporating the community as a city; the other party would modernize the village charter. Those desiring a city give as their principal arguments that as a city Grosse Pointe Park will not have to pay township taxes, and would have representation on the County Board of Supervisors. Based upon present township taxes, residents of Grosse Pointe Park would be relieved from paying township taxes amounting to 49½ cents for each \$1,000 assessed valuation. Offsetting such tax exemption, the city would be required to levy and collect

state, county, school and health taxes, now collected within the village by the township. The city would also be required to maintain its own justice courts. Residents of communities that have considered adoption of city charters, after careful study of the problems involved, have stated that the expense of carrying on additional work as a city more than offsets the apparent saving made in avoiding the township tax.

The method of raising school taxes also involves a point worthy of serious consideration. School taxes in the city would be levied on valuations fixed by the city's assessor, while in the balance of the township school taxes would be levied on the valuations fixed by the township supervisor. The experience of communities where this condition exists often has been an unfavorable one that has led to much bickering over the proper share of school taxes each government should pay.

Instead of incorporation as a city, the opposing party is sponsoring revision of the village charter under the Home Rule Act of the state. At present Grosse Pointe Park is operating under the General Acts of the state regulating the powers of villages, and is therefore definitely limited. This party states that a village charter under the Home Rule Act would grant as broad powers to the community as is obtainable under a city charter, and at the same time would give as an efficient and its members believe a more economical organization.

Space does not permit a review of all the issues proposed. Both platforms advocate changes that carried beyond the stage of pre-election promises will doubtless work decided improvements. In addition to the question of charter revision, both parties advocate such betterments as adoption of the council-manager form of government, equalization of assessed values, adoption of zoning restrictions, improvement of police and fire administration and replacing the present party caucus system of nominating officials with a non-partisan system of nominations. These changes will have no doubt the support of every intelligent voter.

The fact that both political factions in Grosse Pointe Park are coming forward with constructive suggestions for improving the administration may be taken as a sign of awakened interest in local affairs. A large and conclusive vote should be cast Monday to record the unquestionable view of the entire

community on the issues at stake and on the candidates who are pledged to carry into practice the changes proposed.

PARTY PLATFORMS

NOTE: Below are the platforms of the political parties in Grosse Pointe Park. Platforms are not formulated in the other Grosse Pointe Villages which are operating under non-partisan election systems.

Independent Party Platform

THE INDEPENDENT PARTY STANDS FOR:

1. Intelligent revision of the village charter.
2. Submission of Village-Manager plan of administration to the voters.
3. Abolish party caucus, replace with non-partisan primary.
4. No forced paving.
5. Honest, rigid inspection of all paving and public improvements.
6. Understandable and complete village financial statements.
7. Equalization of assessments.
8. Improved fire and police administration, making possible promotion of men in the department.
9. Village planning to keep Grosse Pointe Park a beautiful residential section.

THE INDEPENDENT PARTY OPPOSES

1. Incorporation of a city, which inevitably means more officials, bigger salaries, more taxes.
2. Addition of more village departments, which means useless services and more expense.

Peoples' Party Platform

1. We favor incorporation as a city for the following reasons:
 - a. Elimination of township tax.
 - b. Representation on Board of Supervisors.
 - c. Centralization of government under commission manager form.
 - d. Elimination of waste due to lack of proper jurisdiction under present form.
 - e. Creation of local judiciary with proper qualifications for incumbent.
 - f. Abolishment of caucus system and provision for nomination of candidates for public office by petition and primary vote.
2. Separation of Police and Fire Departments to make for greater efficiency and special training for police and firemen.

(Continued on Page 3, foot of Col. 1)

PAVING CONTRACTS LET

On February 18th, Grosse Pointe Village awarded contracts for the paving of two streets of the village and the widening of a third street. Bonds to finance the improvements will be voted upon March 14th, and execution of the contracts awarded February 18th are dependent upon approval of the bond issues by the voters.

The streets to be paved are St. Paul Avenue and Waterloo Avenue between Cadieux Road and Fisher Road and the widening of Rivard Boulevard between Jefferson Avenue and Maumee Avenue, to a total width of 38 feet. St. Paul and Waterloo pavements will be 30 feet wide, constructed of 8-inch concrete base with 3-inch asphalt top. Three firms competed for the work, the lowest bids of \$44,472 for the St. Paul pavement and \$43,259 for the Waterloo pavement being submitted by the Mark R. Hanna Company. The same company was awarded the widening of Rivard Boulevard for \$6,137.95.

In addition to the expense of paving, the village will be required to construct a culvert over Black Marsh Ditch at Waterloo Avenue and Cadieux Road, estimated by the village engineer to cost \$7,764. Relocation of fire hydrants due to widening of Rivard Boulevard is estimated to cost an additional \$500.

Bonds for the improvements will be 15-year sinking fund bonds. These issues are 5 years shorter than bonds formerly issued for similar improvements and are being issued for a shorter term to satisfy requirements of the new Michigan bond law. The practice of issuing bonds that run for a longer period than the life of the improvement has been followed by many municipalities of the state, but is being corrected by the legal requirements now in force.

3. Provide for creation of an engineering department economically administered.
4. Elimination of Black Marsh Ditch by an economical construction of a storm water sewer which will solve our sewerage problem.
5. Readjustment of tax assessments so as to provide for equitable taxes in proportion to property values.
6. Increase in transportation facilities to meet increase in population.
7. Proper zoning ordinance to protect residential sections.
8. Enforcement of traffic ordinance, particularly speed laws.

SINKING FUNDS INVESTED

Grosse Pointe Park recently purchased \$89,480 of its own Special Assessment notes for deposits in its sinking fund. The notes run from three to five years and pay six per cent interest, an exceptionally good yield for sinking fund investments. In the past the sinking fund of Grosse Pointe Park has been held as cash in a savings account, drawing only three per cent.

The total sinking fund of this village, consisting of the special assessment notes just purchased, cash in savings accounts and a balance of this year's appropriation still to be deposited to the fund, is \$138,591.58. It is expected that available cash in the fund will be used soon to purchase another block of the special assessment notes. At least one other Grosse Pointe village is using this means of investing its sinking funds.

IMPROVED ASSESSMENT RECORDS

A card index system of filing assessment records is being installed in Grosse Pointe Village, where in the future each piece of property will be listed on a card giving the name and address of the property owner and the location of the property by subdivision and lot number. The valuation of land and improvements will be listed separately and where such information is available, the record will show the value at which the property was assessed a number of years back.

The installation of the system is considered a decided improvement in the assessment records by village officials. Perhaps the greatest advantage to be gained is through the separation of assessed value of land and buildings. This change will make it possible for taxpayers to compare the value placed upon their property with that placed upon land or buildings of similar value. The records will be kept at the village hall and will be open to public inspection at all times.

The salary of the assessor was recently raised from \$600 to \$1,200 per year, to compensate for the additional duties that the changes involve. Four residents of the villages are candidates for the office at the election, March 14. This is as great a number of candidates as have ever presented themselves for the office.

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such change. This, however, can only be learned by making an investigation."

CLERK (One year term).

Waldo J. Berns, 1157 Maryland Ave., age 36. Education, public school, business college. Occupation, Village Clerk, nine years. Former occupations real estate agent, accountant, Chalmers Motor Co. Taxpayer. Candidate has served as Village Clerk since 1918; Village Treasurer, 1915 and 1916. Is candidate for re-election without opposition.

TREASURER (One year term).

Charles D. Heise, Jr., 1115 Buckingham Road, age 26. Education, high school. Occupation, Village Treasurer since 1925. Taxpayer. Candidate for re-election without opposition.

ASSESSOR (One year term).

John F. DeYonker, 1115 Wayburn Ave., age 34. Education, Detroit public schools, Eastern High School, Detroit College of Pharmacy. Occupation, druggist since 1917. Has engaged in real estate business and has served as appraiser in condemnation cases. Taxpayer. Only candidate for the office.

TRUSTEES (Three to be elected, two year term).

Otto Groehn, 1217 Kensington Road. No reply.

Joseph Kolley, 1110 Yorkshire Road, age 60. Education, high school. Occupation, builder 15 years. Formerly employed as construction superintendent. Taxpayer. Has never served in any political office in Grosse Pointe and is a candidate at this time "because of deep interest in Grosse Pointe and to serve the people to the best of my ability."

John P. Verlinden, 1153 Wayburn Ave., age 37. Education, high school and business college. Occupation, office manager and auditor, American Electrical Heater Co., 9 years. Formerly bookkeeper, Peoples State Bank 6 years. Taxpayer. Has served as Village Trustee four years, and is candidate for re-election.

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

(Three to be elected, one year term.)

Oscar G. Kirsch, 1008 Beaconsfield Ave., age not stated. Education, public and parochial schools. Occupation, printing pressman. Taxpayer. Has served as Election Commissioner "about seven years."

Bertram Levillier, 917 Beaconsfield Ave. No reply.

Frank X. Zeck, 1160 Maryland Ave., age 40. Education, parochial schools. Occupation, Secretary and General Manager Wolverine Storage Co.; Secretary and Treasurer, Detroit Storage Company. Taxpayer. Candidate for re-election, having served two years.

Grosse Pointe Village

PRESIDENT (One year term).

William C. Bishop, 368 St. Clair Ave. No reply.

Richard P. Connor, 307 Roosevelt Pl., age 55. Eighth grade education. Retired builder and contractor. Taxpayer. Candidate for re-election, having served eight years as Village President. Also served six years as Justice of Peace; 8 years as Village Clerk; 2 years as Village Treas-

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urer. "I am for the continuation of the efficient and economical administration of the village affairs and added fire and police protection if found necessary."

CLERK (One year term).

Norbert P. Neff, 513 Neff St., age 32. Eighth grade education. Occupation, Village Clerk. Former occupations, trucking contractor, chauffeur. Taxpayer. Candidate for re-election, having served as clerk five years. Previously served as Village Treasurer three years. "I believe five years experience in this office and previous experience in other occupations fit me to discharge the duties and render the efficient service demanded. I can only state that I have tried to render the best service to the public and if re-elected will continue to do so."

Edmund C. West, 538 St. Clair Ave., age 32. Education, business college. Present occupation, Village Treasurer two years. Previous occupation, bookkeeper 7 years. Taxpayer. Has served four years as assistant to Township Supervisor; two years as assistant to Township Treasurer; three years as Clerk of Grosse Pointe Shores; two years as Treasurer of Grosse Pointe Village. "During my two years as Treasurer of this Village I have started several systems in different departments for the best interests of our Village. I desire to remain in office to see that these are carried out in a business-like manner."

TREASURER (One year term).

Neil Blondell, 569 St. Clair Ave., age 25. Education, high school. Occupation, automatic machine operator 7 years. Taxpayer. "If elected, will do my best for the good of the village."

Frank R. Cadieux, 645 Neff St., age 56. Education, public school and business college. Occupation, real estate four years. Formerly manager of Grosse Pointe Bus Co. Taxpayer. Has served as President of the Village one year; Village Trustee, 2 years; Assessor, 2 years.

Edward L. Reaume, 576 Notre Dame Ave. No reply.

ASSESSOR (One year term).

Theodore F. Damerow, 16935 Maumee Ave., age 65. Education, Detroit Public

Schools and Business College. Occupation, retired florist. Taxpayer. Candidate has previously served 14 years as Village Clerk, 6 years as Village Trustee. "I consider myself capable of handling the duties of the above named office."

Frank M. Allard, 724 Neff St., age 37. Eighth grade education. Occupation, township police officer 14 years. Taxpayer. Has served as constable 8 years. "I am a taxpayer and am naturally interested in the good work of this village."

Nellie Chauvin, 319 Roosevelt Place. No reply.

Richard Mead, 520 Notre Dame Ave., age 30. Public school education. Member of Grosse Pointe Village Police Force 4 years. Taxpayer.

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

Dan M. Cronin, 436 St. Clair Ave., age 32. Public school education. Proprietor of Grosse Pointe Cartage Co. 10 years. Has served 2 years as deputy sheriff.

William S. Diedrich, 400 Lincoln Road, age 39. Education, St. Joseph Collage and Business College. Taxpayer. Occupation, real estate, formerly purchasing agent. Has served as a member of the Election Board. Candidate states that he is "interested in keeping in touch with village affairs and is well qualified."

Charles B. Hull, 488 University Place, age 43. Educated in public and private schools. Occupation, investment banking, 17 years. Has served 3 years as Village Trustee and is a candidate for re-election.

Albert F. Meininger, 475 St. Clair Ave. No reply.

Frank Moulin, 764 Neff St. No reply.

Julius A. Stork, 524 Notre Dame Ave., age 32. Elementary school and Business College education. Occupation, plumbing contractor, 16 years. Taxpayer. Has served as Village Treasurer 2 years, Village Assessor 2 years.

Augustus G. Van Tiem, 591 St. Clair Ave., age 32. Elementary school education. Occupation, private gardener, 8 years. Taxpayer.

Grosse Pointe Farms

PRESIDENT (One year term).

Daniel G. Allor, 76 Kerby Road. Candidate for re-election. No reply.

CLERK (One year term).

Walter A. Allard, 175 Moross Road. No reply.

John R. Kerby, 108 Moross Road, age 38. Education, 12th grade and business college. Occupation, Village Clerk 15 years. Taxpayer. Candidate for re-election. Has also served as Justice of the Peace, 6 years.

TREASURER (One year term).

Clarence P. Semon, 177 Moross Road. No reply.

ASSESSOR (One year term).

Douglas Allor, 37 Oak St. No reply.

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

George S. Hendrie, 23 Hillcrest Ave. No reply.

Barnard B. Mason, 92 Kerby Road, age 46. Eighth grade education. Occupation, operator, Grosse Pointe Water Works, 17 years. Former occupation, janitor. Taxpayer. Is candidate for re-election.

James M. Rasmussen, 298 Moross Rd., age 38. Seventh grade education. Occupation, merchant since 1919, previously employed as policeman. Taxpayer.

Joseph Snay, 101 Oak St. Education in parochial schools. Occupation, special police officer, American State Bank. Previously employed as painter. Taxpayer. Candidate for re-election, having served 4 years.

Lochmoor Village

PRESIDENT (One year term).

Edmund C. Vernier. No reply.

CLERK (One year term).

Norbert Denk. No reply.

TREASURER (One year term).

James C. Goodrich. No reply.

ASSESSOR (One year term).

Bert H. Allen. No reply.

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

James W. Carter. No reply.

William J. Michaux. No reply.

James Van Antwerp. No reply.

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

Notice

VILLAGE ELECTIONS MONDAY
MARCH 14

Polls open from 7 A. M. to 8 P. M.

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