

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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## SCHOOL ELECTION NEXT MONDAY, JUNE 13TH

Monday, June 13th, is the date set for the annual election of the Grosse Pointe School District at which two school trustees will be elected to serve three-year terms, and voters will express their views on four bond issues to finance important building projects, totaling a half million dollars. The polls will be opened in the four precincts of the township from 12:00 noon to 8:00 P. M. Immediately after closing of the polls and counting of the ballots, the annual meeting of electors will be held at the Cadieux School, 399 St. Clair Avenue.

Unusual interest is being shown in the election this year, because of the vigorous contest among candidates, and because of the several important bond issues. Two of the candidates, Charles A. Poupard and Julius C. Peter, are members of the present Board of Education. Mr. Poupard has served as school trustee since consolidation of the school district, five years ago. Mr. Peter was appointed by the present board last February to fill the unexpired term of Mr. E. J. Hickey. The third candidate is Julius L. Berns, who for a number of years has been identified with the village administration in Grosse Pointe Park, where he is serving as village attorney. A brief sketch about each of the candidates will be found on another page of this issue.

In addition to electing school trustees, voters who own property taxed for school purposes will be asked to ballot upon bond issues for the following purposes: \$100,000 for an addition to Defer School; \$85,000 to cover the expense of additional foundation work on the new high school and for landscaping the site; \$65,000 for an elementary school site on Vernier road, near Marter road, and \$250,000 for an elementary school building on this site. Of the bond issue for foundations and landscaping, it is estimated that approximately \$65,000 will be used for the extra foundations required in building the high school.

All of the bond issues are needed to

make necessary improvements and additions, according to school officials. The Defer School, to which an addition costing \$100,000 is being planned, has been filled to capacity since the opening of the building in February, 1925, and during the past year has been badly overcrowded. The addition proposed will increase the building's capacity sufficiently to accommodate the school population of the northern section of Grosse Pointe Park.

The two bond issues for site and building on Vernier Road near Marter Road are for a modern elementary school plant for the newly incorporated Village of Lochmoor. The site of approximately  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres, and with a frontage of 1,014 feet on Vernier Road, was purchased several months ago by the school board for \$65,919.75, or \$65 a front foot, and was selected because it was most centrally located to serve the northeast corner of the township. In order that the school board might know definitely the needs of this district, Dr. Arthur B. Moehlman, Professor of School Administration, University of Michigan, was retained to study the present and future school needs of the district and make recommendations.

Dr. Moehlman found that the number of children of school age (5 to 20 years) now living in the district was 102, and that 76 of these were 5 to 12 years old, or of elementary school age. The study also showed that the ultimate public elementary school needs of the district would require a building housing 1,440 pupils, and recommended that the first unit of the building be erected to take care of school needs for the next few years. Anticipating the rapid growth in population of the area in the immediate future, the school board believed it advisable to plan for the first unit of the building at this time, and adopted Dr. Moehlman's recommendations. The first unit, as sketched by the architects,

Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, will include five classrooms, auditorium, gymnasium, library, teachers' room and principal's office, and is designed to serve both the educational and social needs of the district. This unit of the building, exclusive of site, is estimated to cost \$250,000.

Residents should note that not all persons are entitled to vote as school electors, and that separate qualifications are required to vote for candidates for school trustees and upon bond issues. In addition to being a citizen of the United States, of voting age, it is necessary, in order to qualify as a school elector, to have been a resident of the district three months prior to election, and to be the owner of property taxed for school purposes, or the parent or legal guardian of a child of school age (5 to 20 years). Both taxpayers and parents may vote for school board candidates, but only taxpayers are permitted to vote on bond issues. *Qualified voters must be registered by the school district and should note that registration with the villages or the township does not qualify the voter for school elections.* Provision will be made for registering electors at the precinct booths on election day, if, due to absence from the district, the voter has not been able to register at any other time.

Location of the voting booths for the four precincts are given below. The polls will be open between 12:00 noon and 8:00 P. M.

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

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

**Precinct 3.** Grosse Pointe Farms, and portion of Grosse Pointe Township lying westerly of Grosse Pointe Farms. Voting booth, Municipal Building, 54 Kerby Road.

**Precinct 4.** Grosse Pointe Shores, and Village of Lochmoor. Voting booth, Municipal Building, Grosse Pointe Shores, corner of Lakeshore Road and Vernier Road.

## Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

P. O. Address, 51 Warren Ave., W.

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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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### THE SCHOOL ELECTION

The school election next Monday challenges the attention of every qualified voter and makes it necessary that every person interested in the continued development of our educational system give serious thought to the candidates and questions on the ballot. It is not necessary to review here either the qualifications of the several candidates or to restate the proposed projects for which bond issues are asked, for both are given in another column of this issue.

But it is desirable to emphasize the need of intelligent study on the part of the voters of the candidates seeking election and of the bond issues proposed, for the result of the election may be the determining factor in the continued progress of our school system.

The following brief review of progress made in our schools during the past three years points to the necessity of continued non-partisan interest in the schools in order that the work carried thus far may not be hindered.

Three years ago, or nearly two years after the consolidation of the district Grosse Pointe Schools compared so unfavorably with those of Detroit and other districts of the metropolitan area that a decided change in school policies appeared necessary. The personnel of the School Board consisted of men who seemed more concerned with politics than with educational matters, for each member of the board was holding at least one village or township political office. High school courses were so inadequate that the high school was not recognized by either the State University or the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Grosse Pointe children were required to travel to Detroit in order to get four years of high school work. Teaching stand-

ards and teachers' salaries were too low to permit the Grosse Pointe system to compete with other systems in employing its teaching staff. A detailed budget had never been developed, sinking funds were inadequate, and in general the administration of the system was indifferent and of very low standard.

In contrast to such conditions the past three years has witnessed marked improvement in every department. Due to revived interest on the part of electors men have been induced to serve as school trustees who are concerned with giving the district a businesslike administration and with developing the highest educational standards. No member of the present school board holds any political office in either the villages or the township. Both teaching standards and salaries have been raised, and under the first year of operation of the new schedule, changes and adjustments have been made in both the teaching and administrative staff. Equal improvement has been made in business administration. The district now operates under a detailed budget that permits it to estimate closely and control wisely its finances; sinking funds now satisfy legal requirements, and the accounting procedure has been greatly improved. The high school curriculum which two years ago was provisionally accredited by the University of Michigan, has recently gained the highest approval of the university and of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Perhaps the most outstanding accomplishment has been the development of a complete building program which upon completion will assure to all sections of Grosse Pointe properly planned school facilities. One building, the Robert Trombly School, already has been completed, and the new high school will begin operation next February. An addition to the overcrowded Defer School, and a new elementary school on Vernier Road, near Marter Avenue, will be built soon, if the bonds to finance the projects are approved at this election. The district's entire building program is the result of close study that assures to the district the greatest return for the money expended.

But the progress made during the past three years is only the foundation. If Grosse Pointe is to maintain a school system that is worthy of its en-

viable position as a residential community, the work thus well begun must be carried progressively forward.

In considering the candidates and the merits of the several bond issues to be balloted on Monday, electors will largely determine school board policies for the coming three years. Any reversion to former conditions would be a decided set-back.

### STATEMENTS BY CANDIDATES

The following statements have been furnished at the request of the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe by the candidates for school trustee at the election June 13th:

**JULIUS L. BERNS**, 1240 Bedford Road, Grosse Pointe Park, age 32. Graduate of the University of Michigan, 1917. Occupation, Attorney at Law 10 years. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Has one child attending public school. Mr. Berns has served as village attorney in Grosse Pointe Park for the past nine years. Has also served as attorney at various times during this period for one or more of the following municipalities: Berkeley, Clawson, Melvindale, St. Clair Shores and Warren.

**JULIUS C. PETER**, 49 Cambridge Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, age 37. Graduate of Yale University, 1910. Vice-President of the Detroit Trust Co., where he has served in various offices for the past 13 years. Owner of Grosse Pointe property. Has two children attending public schools. Mr. Peter, who was selected by the school board to fill the unexpired term of Mr. E. J. Hickey, makes the following statement regarding his candidacy: "My sole object in seeking re-election to the school board is to contribute to the best of my ability to the good management and further improvement of our school system."

**CHARLES A. POUPARD**, 382 St. Clair Avenue, Grosse Pointe Village, age 52. Public school education. Engaged in real estate for last two years. Previously served as township supervisor. Is a candidate for re-election, having been a member of the board since consolidation of the district. "I am seeking re-election for the interest I have as a taxpayer in having the best school for the Township of Grosse Pointe."

### ASSOCIATION'S SECRETARY RESIGNS

The resignation of Howard G. Fishack, Executive Secretary of the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township since October 1, 1924, was made known at the last meeting of the Executive Board on June 3rd. Mr. Fishack is leaving the Citizens' Association to accept a staff position with the newly organized Municipal Research Bureau at Buffalo, New York, where he will begin his new duties on July 1st. His successor in Grosse Pointe has not as yet been appointed.

### THIRTY-THREE IN GRADUATING CLASS

Exercises marking the graduation of the third class from Grosse Pointe High School will be held in Defer School auditorium on Wednesday evening, June 22nd, at 8:00 P. M. Woodbridge N. Ferris, United States Senator from Michigan, will give the address to the class of thirty-three graduates.

The class this year, made up of sixteen girls and seventeen boys, is larger by five members than that of a year ago, and is unusual in the fact that more than half of the class are boys. Following is the class roll:

Cyril Armstrong, William Bain, Elinor Barclay, George Bisset, Pearl Brys, Muriel Chene, Bernice Coelius, Roma Cutler, Henrietta DeVuyst, Jane DeVuyst, Louis Finke, Louise Fischer, Fern Giroux, Dorothy Hartman, Kathleen Howard, Catherine Jarrett, Henry Meininger, Marcel Miller, Earl Mossner, Paul Morrow, Paul Pattyn, Willy Pattyn, Esther Pearch, Mary Penn, Alice Post, William Pritchard, Sydney Radlow, Byron Runde, Robert Sanderson, Paul Shipman, Harold Stock, Elsie VanDresser, Kenneth Walling.

During the next two weeks, numerous events are planned by the class, several of which are open to the public. On Friday evening, June 10th, the class will present the senior play, entitled, "Help Yourself," at the auditorium of Defer School at 8:00 P. M. On the following day, an excursion and picnic at Bob-Lo Island is planned which will be open to all pupils of the public schools and their parents. The fare for the excursion will be 75 cents for adults and 40 cents for children under 14 years old.

The junior banquet, in honor of the senior class, will be given on Thursday evening, June 20th, in the Memorial Church Parish House, while class night exercises will be conducted on the following Monday evening, in Defer School auditorium. The final event will be the graduation exercises on the evening of June 22nd.

A special effort has been made by the class in preparing and editing "The Pointe," an annual publication reviewing the work of the school year. The book should be of general interest to persons of the community. A limited number of copies has been printed this year, and will be placed on sale at the high school about June 10th.

### UNIVERSITY APPROVAL GRANTED

Notice to the effect that Grosse Pointe High School has been accredited by the University of Michigan for a three-year period was received by W. L. Walling, Superintendent, a short time ago. The letter announcing the committee's action also takes occasion to compliment the district on the progress that has been made in raising school standards.

The following paragraphs are quoted from the letter which is signed by J. B. Edmonson, Secretary, University Committee on Accredited Schools:

"In re-accrediting your school, the committee desires to commend your policy of securing and retaining superior teachers. It is suggested that a liberal salary schedule be adopted in order to retain and reward progressive teachers.

"I wish to commend your school for satisfying the requirements for this highest recognition extended by the University Committee on Accredited Schools."

Grosse Pointe High School was provisionally accredited by the University two years ago, but this year is the first time that it has been unconditionally approved for a three-year period. Similar action taken earlier in the year by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools is further evidence of the progress of our school system.

### ELECTION PRECINCT DIVIDED

The last meeting of Grosse Pointe Village Council ordered the division of the village into two election precincts.

Precinct one will include territory between Lake St. Clair and Kercheval Avenue, while the new precinct will extend from Kercheval Avenue north to Mack Avenue. The voting booth for precinct one will remain at the Township Hall, and a centrally located voting booth for precinct two will be provided later.

This change was made to satisfy requirements of Public Acts of 1925, No. 351, which provide that whenever more than 650 votes have been cast in a voting district it is mandatory to divide the district.

An extension of Lakeland Avenue, from Kercheval Avenue to Black Marsh Ditch, is now under way in Grosse Pointe Village.

### SUMMER SCHOOL

Plans are being completed for a summer session of eight weeks to be held at Defer School, beginning Monday, June 27th, and continuing to August 19th. Classes will be held from 8:00 A. M. to 12:15 P. M. Regular work in grades 5 to 8, inclusive, and a limited number of high school subjects will be offered, depending upon the demand for high school work.

The local Board of Education has also arranged to send pupils, who desire courses not offered in Grosse Pointe, to the summer term of Detroit high schools. Pupils who plan to attend Detroit schools this summer must first obtain approval from the principal of Grosse Pointe High School of the summer courses to be taken. If work planned is satisfactory to the local school authorities, the Superintendent's office will then issue a permit authorizing the work, and the Grosse Pointe School Board will pay both tuition and transportation for the summer session.

This plan is being followed to permit any high school pupil to take summer work, and at the same time to reduce the cost of employing sufficient teachers to conduct a wide range of courses for the small enrollment in Grosse Pointe.

The summer session in Grosse Pointe schools, and the arrangement made with Detroit high schools, offers regular credit and advancement to pupils with high marks, who satisfactorily complete the work, and also gives pupils who have fallen behind in their work an opportunity to strengthen their weak subjects.

Grosse Pointe Community Center has completed arrangements for its annual summer camp to be held during July in conjunction with the Red Cross Life Saving Camp at Orr Lake, Michigan. During the first two weeks the Boy Scouts will occupy the camp; for the week following, the Girl Scouts; and for the final week the V. V. V. Girls' Club. Although the capacity of the camp has been increased from 18 to 32, the quota for the Boy Scouts' outing has been filled but there are still a few vacancies to be filled at both the girls' camps.

Taxes in all the Grosse Pointe villages will be due and payable during July.

**GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE APPROVES BUDGET**

The Council of Grosse Pointe Village reviewed and approved the village budget totaling \$332,733 at its meeting on May 27th. The total this year is \$16,050 higher than the budget of \$316,684 approved a year ago.

With one exception, total items for each department are higher than a year ago. The exception is that of sewage disposal, which has dropped from \$13,595 last year, to \$12,470 for the current period. Increases range from a few dollars in several departments to \$4,531 for the Highway Department, and \$6,226 for the Fire Department. An item of \$3,000 for recreation and \$1,200 to defray the cost of zoning are new items included this year.

The total operating budget, or the total cost of running the village, exclusive of the estimated cost of capital improvements, but including interest and sinking fund charges, is \$300,460, compared with \$273,291.67 last year. Items covering capital improvements have decreased from \$43,392.72 to \$32,273.

Total appropriations by departments showing increases or decreases over the previous year follow:

	1927-28	Increase or *Decrease
	Appropriated	
Administration .....	\$ 17,595.00	\$ 25.00
Police .....	43,835.00	318.00
Fire (regular) .....	41,320.00	6,226.00
Public Works .....	12,700.00	260.00
Highway .....	66,570.00	4,531.00
Signal .....	5,970.00	1,742.00
Disposal .....	12,470.00	1,125.00
Yard, Shop, etc.....	4,750.00	700.00
Zoning .....	1,200.00	1,200.00
Recreation .....	3,000.00	3,000.00
Water Cost .....	18,000.00	1,000.00
Debt Charges.....	73,050.00	9,292.00

Total Oper. Budget. \$300,460.00 \$32,169.00  
 Capital Improvements 32,273.00 \*11,119.00

Total Budget. \$332,733.00 \$16,050.00

Grosse Pointe Village budget also includes an estimate of receipts or funds with which to finance village work; \$246,448.07 of the total will come from taxes due in July, and the balance, \$86,285.53, is made up of the following items:

Cash Balance, Feb. 28, 1927.....	\$ 15,893.52
Due from County Pres.....	3,192.01
Interest on Deposits.....	6,000.00
Permits and Licenses.....	1,500.00
Court Fines.....	1,000.00

Water Revenue.....	26,000.00
Special Assessments.....	20,000.00
General Taxes, Prior Rolls.....	10,000.00
Miscellaneous .....	1,500.00

Total.....\$ 86,285.53  
 Current General Taxes..... 246,448.07

Total Receipts.....\$332,733.60

The total amount to be raised by taxation this year is \$15,052.00 less than a year ago, giving a tax rate that will be slightly less than the \$11.50 rate of last year.

The budgets of the other Grosse Pointe municipalities will be reviewed in a later issue of Civic News.

An increase in the deposits required for water permits in Grosse Pointe Village is now in effect. The present schedule requires a \$10 deposit when the permit is granted, \$8.50 of which is refunded upon satisfactory completion of the work. A deposit of \$25.00 with a refund of \$23.50 is required where the water installation requires breaking through the street pavement. Permits were formerly granted for a fee of \$5.00, of which \$4.50 was refunded.

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**CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

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Mr. Bernard B. Vogt,  
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 Grosse Pte. Village, Mich.

Voting is both a privilege and a duty. From either standpoint no citizen worthy of the name will neglect it.

*to 1508*