

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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Number 9

MARCH ELECTIONS

March 5th
TOWNSHIP PRIMARY

March 12th
GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE ELECTION
GROSSE POINTE FARMS ELECTION
GROSSE POINTE PARK ELECTION
LOCHMOOR VILLAGE ELECTION

A SPIRITED township primary election campaign has been waged this last month in Grosse Pointe, preparatory to the casting of ballots on Monday, March 5th, for supervisor, clerk, treasurer, justice of the peace, constable and member of the board of review. Election on April 2 is practically assured for primary victors, the fight for offices, as usual, being confined to the Democratic ticket.

Edmund C. Vernier, incumbent, is being opposed for re-election as supervisor by Stanley B. Chauvin, former township treasurer who has been assessor and trustee for several terms in Grosse Pointe Village. Mr. Vernier has been supervisor off and on for 12 years and served terms as township treasurer and clerk and as president of Lochmoor Village. He is 61 years old, Mr. Chauvin 39.

"The township government," Mr. Chauvin states, "should interest itself in problems such as the Black Marsh Ditch, metropolitan sewer system, rapid transit plans of Detroit, transportation and like matters which are going to vitally affect the whole community.

Pledges Economy

"I believe that my experience in business and public office qualify me for the important position of supervisor. I pledge myself, if elected, to a more economical administration, equitable equalization of property valuations and greater opportunity for the review of tax rolls by owners through ample notice well in advance of review meetings."

Mr. Chauvin lives at 319 Roosevelt Place, Grosse Pointe. He received a public school and business course education and for 14 years has been a painting and decorating contractor. Mr. Vernier lives at 1032 Vernier Road, Lochmoor. His campaign pronouncement is a reminder that in the last two years the township tax rate, which was \$0.87 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation two years ago, is now \$0.31 per thousand, a drop of 56 cents per thousand in two years. A year ago the rate was 50 cents per thousand.

Neither the rate nor the total amount of taxation is as important as proper equalization of assessments and econom-

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THE SPOILED CHILD GETS SOME MORE CANDY

MR. ALFRED J. GARSKA, president of the Village of Grosse Pointe Park and member of the Charter Commission which last September was entrusted with the task of preparing a new charter for that Village, was the leader in a coup d'etat last month which resulted in adoption, February 13th, of an admittedly weak and long-discredited form of charter government by the narrow margin of 37 votes.

The total vote on the charter was 664, with 340 for it, 303 against it and 21 spoiled ballots. (About one-fifth of the eligible voters went to the polls.)

On February 8th, five days before the charter election, Mr. Garska, et al, squeezed from several more or less reluctant leaders of the Grosse Pointe Park Protective Association the promise of a letter over the latter's signatures endorsing an admittedly ancient form of commission government with an undesirable di-

vision of authority and responsibility and an absurd clause on possible appointment some day of a village manager, who, under this charter, could be little more than a glorified errand boy for the commissioners.

Condemned By Experts

That the charter was far from modern, was condemned by charter experts, including Dr. Lent D. Upton, director of the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research, and was in many respects an insult to the intelligence of a community which is surely entitled to the best and most efficient government possible were charges well known to those present at the meeting February 8th.

But the "spoiled child" of Grosse Pointe Park, which, events seem to indicate, has come to look upon the government of that village as a matter which concerns its welfare first and that of the community incidental, insisted that its recent concession of a first-class zoning ordinance for the village ought to deserve a little indulgence in the matter of a pseudo manager - type charter, whether or not that charter, like a stick of too-rich candy, might result in future unnecessary discomfort for the community.

To clinch the argument, Mr. Garska and his colleagues resorted to very "subtle" innuendo to the effect that if the charter did not pass and if the "politicians" who were seeking to dethrone Mr. Garska and his supporters should be successful, something terrible might happen to the zoning ordinance.

The Signers

Desirous of maintaining peace at any price, 23 members of the Protective Association signed the desired campaign material, which, the election indicates, was undoubtedly a deciding factor in capturing a slim majority for the charter.

Incidentally, village-owned vehicles were pressed into service in

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HEARING ON NEW SCHOOL SITES SET FOR MARCH 15TH

Five sites for new schools expected to be needed in the future have been tentatively selected by the Board of Education upon the recommendation of Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, superintendent, and a public hearing on the proposed sites has been called for Thursday, March 15th, in the new high school.

The sites proposed for elementary schools are five-acre parcels at McMillan and Ridge in Elementary School District No. 4 and at Kerby and Beaupre in District No. 5. The ultimate number of pupils in No. 4 is placed at 1,600, in No. 5 at 1,800. Seven-acre sites it is proposed to obtain for future junior high schools are at St. Paul and Audubon in Junior High School District No. 1, Lothrop and Charlevoix in District No. 2 and Fairway Drive near Lochmoor Boulevard in District No. 3.

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Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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

EVERY attempt to rise from quicksand usually gets a man in deeper. That, it seems, has been the experience of the Board of Education in its dealings with Mr. George J. Haas, A. I. A., former president of the Village of Hamtramck and now resident of St. Clair Shores.

Four days after the president of the Board on February 6th publicly asked Mr. Haas to cease work on the Lochmoor School plans until the legality of his appointment at a secret session last November could be definitely checked, the Board again took up the matter of the architect's Lochmoor contract, which remained unsigned for more than two months.

The occasion was a special meeting February 10th called on another matter, so the Lochmoor contract could not legally be considered. Nevertheless, it was considered, though the Board had nothing to act upon that was not in its hands weeks before.

Objection Unheeded

Trustee Maire, when asked by his colleagues to vote on a motion to confirm the November 29th secret session appointment, declared he was still of the opinion that the appointment was illegal and that the Board should await the Attorney-General's opinion. When the others insisted on voting anyway, Dr. Maire washed his hands of the whole affair, and declined to be inveigled into a vote.

Trustees Bradley, Poupard and Parcels, however, voted to confirm an appointment, which, if legal, would need no confirmation, and if illegal, could not be legalized before the law or the bar of public opinion by a dozen "confirming" votes.

(A simple procedure to clear up the whole matter of the appointment had been

pointed out to the Board. It was simply to vote to expunge the November 29th action and then, with a clean slate, vote again on the appointment. That the Board did not see fit to do this is a tribute to the ingenuity of Mr. Haas and his supporters—Messrs. Muir, Berns, Poupard, et al—in crashing the gate of the Board's opposition to Mr. Haas at a secret session and then rushing on with the architectural work. This is one of Mr. Haas' favorite stunts. He has the Defer School addition under roof though there is no contract existing as yet between Mr. Haas and the Board on this job.)

5% Pay For 2½% Work

Following the Board's "confirmation" acknowledgment of its helplessness on February 10th, a contract stripped of many of the usual Haas features but still far short of the high type signed by Smith, Hinchman & Grylls on the Trombly School, was signed February 11th by President Bradley, Secretary Parcels and Mr. Haas for architectural services on the Lochmoor School. It provides very definitely among other things that no expenses are to be incurred by Mr. Haas without consent of the Board, the Board having been burned plenty on the high school in this respect.

However, Mr. Haas does not guarantee that the work of the contractors will be carried out as per specifications, adroitly stipulating that his supervision services on the Lochmoor School will not be all that supervision means in public works jobs in Detroit and leaving the door open suggestively for the Board to hire a clerk-of-the-works at an extra expenditure if it wishes complete supervision.

The practice in Detroit school jobs is for the architect to get 2½% commission for designing and 2½% commission for supervision services. Mr. Haas, again, takes a 5% cut and lets the Board holding the bag on the important element of supervision. In the Trombly contract with Smith, Hinchman & Grylls there is of course not the slightest hint that the Board might hire a supervisor to see that the job was done right. When a reputable architect takes a job, his reputation hinges on the job being done right, and he expects to give the job the one and only kind of supervision that he should be paid for and that is the kind of supervision the job naturally demands.

Sought to Throttle the Press

That Mr. Haas very much fears to have the public read criticism of

his architectural work and business relations with public bodies was evidenced in February when he began suit in Circuit Court to keep an open letter on his record in Grosse Pointe from publication in Civic News.

The suit was dropped by Mr. Haas voluntarily before it came up for a hearing, but too late to permit publication of the letter in the February issue. The letter, therefore, appears elsewhere in this issue of Civic News, merely as a matter of record. (See page six.)

In a reply to the open letter, Mr. Haas addressed a letter to the School Board which admitted that his high school plans had been changed, much against his desires, and that it had resulted in a saving to taxpayers of more than a quarter million dollars (enough money to build the Trombly School and the Defer addition), while at the same time providing for several hundred more students than were planned to be cared for in his plans.

The Supervision Item

Mr. Haas did not deny that his terms—5% without complete supervision—were greater than the standard in Detroit which is 2½% for designing and 2½% for supervision.

Despite his admission that he was forced to change his high school plans, he still rests on the high school as his answer to the critics of his architectural services, claiming credit for the architecture in one breath and in the next deploring that it was forced upon him.

As regards his failure to make test borings on the high school site, Mr. Haas said he considered such expense unwise and costly—even on a \$100,000 item. If Mr. Haas' theory is correct, why have competitive bidding on anything?

One statement in Mr. Haas' letter—a statement which was read before the Board and a packed roomful of citizens on February 6th—asserts that Mr. Haas "put back into the (high school) job practically all of his commission received." (More than \$55,000 to date on the construction alone.) What Mr. Haas meant by that is hard to conceive. Didn't he expect to do \$55,000 worth of labor for \$55,000 pay?

In his letter, Mr. Haas further claims that, though the Board at his suggestion hired a clerk-of-the-works on the high school job, the "architect personally supervises and details all construction on the building." If he did what he claims to, what would be the sense of the Board's hiring someone else to do his work?

Do "Emergencies" Justify Law-Breaking?

As regards the clause Mr. Haas inserted in the high school contract giving the architect authority to authorize extras without the Board's knowledge, he does not justify this practice, merely stating that he exercised it only in emergencies.

In reply to the charge that the Defer School cost twice as much per pupil as similar Detroit schools built at the same time, Mr. Haas cited a per pupil cost of \$455.74 and a capacity of 540 on this elementary school, and, pointing to costs

of three intermediate and practice teaching schools in Detroit, said: "See, the school I built cost less than any of these."

A Detroit elementary school with which the Defer may be fairly compared is the Wilkins, which cost \$50,000 less to build than the Defer while at the same time providing for 40 more students than even Mr. Haas claims the Defer can accommodate. The Wilkins contains 436,203 cubic feet, the Defer 614,637 cubic feet, which indicates that Mr. Haas designed a bigger school at a greater cost with accommodation for fewer students. The per pupil cost of the Wilkins, including construction, landscaping and architect fees, was \$333.92 compared with Mr. Haas' own estimated per pupil cost of the Defer of \$455.74, exclusive of landscaping and architect's fees.

No Credit Due Mr. Haas

If Mr. Haas had had his way, the new high school would have been a heavy stone, Gothic, three-story structure similar to the Defer instead of the light brick, beautiful, artistic, two-story Colonial type that it is, with an intelligently arranged interior and accommodations suitable to the community's needs. Both the change from stone to brick, from Gothic to Colonial and from a poorly arranged to an expertly arranged interior were forced upon Mr. Haas, against his wishes. The high school is what it is in spite of Mr. Haas, he himself admits in one breath but denies in the next.

Points too numerous to warrant space in Civic News at this date, now that the contested Lochmoor appointment has been confirmed and settled as far as the Board is concerned, were taken up in Mr. Haas' letter and answered in another letter of the Citizens' Association, all of which are on file at the Board of Education.

The Haas' Supporters

The men who voted for Mr. Haas on November 29th, over the protest and opposition of a majority of the Board, were Messrs. Julius L. Berns and Charles A. Poupard, trustees, and Messrs. W. Howie Muir, L. S. Trowbridge and Joseph E. Beaufait, members of the special building committee:

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ical expenditure of township funds, Mr. Chauvin and his supporters contend. The incorporation of Lochmoor Village, which brought to a close the township highway activities in Grosse Pointe, is largely responsible for the drop in township tax rate, Mr. Vernier's opponents declare, adding that assessments made by the supervisor and approved by the board of review with scant notice of hearings range from five and 10 per cent of actual value to 75, 100 and 200 per cent in some instances.

The Drain Question

Mr. Vernier's alleged activity in obtaining construction at township expense of a 1,600-foot drain to serve his property and that of neighbors on Vernier Road in the fall of 1926 on the eve of incorporation of Lochmoor Village, after which it would have been necessary for the abutting property to stand the \$2,413.22 expense of the drain, is condemned by his opponents.

The necessity for the drain, Mr. Vernier replies, was passed upon by the township board, which voted funds for the project upon the recommendation of the highway commissioner. (The auditor's report for 1926-27 recorded an irregularity on this drain project in that only \$841.22 of its cost was charged to the highway fund and the remainder of its cost, \$1,572, was tucked away in the general fund.)

For township clerk, Philip F. Allard, 934 Vernier Road, village clerk of Lochmoor, is opposing Daniel G. Allor, 76 Kerby Road, president of Grosse Pointe Farms, who is seeking re-election as township clerk. (Mr. Allor is unopposed for re-election as president of Grosse Pointe Farms.) Mr. Allard, a decorator by trade, is 30 years old. He was educated in the public schools and studied bookkeeping and commercial law at the Detroit Business University. Mr. Allor has at various times been township highway commissioner, and village treasurer and trustee. He is engaged in the ice and coal business.

Five For Treasurer

Five candidates are seeking the office of township treasurer: Albert E. LaBelle, Charles A. Paye, Edward VanAssche, Frank R. Cadieux and Arthur F. Vernier. Mr. Vernier, a real estate broker, 23 years old, has been a student at the University of Detroit and the Detroit Business University. He lives at 126 Moran Road, Grosse Pointe Farms. The only other reply to Civic News' questionnaire was from Mr. Paye, 1007 Cadieux Road, who has at various times been township clerk, school trustee, and village assessor; he plans, if elected, to "endeavor to improve tax collecting methods." Mr. Paye, who is 59, is a graduate of Detroit Business University.

Five are contending for Democratic nomination for justice of the peace: Noah G. Paye, incumbent; James W. Carter, A. E. Lily, Samuel Bastien and William S. Diedrich. Mr. Bastien, who is also seeking re-election as commissioner in Grosse Pointe Park, will be remembered as an election official who in 1925 was charged with interfering with the rights and duties of challengers. (The case against him was dismissed on technical grounds.) He lives at 1101 Lakepointe Avenue. Mr. Paye, a painter and decorator, living at 1091 Lakepointe, has at various times been highway commissioner, village treasurer and for the last eight years justice of the peace. Mr. Diedrich, who lives at 400 Lincoln Road, is a storekeeper in Grosse Pointe who formerly held positions with banking and real estate organizations and was at one time employed in the city treasurer's office in Detroit. His education included two and one-half years' study of law. Mr. Diedrich is 39, Mr. Bastien 60 and Mr. Paye 48. Mr. George Newnham, the only and perennial Republican candidate for justice of the peace, is engaged in the taxi business. He lives at 350 Roosevelt Place.

Constable Candidates

For constables, Andrew T. Phillips, Emmett O. Pentecost, Louis A. Wisser, John Baker and James M. Rasmussen are running. The latter, a Grosse Pointe Farms merchant, is a former constable and policeman, who is also a candidate

for village trustee. Mr. Wisser, now a chauffeur, was formerly a policeman, private detective and special deputy sheriff. He lives in Grosse Pointe Farms. Mr. Pentecost is a former policeman and employee of the water board in Grosse Pointe Park. Mr. Phillips puts his whole time in the performance of constable duties. He has held this office for 14 years.

For member of the board of review there is only one candidate, Jerry Vanderbush. No one is running for highway commissioner, the need for the office having ceased to exist with the incorporation of Lochmoor.

GROSSE POINTE FARMS

The election of officers in Grosse Pointe Farms on March 12th holds promise of interest in a determined effort being made by Walter A. Allard, an accountant residing at 175 Moross Road, to displace John R. Kerby, village clerk, who has held that office 16 years. Mr. Allard states that he is seeking election "to correct inefficiency and laxity in the upkeep of the records," adding that he endorses the sentiments of E. A. Batchelor and H. H. Micou, candidates for trustee, who have denounced delay in sewer construction in the village.

"If elected trustee I will do all in my power to hurry the village drain improvements," Mr. Batchelor states. "Our community has gone too long with inadequate sewers, and no time should be lost in assuring future home builders deep and efficient drainage." Mr. Batchelor, formerly a Brown University student, lives at 65 Moran Road. He is managing editor of the D. A. C. News and widely known as a sports writer. Mr. Micou, a mechanical engineering graduate of Cornell University, is a general contractor, living at 73 Moran Road.

Besides Messrs. Batchelor and Micou, there are three other candidates for the three vacant trusteeships: Herman Dondro and William J. Mason, incumbents, and James Rasmussen. Daniel G. Allor is unopposed for re-election as president, and C. P. Semon for treasurer. Alonzo Backman and Alfred Frasier are candidates for assessor.

GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE

Richard P. Connor, president; Norbert P. Neff, clerk; Neil Blondell, treasurer, and Theodore F. Damerow, assessor, are unopposed for re-election March 12th. D. M. Ferry, Jr., and William Fisher are seeking re-election as trustees. Louis C. Rabaut, third commissioner whose term expires, is not seeking re-election, having moved to Grosse Pointe Park. Three other trustee candidates are George H. Casgrain, 485 Lincoln Road; Albert F. Meisinger, 475 St. Clair Avenue, and Chester Carpenter, 671 Washington Road. Only the latter replied to Civic News' questionnaire. He is a salesman and former office manager, 32 years old, and has been employed on election boards in Detroit and Grosse Pointe Village since 1920.

Three propositions, involving \$46,000 in bond issues, will also be presented to the electors: One to provide \$10,000 for repaving Lincoln Road from Jefferson to Maumee; the second to provide \$6,000 for paving Kercheval Place from Cadieux

to Notre Dame, and the third to provide \$30,000 for construction of a new fire engine house.

GROSSE POINTE PARK

Competition for three commissioners to be filed under the new charter adopted February 15th is the only excitement in store for Grosse Pointe Park voters on March 12th. The candidates are Messrs. Charles L. Williams, Thomas W. McCalligan, Herbert E. Adams, Samuel Bastien and William P. Shoemaker, the latter two being members of the present council.

One of two replies received to Civic News' questionnaire is that of Mr. Williams, a realtor, 42 years old, who lives at 1050 Beaconsfield Avenue. Many residents, whom Mr. Williams has been responsible for bringing to the village in his 13 years' real estate activity, have asked him to run, he states, adding that voters should be impressed with the importance of registering and voting since "we have the laxness of the voters to blame for the charter winning by the narrow margin of 37 votes." Mr. Bastien sums up his qualification for office as follows: "I think most everybody knows that I like to fight when I think I am right." (Mr. Bastien was acquitted on a technicality two years ago of a charge of unlawfully ejecting a qualified challenger from an election booth.)

Alfred J. Garska is unopposed for re-election as president, P. Hudson Bradley having withdrawn his name from the ballot following the primary in which he received but half as many votes as Mr. Garska. Waldo J. Berns is also unopposed for clerk.

LOCHMOOR

Edmund C. Vernier, who is being strongly opposed for re-election as township supervisor, is also being forced to fight to retain his office of president of Lochmoor, his opponent for the presidency being Joseph E. Beaufait, a former township supervisor who is at present a member of the village commission of Lochmoor. The latter, a real estate dealer, has been a constant critic of Mr. Vernier's administration. When Mr. Vernier suggested that Lochmoor would need no assessor of its own and could save expense by copying Mr. Vernier's township assessments for the Lochmoor roll, Mr. Beaufait severely criticized the president and later before the Commission brought out instances of a wide divergence between the assessments of Mr. Vernier and those of the Lochmoor assessor. Mr. Beaufait has also opposed construction of various drains at village expense, claiming that individual property owners should pay for improvements which primarily increased values of private property.

Edward Vanderbush and Arthur H. Post are seeking re-election as commissioners, while Clyde M. Goodman is the only candidate for the commission which Mr. Beaufait has given up to run for president.

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disseminating the letter, which bore the printed signature of the follow-

ing: Armin Rickel, C. J. Spitzley, Mrs. Morse Rohnert, C. S. Cole, Fred Sutter, Mrs. L. N. Hilsendegen, W. W. Hannan, L. J. Bulkley, Dr. Louis J. Hirschman, Edwin Krieghoff, F. M. Sibley, H. E. Beyster, Matthew H. Millenbach, Stark Hickey, James H. Flinn, Charles Stinchfield, Jr., M. J. Cosgrove, Fred W. Dalby, Ray L. Martin, Fred W. Rinshed, George Harrison Phelps, William D. Laurie and Frederick J. Freeman.

A striking contrast between the way politicians usually "serve" a community and the way real service is performed is to be found in the history of the Charter and the Zoning Ordinance, two public documents recently before the citizens of Grosse Pointe Park.

A First-Class Ordinance

The Zoning Ordinance is the last word in that type of legislation. A foremost authority on zoning in Metropolitan Detroit, an attorney familiar with real estate law and the village attorney collaborated with the village council and a Grosse Pointe Park Protective Association committee in more than three months' intensive study of zoning.

Five editions of the ordinance were drawn up, typed, revised, and discarded before a final agreement was reached. Then this draft was submitted to Edward M. Bassett of New York City, the father of zoning in America and the foremost zoning authority in the country. Some minor changes suggested by Mr. Bassett were followed. He pronounced it the best ordinance, in his opinion, that the village could obtain and one of the very best ordinances on zoning ever written.

A One-Man Charter

The Charter was drawn up by the village attorney, Julius L. Berns, who reported to Civic News last October that the new Charter was the outgrowth of his nine years' experience as a municipal counselor and was modeled on the Cleveland manager-type of government.

From November to January, Civic News was unable to obtain a copy of the proposed Charter to submit to charter experts for appraisal. When a copy was finally forthcoming, the experts branded it immediately as an obsolete commission type of the politically-meddlesome variety with authority and responsi-

bility hopelessly divided—in no way resembling the Cleveland manager-type now in operation in 375 American municipalities, including 40 cities and villages in Michigan.

The village manager plan, in which legislative and executive authority are completely separated, is at present considered the most modern, efficient and practical form of government.

(The manager system has grown into foremost favor in America after slow and careful experiments and improvements in the last two decades. It originated in Staunton, Va. The town council thought \$4,500, the low bid on a contract to repair a leaky dam, was excessive. So a railroad maintenance engineer was engaged who estimated that the job could be done for \$737. Told to go ahead he did so and made the repairs for even less. The town then decided that something was wrong in the way it was being governed and it created the office of manager.)

Shaky Foundation

Surely a charter, which is the very foundation of municipal government, deserves at least as much careful consideration and study as a zoning ordinance. Grosse Pointe Park has been placed in a class with the man who can afford to wear diamonds that cost as much as a Packard or a Lincoln but who still drives a patched-up 1909 model flivver.

The men on the Charter Commission who were given the responsibility of supervising creation of the new charter were Robert M. Allan, chairman; Fintan L. Henk, Louis A. DeHayes, Alfred J. Garska and Julius W. Berns.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

A total of 2,055 pupils were enrolled in the public schools of Grosse Pointe at the opening of the second semester in February, Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, superintendent, reported to the Board of Education on February 3rd. Of this number, 720 were enrolled in junior and senior high school classes begun in the newly-opened Grosse Pointe High School at Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard. Dr. Brownell's figures for December, 1927, show that 574 more pupils were enrolled in public, parochial and private schools in Grosse Pointe than a year ago, the increases being 115 or six per cent for the public schools, 368 or 70 per cent for the parochial schools and 91 or 49 per cent for the private schools.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL OUTLINES CONSTRUCTION FUND PLAN

By CAROL NEWBERRY BROOKS, Chairman, Women's Building Committee for the Cottage Hospital.

It has been said that "Human memory is the evidence of the soul," and certain it is that one of the most appealing ways of doing good in this world is in commemorating the life or death of some relative or friend by providing help for others.

Opportunities for this method of giving are available at this time through the plan of raising money, approved by the Board of Trustees of the Cottage Hospital of Grosse Pointe. These sums of money will be used as a construction and equipment fund for the new building at the head of Mapleton Road.

A donor of \$500 or over may select a unit which will have a simple bronze tablet on the door or bed, dedicating it in honor, or in memory, of the person in whose name it is given. The cost of building and equipping each unit has been approximated as a percentage of the total cost of construction and each bears its individual share of corridors and other departments which are not susceptible of being donated.

Program of Payments

For the convenience of those wishing to contribute to this project, the finance committee, consisting of Mr. John W. Staley, president of the Peoples State Bank, and Mr. Frank W. Hubbard, president of the Grosse Pointe Savings Bank, have arranged a program of payments, the first due June 1, 1928, and quarterly payments thereafter, extending through June 1, 1929.

Special gifts will not provide the privilege of controlling the occupancy of the beds or units donated for the reason that the fund is to be for construction and not for endowment purposes. The privilege of identifying one's gift to the Cottage Hospital should stimulate the interest of many individuals or groups in Grosse Pointe Township, for it means the creation of a special unit in which suffering will be alleviated and lives saved.

Through the very generous donations of three friends of the Cottage

Hospital, two complete operating rooms and x-ray and laboratory equipment will be provided. Any reputable physician who is approved by the Board of Trustees may make use of these units and may bring his patients to the hospital for treatment. Charity patients, of course, will be cared for by the staff.

At the first annual meeting of the Cottage Hospital Corporation, which was held on January 19th, 1928, the following officers and trustees were elected:

- President.....Mrs. M. W. Sales
- 1st Vice-President.....Mrs. J. W. Staley
- 2nd Vice-President..... Mrs. E. L. Ford
- 3rd Vice-President... Mrs. J. S. Newberry
- Recording Secretary. Mrs. W. L. Mitchell
- Corresponding Secretary. Mrs. R. P. Joy
- Treasurer.....Mrs. J. S. Holden

Trustees

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. F. C. Kidner | Mrs. R. P. Joy |
| Mrs. P. Dodge | Mrs. M. W. Sales |
| Mrs. J. S. Holden | Mrs. D. M. Ferry, Jr. |
| Mrs. F. W. Brooks, Jr. | Mrs. Wm. Spicer |
| Mrs. E. L. Ford | Mrs. J. S. Newberry |
| Mrs. W. H. Muir | Mrs. W. J. Peabody |
| Mrs. T. A. McGraw | Mrs. J. W. Staley |
| Mrs. H. F. Wardwell | Mrs. J. M. Dwyer |
| Mrs. W. L. Mitchell | Mrs. W. P.-Stevens |
| Mrs. E. S. Barbour | Mrs. J. G. Rumney |
| Mrs. H. B. Joy | Mrs. J. T. McMillan |
| Mrs. B. S. Warren | |
| | Mrs. H. S. Finkenstaedt |

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

Another amateur boxing night, tentatively set for March 28th, is on the program of the Neighborhood Club, awaiting sanction of the A. A. U. A packed house enjoyed the January program, but permission for another program in February was denied the club, George Elworthy, director, reports. January witnessed 83 meetings and 15 classes attended by 4,014 people in the Neighborhood Club. Circulation of books in the public library in its new location next to the clubhouse doubled in January. Miss Florence Severs, librarian, recently of Seattle, Wash., reported 1,550 books drawn and 96 new cards issued.

The Bluebirds sang for radio station WMBC on February 28th, while the Boy Scouts were having a Father-Son play night. On February 29th two boys' basketball teams and one girls' team were to journey to Inlay City. A girls' team has been entered in the national girls' tournament to be held at the Cadillac Athletic Club, Detroit, while a boys' team has been entered in the state tournament to be held there also. The Gardeners' Club is to hold a card and dance party March 9th.

Port Huron and Keego Harbor trips are on the March schedule for the basketball teams.

Miss Fern Stevenson of the Detroit department of recreation has undertaken formation of a dramatic group for work on Monday nights at the clubhouse, while Mrs. Murray W. Sales sponsored a party for the VVV girls and their friends in January. The police and firemen's entertainment January 28th drew a large crowd as did the Chauffeurs' Washington Birthday party and parties in February of the Campfire group, Peter Pan girls and Grosse Pointe Athletic Club.

DOG ORDINANCE

Handbills advising citizens of the passage by the village council of an emergency ordinance to regulate dogs were distributed in Grosse Pointe Village in February. It forbids a dog not vaccinated against rabies from leaving its owner's premises, unless muzzled or kept on a leash. Dogs not complying will be seized, placed in the village pound, and, if unclaimed within 48 hours and a fee of \$3 paid and license secured, will be destroyed or sold to the highest bidder. A fine of \$25 or 90 days in jail is provided for conviction of a person violating the ordinance. Co-operation in enforcement of the ordinance is asked of citizens to protect children and adults.

SACRED HEART ACADEMY

A campaign for a half million dollars for the maintenance and support of the Sacred Heart Academy in Grosse Pointe Farms was opened at a meeting in the convent early in January. Mrs. Charles L. Palms, chairman of the executive board, and Mrs. Charles N. Crossman, general chairman, are directing the drive.

The property on which the convent is located was purchased in 1867, and school was opened in 1885. A hayrack and bob sleigh were the principal means of transportation for students in the convent's early days.

Support in the present drive for funds has been promised by prominent citizens, including William Ledyard Mitchell, Dr. C. Edmund Delbos, Charles B. Hull, Jr., Henry L. Mauer, Emmett Dwyer, John A. Reynolds and Charles N. Crossman.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

(Editor's Note.—This is the letter prevented from appearing in the February issue when Mr. Haas started court action which he voluntarily abandoned before a hearing.)

Board of Education,
Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Gentlemen:

The Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township has raised the question whether your Honorable Body is wise in its favorable consideration of Mr. Haas for appointment as architect of the Lochmoor School.

First, it should be understood that the Citizens' Association holds no brief for any particular architect. As representing citizens and taxpayers, we simply desire to see Grosse Pointe school taxes wisely and judiciously expended. It is the contention of the Citizens' Association that the architectural service rendered by Mr. Haas to the School Board has been far from efficient and economical.

Mr. Haas' first work for the School Board was the designing of the Defer School, which cost \$865.64 per pupil, in contrast with an average of less than half that sum expended by Detroit for elementary schools built at the same time. On the opening day the Defer School was so crowded that the music room had to be taken over for use as a regular class room. The lack of skill in the designing of the interior of the Defer School is further evidenced by the fact that changes to cost about \$8,000 are planned in conjunction with the \$100,000 addition to the building, which is now under way.

Mr. Haas' next assignment was the job of designing the new Grosse Pointe High School. His first set of plans—on which he collected a \$15,000 fee—were found to be so faulty as to require complete revision of the interior. Ostensibly designed to accommodate 1,000 pupils, the plans were held by Detroit and State school officials to provide really for 1,800. When the Department of Public Instruction disapproved of Mr. Haas' plans, the School Board hired an expert, who rearranged the plans and effected a reduction in the cost of construction of approximately \$400,000. If Mr. Haas had had his way, the taxpayers would have paid \$400,000 more than necessary and, into the bargain, would have received a poorly arranged school building, three stories high instead of two, and other arrangements that would have unnecessarily handicapped old and young in the use of the school building for school work and community functions.

Fortunately, public spirited citizens and State school officials saved Grosse Pointe from that impending catastrophe. Many citizens have forgotten, or do not realize, that the beautiful new high school, now nearing completion, is what it is despite Mr. Haas and not because of him. (Incidentally, the revision in plans enabled Mr. Haas to collect \$7,168.68 above his regular commission.)

The mistakes in Mr. Haas' first plans for the high school were but the start of difficulties into

which the Board has been plunged by the architect. When bids were opened on contracts for the revised plans, it was found that in drawing up his specifications, Mr. Haas had neglected the fundamental architectural precaution of making borings and taking soundings so that bidders might know how to figure the foundations exactly. Naturally, the bidders protected themselves by stating that they would not be responsible for delay or expense resulting from such unknown conditions. The high school was to have been turned over to the Board completed on January 1st. It is still not finished, because the contractor was delayed on the foundations. The contractors' bills on this unknown item have already exceeded \$80,000 and may approach the \$100,000 mark before completion of the job.

Another item indicates how expensive Mr. Haas' services are. Mr. Haas' fee is five per cent, exclusive of supervision, the Board being required to hire and pay for its own supervisor. The practice of firms like Malcomson & Higginbotham, Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, and others in Detroit, is to charge five per cent, including supervision. On the new high school job this one item of supervision has already cost the Board \$4,002.95. Before the job is completed, it is estimated by the Board's superintendent that \$400 more will be added to the supervision cost. The total, then, will be more than \$5,000, which could have been saved to our taxpayers under an architect other than Mr. Haas.

Again, the contract for the high school permits the architect to authorize "extras" without express consent of the School Board. This is believed to be directly contrary to the policy of reputable architectural firms. In Detroit, "extras" in school construction are practically unknown. The architect is expected to make due provision in advance for every contingency and every necessity. When the Grosse Pointe school trustees called Mr. Haas to task on the ground that he was authorizing extras without bringing up the items and getting the Board's consent each time, he pointed to authority given him in the contract. (He has, however, abandoned this policy since the new superintendent of schools insisted that all "extras" or changes be taken up with the Board.) No architect who values his reputation ought to authorize "extras" without consultation with his clients. Even the School Board itself cannot legally delegate authority for spending sums in excess of \$50.

The architectural education which the Board has given Mr. Haas is a handsome present at the expense of the taxpayers. An appointive public official is hired because of his supposed ability to advise an elective body in the matters in which it is admittedly inexpert. An attorney is hired for his knowledge of the law, that he may guide a public body in proper channels. An architect is hired for

his knowledge of building. If his judgment is erroneous, expensive and faulty, he certainly should not continue to be a drain on the public purse.

Such is the indictment of Mr. Haas, based on the facts of his past service. For these reasons, the Citizens' Association respectfully requests your Honorable Body to reconsider its former action and appoint some other architect for the Lochmoor School job.

Yours very truly,
CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION OF GROSSE
POINTE TOWNSHIP.

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2)

Ultimate junior high school population is estimated at 1,200 in District No. 1, 1,000 in No. 2, and 800 in No. 3.

The need for immediate purchase of these sites is summed up by the superintendent as follows: 1. On property now subdivided in Grosse Pointe, houses are being erected very rapidly. Most of school sites proposed have no houses on them and purchase now will save additional cost; 2. Property for certain of the sites may now be obtained as acreage, prior to subdivision of the property which will increase its cost; 3. Grosse Pointe property will undoubtedly advance in value, so purchase now will save the school district money and the burden of the bond issues will be borne by future residents as well as those now resident; 4. Once the property is secured it is exempt from taxation, so there is no cumulative expense; 5. Surveys reveal there is no doubt the sites will be needed for schools and now is the best time to buy.

Every local public transaction ought to be consistent with wise, constructive economy if nation-wide tax reform now being studied by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce is to succeed, according to Felix M. McWhirter, president of the Peoples State Bank of Indianapolis and chairman of the tax research committee. Dr. Lent D. Upson and H. H. Rice of Detroit are members of the committee.

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The Bureau of the Census reports that American cities in 1925 spent more than one-third of their total income on schools. Grosse Pointe Township in that year spent more than 40 per cent of its total income (villages and township) on schools.

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