

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

Vol. 5

MAY, 1928

Number 11

SCHOOL ELECTION JUNE 11TH

The election of a school trustee and several bond issues will be determined by the voters of Grosse Pointe Township on June 11th, the second Monday in June. Voting at the four usual polling places will begin at 12 o'clock and continue until 8 P. M.

The annual meeting will be opened in the new Grosse Pointe High School at 10 A. M. on June 11th to complete final details for the election. The meeting will be resumed promptly at 8:30 P. M., it being unnecessary under the new school law to await final counting of ballots.

New residents of the district, who are either property owners or have children attending the schools and who have not heretofore registered for a school election, will be given an opportunity to do so at the polling places on Saturday, June 2nd, and Saturday, June 9th, between 3 and 9 P. M. Registration of qualified school electors may also be made at any time with the secretary or superintendent at the Board of Education office, Rivard and Jefferson. But there will be no registration on election day.

Voters will be asked to ballot on three bond issues, one to purchase three elementary school sites (Roslyn Road parcel between E and W Streets, parcel at McKinley, McMullan, Kercheval and Ridge, and parcel at Kerby and Beaupre), \$360,000 to construct a school at Kercheval and Ridge, and \$120,000 to complete school buildings now under construction. (Various items on the new high school, Defer and Trombly schools, are included in the \$120,000, such as \$40,000 for foundation work on the high school, the architect's estimate for which was \$60,000 compared with actual cost of \$100,000.)

The registration and polling places are Cadieux School, Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Building, Grosse Pointe Farms Municipal Building, and Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building.

GROSSE POINTE SPENDS \$130 A YEAR ON EACH CHILD IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

State-Wide Survey Shows That the Proportion of Our Budget Devoted to Instruction is About Half What it Should Be.

THE per capita cost of education in the Grosse Pointe school district is \$130.15, according to a survey of school costs in 47 Michigan cities and school districts recently completed by Edgar F. Down, superintendent of schools at Ferndale. Only Birmingham and Highland Park pay more per child than Grosse Pointe. The tax rate here, 3.66, is the lowest of all the districts reporting but the tax rate gives no

idea of the actual cost of education, Mr. Down points out.

Grosse Pointe, with a public school membership of 2,055 and parochial and private school membership of 1,464, cares for only 58 per cent of its school children in public schools. If we had to educate all our children in the public schools, as Albion does for instance, the load on the taxpayers would be increased considerably.

There are 3.2 children per \$100,000 of assessed valuation in Grosse Pointe, there being more money back of each child here than anywhere else in the state. Cheboygan, at the other extreme, has to educate 54 children on a wealth of \$100,000.

The average cost of educating one child for one year in Grosse Pointe is \$130.15, according to the survey. Only Birmingham, \$144.91, and Highland Park, \$136.05, are paying more per capita than we are. One reason is the high capital outlay necessitated just now for Grosse Pointe to catch up with and keep pace with a fast-growing population. Only in Fordson and Lincoln Park does the percentage of the budget appropriated to capital outlay exceed that in Grosse Pointe. The latter's figure is 37 per cent; Fordson, 69 per cent; Lincoln Park, 59.2 per cent.

The survey reveals that 5.4 per cent of the Grosse Pointe budget is used for administration, a proportion which Mr. Down considers about right. Fixed charges, .8 per cent, and maintenance, 1.4 per cent, he believes low in the light of the average in the 47 school districts in his survey. Ten per cent for operation is called about right. The proportion used for instruction, however, 31.6 per cent, is declared to be absolutely too low, Dr. Down's survey showing that 54 per cent would be about right.

(See Table, Page 3, for Details)

NOTICE

Of the Registration of Unregistered Qualified School Electors of Rural Agricultural School District No. 1 of the Township of Grosse Pointe, Wayne County, Michigan.

Notice is hereby given that there will be a registration of the unregistered qualified school electors of Rural Agricultural School District No. 1, Grosse Pointe Township, Wayne County, Michigan, at the polling places of the several precincts of the district to-wit:

Precinct No. 1—Cadieux School, 399 St. Clair Avenue, Grosse Pointe Village, Michigan.

Precinct No. 2—At the Village Hall of the Village of Grosse Pointe Park, situated at No. 15115 East Jefferson Avenue, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan.

Precinct No. 3—At the Village Hall of the Village of Grosse Pointe Farms situated on Kerby Road, north of Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan.

Precinct No. 4—At the Village Hall of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores on the corner of the Lake Shore Drive and Vernier Road, Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan.

On Saturday, the 2nd day of June, 1928, and Saturday, the 9th day of June, 1928, from 8 o'clock P. M. to 9 o'clock P. M. Eastern Standard Time (2 o'clock P. M. to 8 o'clock P. M. Central Standard Time), on both of which days all unregistered qualified school electors of the district may register for the annual election of the district to be held on June 11th, 1928, and for other elections, general or special, in the district, until a general reregistration is ordered according to law.

Notice is also given that provision has been made by the Board of Education for the registration of all unregistered and qualified school electors of the district at any time during office hours by the secretary of the Board of Education or the Superintendent of School for the District at the office of the Board of Education, number 17453 E. Jefferson Avenue, Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Dated May 16th, 1928.

CHARLES A. PARCELLS, Secretary,
Board of Education, Rural
Agricultural School District No. 1,
Grosse Pointe Township, Wayne
County, Michigan.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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

H. P. Breitenbach, Consulting Editor

B. E. Meyers, Editor

Printed once a month as the official publication of the Citizens Association of Grosse Pointe Township, under the authority of the following board of directors:

H. P. Breitenbach, President.

Raymond K. Dykema, Vice-President.

Jos. L. Hickey, Secretary.

Robert M. Allan, Treasurer.

Benjamin S. Warren, John F. Keys,

James E. Morrison,

Charles H. L'Honniedieu.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Two stories in this issue of Civic News reveal clearly, first, that the Grosse Pointe school district is spending approximately half as much as it should be for administration and teaching talent, and second, that the Board of Education is courageously and successfully taking steps to remedy this situation.

The survey of 47 Michigan school districts shows that the proportion of the Grosse Pointe budget used for instruction is 31.6 per cent, whereas a proper percentage would be about 54. That the quality of instruction in Grosse Pointe could be greatly improved by a system of hiring only Class A teaching talent has been an oft-repeated contention of the Citizens' Association.

Appointments of new teachers this spring, proposed by the superintendent and approved by the Board, are all of the highest order, indicating that the Board is determined to have the best teachers, as well as unexcelled school buildings. That the Board's ideal of eventually having all "A" teachers in the schools is not impossible of accomplishment is evidenced by the fact that the application list of more than 400 teachers' names now on file contains more than enough Class "A" talent to fill requirements for next fall.

The Board and the superintendent are to be congratulated on the fine progress made this year in improving the teaching staff.

DEDICATION JUNE 1ST

Prof. William Lyon Phelps of Yale University will be the principal speaker at the dedication exercises of the new Grosse Pointe High School, Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard, June 1st. Admission to the auditorium will be by

invitation, though a thousand unreserved seats will be available in the boys' gymnasium where a loud speaker will relay the dedication program.

To encourage inspection of the new \$1,500,000 structure, a whole week has been set aside, beginning May 28th, for visitors. Guides will be available each day during regular school hours from 8:30 A. M. to 3 P. M. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday the cafeteria will be open to visitors from 5:30 to 7 P. M. in the evenings, as well as at the regular noon hours from 11:45 A. M. to 1 P. M.

On Monday of Dedication Week there is to be a gymnasium and swimming pool exhibition at 8 P. M.; on Tuesday, at the same hour, a concert by the music department; on Wednesday, which will be a school holiday, the senior class play, "The Whole Town is Talking," will be presented; senior class play will be repeated Thursday evening; on Friday, June 1st, the formal dedication exercises will take place at 8 P. M.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

The fifth birthday and the start of the sixth year of its activities is to be celebrated by the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township at a luncheon and annual meeting in the cafeteria of the new Grosse Pointe High School on Wednesday evening, June 6th.

Notices have been sent out, inviting members and their wives to make reservations at a dollar a plate. (Reservations may be made also by any residents of Grosse Pointe Township who may wish to subscribe to the objects of the association, which are: "To preserve the purity of elections, guard against abuse of the elective franchise, publish information regarding public affairs and promote governmental efficiency within the Township of Grosse Pointe." Classes of membership are: active, \$1 to \$10 per year; sustaining, \$10 to \$25 per year; contributing, \$25 to \$35 per year.)

BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review of Grosse Pointe Township will meet on June 5th, 11th and 12th in the Municipal Hall of Grosse Pointe Park to review the 1928 assessment roll and hear any pleas taxpayers may make for changes in assessments.

INSURANCE COUNSELOR FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD

At the recommendation of a special committee consisting of Trustees Julius L. Berns and Charles A. Poupard the Board of Education has changed its method of allotting insurance on the new high school and other school buildings. The new method is the counselor plan, under which one broker was given charge of all the insurance but agreed to split the commission with five competitors.

This method, it was claimed, gives the Board the advantage of expert counsel and experience. If so, it is unfortunate that no claim was made that the recently formed Henk-Garska Company, which was designated broker, is particularly expert or experienced in this field. The firm's principals are Alfred J. Garska, president of the Village of Grosse Pointe Park, and Fintan L. Henk, ex-councilman of the Park.

An objection to the new method has been voiced by two of the five brokers designated to receive a portion of the commission. They are Henry L. Newnan of the Detroit Insurance Agency and Edwin Stroh of the Thomas J. Bosquette Insurance Agency, who delivered the following petition to the Board, dated May 9th:

PETITION TO THE GROSSE POINTE SCHOOL BOARD:

We, the undersigned, insurance agencies, residents and taxpayers in the Grosse Pointe School District, have been allocated a share of the insurance on the Grosse Pointe Schools. We are advised that instructions have been given that all of the insurance be written through the Capitol Underwriters Insurance Agency and that commission checks simply be sent out to the various agents participating in the insurance.

We cannot subscribe, as taxpayers, to this method of handling the insurance and unless the Board can see fit to allow our offices to place our share of the business in companies for which we can assume responsibility, we must respectfully decline to be involved in the matter, which, under certain conditions, might develop into a serious one for the School District of Grosse Pointe.

We very earnestly request that this matter be given further consideration.

(Signed) HENRY L. NEWNAN

(For Detroit Insurance Agency)

EDWIN STROH,

(For Thos. J. Bosquette Ins. Agency)

The other agencies designated for a share of the broker's commission were Clement B. Poupard (son of Trustee Poupard), George A. Mahlmeister and Capitol Underwriters Insurance Agency.

DO YOU KNOW:

That Grosse Pointe Township comprises about 6,600 acres, or approximately 10 square miles? It is considerably smaller than the ordinary township which usually contains 36 square miles. The township has a frontage of eight miles on Lake St. Clair, extending back from the lake from one and one-half to two miles. It lies east of the City of Detroit, and is contiguous to that city's easterly limits for three miles.

The area of the township is entirely divided among five villages: Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Shores, and Lochmoor. The total estimated population is approximately 15,000.

Grosse Pointe Township is largely residential. It is an exclusive suburban district where many wealthy citizens have built their homes, but it also contains a growing number of less pretentious residences. At the present time, this district is, perhaps, the most rapidly developing, high class residential suburb of Detroit.

The future of the township can take one of three channels: elimination of the township government; consolidation of the five villages into one city; or continuation of the status quo. To inform citizens of the status quo will be the object of articles to be published from time to time in Civic News.

LOCHMOOR BUDGET APPROVED; SEWER CONTRACTS AWARDED

An increase of \$15,064 over 1927 is noted in the budget of \$63,516.70 adopted by the Village of Lochmoor for 1928. Appropriations not in last year's budget, which account for much of the increase, are \$10,000 for the anticipated opening of E Street to Grosse Pointe Farms, \$2,000 for fire protection by Grosse Pointe Shores, \$4,800 sinking fund payment toward retirement of \$300,000 worth of 30-year sewer bonds, and \$11,050 interest on these bonds.

Fire protection has been arranged by a contract with Grosse Pointe Shores calling for payment of \$50 an hour whenever that village's fire apparatus may be called upon to fight fires in Lochmoor.

The \$300,000 general obligation sewer bonds were awarded the Guardian Detroit Company. The bonds sold at 4 1/4 per cent, with a premium of \$4,705. On April 5th, the village let three contracts for sewer work, laid out by Mason L. Brown & Sons, village engineers: Contract A to Detroit Drainage Construction Company on a bid of \$96,918.25; Contract B to S. A. Healey, \$121,707.80; Contract C to American Well Works, \$23,329.

Location of Sewers

Contract A is for a 24- to 63-inch sewer in the alley west of Mack Avenue from the Detroit city limits north to the Girard

Drain at the Macomb County line, and a temporary pumping station at Allard Avenue.

Contract B calls for 66-inch sewer in Hollywood from Mack to pumping station near Marter; 18- to 30-inch sewer in Goethe from Anita to Brys; 36- to 45-inch sewer in Marter from Vernier to Brys; 30- to 42-inch sewer in an easement south of Hampton from Marter to W Street; 30- to 42-inch sewer in Vernier and Marter from W Street to the pumping station; 24- to 36-inch sewer from Roslyn to Hawthorne in W Street; and a permanent pumping station and settling tank at the foot of Hollywood between Marter and the Fox Creek.

Contract C is for furnishing and installing equipment and electrical work in the pumping station and settling tank at the foot of Hollywood.

New Attorney

Mr. James Turner of Angell, Turner & Dyer has been named village attorney to succeed Mr. Howard H. Colby. The appointment by President Joseph E. Beaufait was sustained by a 3 to 2 vote. Commissioners James Van Antwerp, William Michaux and Clyde Goodman voted for the appointment. Commissioners James W. Carter and Edward Vanderbush opposed it. Arthur H. Post was absent.

A public golf course is being constructed in Lochmoor on property south of Lochmoor Boulevard owned by Dr. George L. Renaud of Grosse Pointe Shores. Plans of the golf course promoters to have the entrance on Fairway Drive, directly opposite the entrance to the Lochmoor Golf Club and not far from several private residences, resulted in April in a storm of protest by officials of the Lochmoor Club and residents on Lochmoor Boulevard. These taxpayers suggested to the Village Commission that it might protect their interests and those of the entire village by passing a zoning ordinance. No formal petition for action was filed, however. Informal opinions advanced after the open discussions were that, if the new golf course entrance were switched to Mack Avenue, which is a business street, criticism would cease.

Popularity of Grosse Pointe's only public library, next to the Neighborhood Club at St. Clair and Waterloo, has led to its being opened evenings to 9 p. m. It now has 2,482 volumes. Twenty-three hundred volumes were drawn in March. Two librarians and an assistant are employed.

VITAL STATISTICS ON PUBLIC SCHOOL COSTS IN GROSSE POINTE AND COMPARISON WITH 47 OTHER DISTRICTS IN MICHIGAN

		Comparatively
Assessed valuation of district.....	\$115,038,552.00	High
Total school budget 1927-28.....	\$ 533,175.00	Low
Amount received by taxation.....	\$ 420,000.00	Low
Percentage received from sources other than taxation.....	21	Low
Tax rate	3.66	Lowest
Census	3,758	Low
Public school membership.....	2,055	Low
Parochial and private school membership.....	1,464	High
Percentage of school membership in public schools....	58	Low
Number of children per \$100,000 of assessed valuation	3.2	Very low
Per capita cost in kindergarten.....	\$ 107.41	High
Per capita cost in grades 1 to 6.....	\$ 117.48	High
Per capita cost in grades 7 to 9.....	\$ 160.70	High
Per capita cost in grades 10 to 12.....	\$ 160.70	High
Average per capita cost.....	\$ 130.15	High
Percentage of budget approp. to administration.....	5.4	About right
Percentage of budget approp. to operating.....	10.0	About right
Percentage of budget approp. to instruction.....	31.6	Too low
Percentage of budget approp. to fixed charges.....	.8	Low
Percentage of budget approp. to maintenance.....	1.4	Low
Percentage of budget approp. to capital outlay.....	37.0	Very high
Percentage of budget approp. to auxiliary activities....	3.0	About right
Capital outlay	\$ 151,203.00	Very high
Auxiliary activities	\$ 3,000.00	About right
Amount unclassified	\$ 59,626.00	

(Special assessment taxes totaling \$46,626.00, \$10,000 for transporting pupils, \$2,500 for dental equipment and \$500 for recreation.)

NEW TEACHERS

The need of 24 new regular teachers next Fall to replace present substitutes and care for new work and additional pupils was outlined to the Board of Education in April by Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, superintendent of schools. He reported having on hand nearly 400 applications for positions, which number includes enough men and women with "A" requirements to preclude the necessity of hiring any but first-class teaching talent.

Upon his recommendation, the Board has approved contracts with nine "A" teachers:

Miss Hazel Black of Grosse Pointe, University of Michigan graduate in 1923, Phi Beta Kappa, substitute here three years, English teacher.

Miss Louise Fish of Tekonsha, Mich., first in her class, graduating this year at Ypsilanti Normal, Fine Arts teacher.

Mr. Vere Wyble of Lansing, B. S., Ypsilanti Normal, 10 years' experience, special vocational work at Western State Teachers' College, high school manual arts teacher.

Miss Elizabeth Harriman, A. B. University of Michigan, two years' residence in France, one at the Sorbonne, high school French teacher.

Miss Lula Anderson, A. B. Des Moines University, M. A. University of Michigan, two years' experience, high school English teacher.

Miss Edithe Bram, graduate of Goshen and Wittenberg Colleges and Western State Teachers' College at Kalamazoo, six years' ex-

perience.

Miss Mary Jane Howard, graduate of Ypsilanti Normal.

Miss Marian Walker, Kearney, Nebraska, Normal, six years' experience.

Miss Mildred Walker, Kearney, Nebraska, Normal, six years' experience.

In accordance with the salary schedule adopted by the Board of Education on April 9, 1926, Dr. S. M. Brownell, superintendent, on March 9th recommended reappointment of all present teachers, 75 in number, at increases in accordance with their rank.

Twenty-eight teachers with Rank 1 received \$150 increases; 24 with Rank 2 received \$100 increases; one with Rank 3 a \$50 increase. There were none with Rank 4, which calls for retention but no increase in pay. Special teachers, who have no ranking, received increases of \$150.

The salary schedule states:

"Elementary and High School teachers will be rated by the principals three times a year, November 1st, March 1st and June 1st. The last three ratings are used in arriving at the official rank for the reappointment. Teachers are expected to know their ranks and principals are expected to notify them of new or changed ratings on the dates above. The Superintendent will make it his special duty to keep principals as nearly uniform as possible in respect to standards, strictness of rating, etc., calling attention to what he thinks is over-rating, or under-rating, but seldom over-ruling."

In the superintendent's opinion, the salary schedule should be

changed in certain points of construction and maintenance, and he has notified the Board that he is working on a new schedule he plans to submit to the Board this year.

D. U. R. OFF, BUSES ON

With the cessation of service by the D. U. R. on April 30th, in compliance with an order of the Village of Grosse Pointe, the Detroit Motor Bus Company began operation of buses between Gaukler Pointe and Detroit's city limits via Lakeshore Road, Weir Lane, Grosse Pointe Boulevard, Fisher Road and Jefferson Avenue, under a one-year contract with the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores.

The contract provides that the fare in Grosse Pointe Shores shall be 10 cents; from the Shores to Detroit, 20 cents, with the privilege of a city transfer for five cents additional; from Weir Lane to Fisher Road, 15 cents; school children's tickets to be sold 20 for a dollar; children under six to ride free.

A schedule is to be maintained as follows: buses to leave Detroit city limits at 5:10 a. m., 5:45, 6:22, 6:46, 7:10, 7:30, 7:38, 8:10, 8:48, 9:28, 10:06, 10:45, 11:24, 12:03 p. m., 12:42, 1:21, 2:00, 2:39, 3:18, 3:54, 4:30, 5:06, 5:42, 5:58, 6:18, 6:54, 7:30, 8:15, 9:00, 9:45, 10:30, 11:15, 12:00, 12:45 a. m.; buses to leave Gaukler Point at 5:43 a. m., 6:19, 6:55, 7:20, 7:45, 8:05, 8:25, 8:55, 9:31, 10:10, 10:49, 11:28, 12:07 p. m., 12:46, 1:25, 2:04, 2:43, 3:22, 4:01, 4:39, 5:15, 5:51, 6:27, 6:40, 7:03, 7:39, 8:20, 9:05, 9:50, 10:35, 11:20, 12:05 a. m., 12:50, 1:20.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

"Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed. Consequently, he who moulds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions. He makes statutes and decisions possible or impossible to be executed."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

<p>U. S. POSTAGE 1½c Paid Detroit, Michigan Permit No. 335</p>
--

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