

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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## "DEDICATED TO BEAUTY AND PURSUIT OF TRUTH"

GROSSE POINTE'S beautiful new high school, representative of the community's love of beauty, art and truth, was the inspiration at its dedication on June 1st of an address in which Prof. William Lyon Phelps, of Yale University, nationally known literary critic, pictured the age in which we live as the most romantic and spectacular in history.

The Grosse Pointe High School, Prof. Phelps said in his dedicatory address, is the most attractive public school building he has seen in extensive travels throughout the United States.

"Unlike the fabled eras of King Arthur and Aladdin, ours is an age of wonders come true," Prof. Phelps said, "but while crediting man's scientific spirit for today's marvelous realities, we recognize in the dedication of school buildings such as this that more fundamental in attaining human happiness than material treasures is the inculcation in youthful minds of the love of beauty and art and the pursuit of truth."

### Participants

Participants in the dedication exercises included the members of the Board of Education, architect, general contractor, superintendent, principal, a representative of the University of Michigan, the girls' glee club and a mixed chorus of high school students, and nearly a thousand residents of Grosse Pointe.

The Rev. George Brewer, pastor of the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, offered the invocation and benediction. The Rev. A. H. B. Nacy, pastor of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, who was to have pronounced benediction, was unable to attend. C. Lloyd Goodrich, deputy state superintendent of schools, was also unable to be present.

The building was turned over to the architect by Mr. Carl S. Barry, contractor. Mr. George J. Haas, the architect, in turn presented it to

the Board of Education, acceptance being made on behalf of the trustees by Mr. P. Hudson Bradley, president. Greetings from the University of Michigan were extended by Ira M. Smith, registrar, who read a message from Dr. Clarence Cook Little, president, urging the desirability of co-operation between high schools and the university.

### 4,000 Visitors

The dedication exercises were presided over by Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, superintendent. In addition to President Bradley, the members of the school board who received the building on behalf of the district were Trustees Charles A. Parcels, secretary; Charles A. Poupard, treasurer; Dr. L. E. Maire and Julius L. Berns. Mr. Jerome Burt, principal, also participated in the exercises.

During the week of dedication, culminating in the program June 1st, it is estimated that nearly 4,000 citizens visited the new school building, inspecting the class rooms, laboratories, auditorium, gymnasias, swimming pool, cafeteria and library. At present, the structure houses more than seven hundred junior and senior high school students. Its junior-senior capacity is 1,260. It is designed for ultimate use as a senior high school only, plans now having been made for early acquisition of sites for three junior high schools which, surveys have shown, will be needed in the not distant future to care for growth in the Grosse Pointe school district.

### ATHLETIC HONOR

An athletic honor was won for Grosse Pointe High School this winter by its basketball team composed of David Nicholson and Jack Refior, forwards; Roy Heitman, center; Irwin Krapp and Hazen Heitman, guards. The team won the championship of the Southeastern Michigan High School League, winning every one of its seven league games with Class B teams.

## \$770,000 IN BOND ISSUES BEFORE SCHOOL ELECTORS

In addition to balloting for a school trustee on Monday, June 11th, the electors will be called upon to authorize a total of \$770,000 in bond issues:

1. \$270,000 for the purchase of three elementary school sites on Roslyn Road between E and W Streets, at McMillan and Ridge, and at Kerby and Beaupre.
2. \$140,000 deficiency issue for the completion of work on present school buildings, including the Trombley, Defer and High Schools.
3. \$360,000 for the erection in the near future of an elementary school on the McMillan site.

Electors will also be asked to authorize the undertaking of a system of public recreation and playground activity and to approve \$2,500 for such work.

Other minor propositions include authorization of the sale of the old Vernier School site, and ratification of the dedication of property from the Trombley site and the high school site for public highway purposes.

Polling places will be open from 12 o'clock noon to 8 p. m. at the Cadieux School in Grosse Pointe Village, and the municipal buildings in Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores. The annual meeting will proceed at 8:30 p. m. in the new High School.

### SHORES' ELECTION

Fred A. Behr, appointed president of Grosse Pointe Shores last December to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of George Osius, who had been president since the village's organization in 1911, was chosen to succeed himself at the annual election May 15th. William C. Roney was re-elected clerk, Clarence J. Chandler, William E. Roney and George Osius, trustees. (On his return from the south this spring, Mr. Osius was persuaded to accept appointment as trustee to fill a vacancy caused by resignation of Harry M. Jewett.)

## 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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### THE SCHOOL ELECTION

Whether Mr. Fred Sutter or Mr. J. Fred Edgar is the choice of the electors on June 11th for a three-year term as trustee of the Board of Education, the school district, the Citizens' Association believes, is assured an able and public-spirited successor to Dr. L. E. Maire, incumbent, whose conscientious, constructive and untiring work on the Board the last three years has been of inestimable value to the community during a period of great progress in the school system.

Neither of the two candidates for trustee has aspired to public office before. Both are admirably equipped by professional training and business experience to bring valuable counsel to bear upon whatever problems they may be called upon to assist in solving.

In the past three years, most of the causes for justifiable criticism of the administrative organization and management of the Grosse Pointe school system have been done away with. Vision, planning and business ability of a high order are now in evidence with but a few, though highly important, exceptions.

#### Achievements

The new high school has been built and is housing more than seven hundred students. Additions and new elementary schools are being constructed as needed, and the Board is securing sites now for schools to be needed in the near future. Only "A" teachers are being appointed to vacancies and new positions. The trustees have been relieved of detail work and the superintendent has been furnished with assistance that is permitting him to devote more and more of his attention to supervision, inspection and building up of the school system. Records and accounts are kept

at the school headquarters in proximity to the office of the superintendent. An itemized financial statement of the district is published annually, and a detailed budget of needs for the ensuing year is submitted at each annual meeting.

Nominal salaries of \$100 each per year are paid the members of the Board, except the treasurer, whose salary is \$1,000, because entire management of the treasurer's records and accounts has not yet been allocated to board headquarters, as was recommended by expert opinion in 1924.

Dual office-holding by school board members, which was prevalent in Grosse Pointe a few years ago, has been almost entirely done away with. Only one member of the present Board holds another public office.

#### Still Room for Progress

Business of the Board, which formerly required tedious sessions far into the night, is now being transacted almost entirely at regular meetings twice a month in a few hours' time. The new trustee will find his duties much less arduous than these duties were three years ago, before the present business-like foundation was laid.

The directors of the Citizens' Association wish to extend congratulations to the new trustee, whether he may prove to be Mr. Sutter or Mr. Edgar, and to the Board of Education upon the acquisition of another good public servant.

The new trustee may rest assured of the whole-hearted support of the Citizens' Association in helping to achieve still higher levels for the school system, still better teaching and still further concentration of administrative authority in the superintendent's office, as well as delegation of administrative details to an assistant or business manager under the superintendent.

### CONTRACTS AWARDED

Contracts for construction of the new elementary school to be built on Vernier Road near Marter Avenue in the Village of Lochmoor were awarded by the Board of Education on May 21st as follows: general contract to E. F. Lang on a bid of \$191,414; heating and plumbing contract to Glanz & Killian on a bid of \$39,591; electrical contract to Donahue & Shoebottom on a bid of \$12,121.

### PARK TAKES A "STRAW" VOTE ON SCHOOL SITE

In response to letters of residents protesting the Board of Education's choice of a site in Grosse Pointe Park for one of the proposed three junior high schools to be needed in the future by the Grosse Pointe school district, the Commission of that village adopted a resolution on April 6th expressing its opposition to the site chosen and its approval of a site six blocks east, just across the boundary of the Park and in Grosse Pointe Village.

Letters containing the Commission's resolution were sent out in May to 2,000 addresses in the village, asking for an expression of opinion on an inclosed post card to be marked and returned to the Commission. To date, approximately 400 cards are reported to have been returned with approximately 10 per cent expressing approval of the site selected by the Board of Education at Audubon and St. Paul, and the remainder expressing opposition to selection of any other school sites in residential districts of Grosse Pointe Park but approving a junior high school site at Cadieux and St. Paul.

(Property owners in this vicinity, of course, have not had an opportunity to voice their objections at public hearing, but several have indicated they would certainly do so, stressing the incongruity of a school being placed far out of its natural geographical location.)

In the meantime, the Board of Education is marking time on selection of all three junior high school sites because the location of each affects all. The three sites which the Board agreed upon after careful, personal inspection, were at St. Paul and Audubon, Lothrop and Charlevoix, and Fairway Drive near Lochmoor Boulevard.

Voters will be asked at the annual school election on June 11th to approve funds for purchase of two elementary school sites, one at McMillan and Ridge, the other at Kerby and Beaupre. At public hearings in March on these two and the three junior high sites, the usual objections of property owners to schools in their neighborhood were voiced on all except the junior high school site in Grosse Pointe Park, against which a strongly organized opposition appeared.

### CIRCULATION DOUBLED

This issue of Civic News is being distributed to 2,567 addresses in Grosse Pointe Township, nearly double the circulation of the June issue last year, which was mailed to 1,329 homes.

Civic News is distributed free of charge by the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township, an organization to which any resident may belong and which is supported by voluntary subscriptions of its members, ranging from \$1 to \$35 annually. Names of new residents or others not now receiving Civic News will gladly be added to the mailing list whenever called to the Association's attention.

Reports of the activities of the Association during the five years of its existence were made at the sixth annual meeting on June 6th at the Grosse Pointe High School. All public officials of the township and interested citizens were invited to attend.

The Association's endeavor at all times is to give constructive support to all measures calculated to advance public interests in Grosse Pointe and to disseminate pertinent information on governmental activities.

### PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Grosse Pointe Library, St. Clair and Waterloo, is open from: 1 to 9 p. m. daily and 10 a. m. to 9 p. m. Saturdays. It is a branch of the Wayne County Library and is free to all residents and property owners of Grosse Pointe Township.

The book collection is varied and includes both adult and juvenile books, with not only fiction but a selection of books on travel, literature, biography, child study, and many other subjects.

The following is a list furnished Civic News by the librarian of some of the newer books in the library: Vandercook, J. W. "Black Majesty."

The amazing and turbulent career of Henry Christophe, negro, who founded a kingdom for himself in Haiti and ruled it with an iron hand.

Nevens, Allan. "Fremont."

The fascinating story of the career of the brilliant adventurer and pioneer to whose labor as an explorer the West owes so much. Wright, S. F. "Deluge."

Graphic and brilliant insight into the lives and emotions of one man and two women who worked out their destiny together after a flood which destroyed civilization.

Bailey, H. C. "Mr. Fortune, Please."

A number of mysteries are solved by the methods of a medico-detective from Scotland Yard.

Byrd, R. E. "Skyward."

The life story of a famous airman, together with the views on the future of aviation.

### NEW D. U. S. BUILDING

Construction has begun of a \$400,000 building to be completed for occupancy next fall by the Detroit University School, on an 18-acre site on Cook Road in Grosse Pointe Farms, north of the Country Club and east of the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club. Robert O. Derrick, Inc., is the architect; Rosewarne, McNab & Worswick of Detroit, the builders.

The board of trustees of the school, now located at 548 Parkview Avenue, Detroit, includes Charles B. Warren, president; C. Henry Hecker, treasurer; Edsel B. Ford, Edgar W. Bowen, Ford Balfantyne, Roscoe B. Jackson, Allan Shelden, C. Henry Haberkorn, Jr., and Mrs. Charlotte Berry Sherrard.

D. H. Fletcher is headmaster. The new building is to have 14 classrooms for more than 200 students, as well as an auditorium, library, gymnasium, laboratory and mechanical workshops. The D. U. S., as it is known, is a private preparatory school for boys that was established in 1890. It comprises all grades from the primaries up to, but not including, college.

### TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

#### Article No. 2

Grosse Pointe Township was originally created out of Hamtramck Township in 1848, and continued as a rural community for about 25 years, when villages were organized to take over the administration of a portion of the township.

Grosse Pointe Village was incorporated in 1879. It is bounded on the south by Cadieux Road, on the northwest by Mack Avenue, on the northeast by Fisher Road, and on the east by Lake St. Clair.

Grosse Pointe Farms was incorporated in 1893. It is bounded by Fisher Road, Mack Avenue, Weir Lane and Lake St. Clair. In 1907 Grosse Pointe Park became a village. It is bounded on the south by Detroit, at an imaginary line 200 feet east of the Alter Road, on the northwest by Detroit at the center of Mack Avenue, on the northeast by

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

### STATEMENTS BY CANDIDATES

Next Monday, June 11th, the school electors of Grosse Pointe Township will ballot on two candidates for the Board of Education, Mr. Fred Sutter and Mr. J. Fred Edgar. There is one trusteeship to be filled for a three-year term, the retiring member being Dr. L. E. Maire, who is not a candidate for re-election.

To acquaint voters with the candidates, the Parent-Teacher Associations of Grosse Pointe called a joint meeting in the new Grosse Pointe High School on Monday, June 4th, and invited them to speak.

Following its custom, the Citizens' Association sent the candidates a questionnaire asking for statements and general information on their candidacy. Below are the replies:

FRED SUTTER, 1000 Kensington Road, Grosse Pointe Park, age 57. Graduate in 1893 of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in electrical engineering. Occupation, retired, formerly engaged in manufacturing. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe.

J. FRED EDGAR, 1253 Balfour Road, Grosse Pointe Park, age 41. Education, teacher's course at Bloomsburg State Normal and civil engineering course at Pennsylvania State College. Occupation, cost engineer at Packard Motor Car Company, six years. Previous ten years as machine operator, toolmaker, department foreman, general foreman, tool engineer, time study and mechanical engineer in automobile plants. Owns real estate in Grosse Pointe. Has one child attending public school. Mr. Edgar made the following statement regarding his candidacy: "My beliefs are that schools and school grounds should be used for school purposes; politics should not enter in school affairs in any way; none but the best teachers available should be procured or retained and a system of promotion for the most efficient should be worked out; school sites should be chosen on the basis of their geographic location."

### THREE NEW TEACHERS

Three "A" teachers recommended for appointment by Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, superintendent, were voted contracts for next fall by the Board of Education on May 21st. They are:

William A. Mann, A.B., Michigan State College, high school mathematics teachers.

Violet Clements, Michigan State Normal College, three years' experience, third grade teacher.

Ethel Stone, Michigan State Normal College, six years' experience, second grade teacher.

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 2)

Cadioux Road, and on the east by the lake.

Grosse Pointe Shores, incorporated in 1911, is bounded by Weir Lane on the south, on the northwest by a line 1,000 feet back from Jefferson and running parallel to it, on the northeast by the Wayne County line, just south of the mouth of the Milk River, and on the east by the lake. The Village of Lochmoor was incorporated in 1927. It comprises all of Grosse Pointe Township not included in the other four villages. It is bounded by Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Shores, the Wayne County line and Gratiot Township.

What is now the Village of Lochmoor was the sole territory to be governed by the township organization from 1911 to 1927. Now, the township government, whose tax budget for 1927 was \$35,000, or 31 cents per thousand of assessed valuation, exists only for those functions prescribed by statute which cannot be assumed by the villages. These functions consist of:

1. Assessment and collection of state, county, good roads, school, health and township taxes.
2. Administration of a poor fund for the entire township.
3. The conduct of all elections except those concerning villages only.

Thus, the township government which was really designed for a rural area is now superimposed upon an area fully urbanized, with problems essentially different and having separate village government. The inhabitants of Grosse Pointe

Township are now all included in villages and are possessed of an urban viewpoint in regard to municipal services. In fact, the difference between the services rendered to the citizens of Detroit and the residents of the Grosse Pointe villages is a matter of degree—in some cases, the service is of a better grade than Detroit can afford.

(Article Number Three will explain assessment and collection of taxes)

### INSURANCE PROTEST

The status of school board insurance, despite protest, has been left unchanged. As recorded in the May issue of Civic News, Messrs. Henry L. Newman, of the Detroit Insurance Agency, and Edwin Stroh, of the Thos. J. Bosquette Agency, petitioned the Board to reconsider its decision to give one broker charge of all the Board's insurance on condition that he split his commission with five competitors whose only connection with the business involved would be acceptance of a share of the commission.

This method, the petitioners declared in effect, was contrary to good business procedure for a public body. A third resident of Grosse Pointe, Frank W. Brooks, Jr., whose attention was called to the "split-commission" method, also wrote asking the Board to reconsider the matter. His letter follows:

May 15th, 1928.

Gentlemen:

It has recently been brought to my attention that it is the purpose of the Grosse Pointe School Board

to place the entire line of insurance over which they have control through a channel which will cause the entire line to be underwritten through the Capitol Underwriters Insurance Agency and that certain agents resident in the district will receive commission checks for allocations to their respective agencies.

As a resident, a taxpayer, and a representative insurance agent in two villages involved, I wish to vigorously protest this form of procedure.

Primarily, any agent receiving commission for placing insurance on public enterprises should be in such a position that full responsibility could be demanded of him in the case of loss and loss adjustment.

It is perfectly obvious that under this plan certain conditions might arise which would prove extremely serious for the school district of Grosse Pointe and the taxpayers involved.

I very respectfully request that this matter be given the strictest attention and further consideration.

Yours very truly,

FRANK W. BROOKS, JR.  
(For Homer Warren & Company)

Grosse Pointe Village has appointed George Kimber, a resident, architect for the new fire hall, for which voters recently approved a \$30,000 bond issue. Two small buildings occupying the site, on Maumee Avenue across the street from the village hall, were ordered sold.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

## CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

"There is no influence in any community more potent and powerful for the accomplishment of good than that of business and professional men banded together for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of the entire citizenship."

—James Bryce.

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

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