

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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No. 12

SCHOOL ELECTION NEXT MONDAY, JUNE 9TH

On Monday, June 9th, the qualified school electors of Grosse Pointe will elect two trustees to serve three-year terms on the Board of Education.

Every citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one years, man or woman, who owns property which is assessed for school taxes in the district or who is the parent or legal guardian of any child of school age included in the school census of the district, and who has resided in the district for at least three months, is a qualified voter. A purchaser of land upon a land contract, who actually pays the taxes upon such land and resides thereon, is eligible to vote; and where a husband and wife own property jointly, each may vote if otherwise qualified.

Registrations cannot be made upon election day, but may be made at the office of the Board of Education, in the high school, Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard, or with the superintendent or secretary at any time up to and including Saturday, June 7th. Registration with the villages or township does not qualify a voter for school elections. A voter who has registered for a previous school election need not register again.

The Candidates

J. LEE BARRETT, 1006 Kensington Road, Grosse Pointe Park, 46 years old, executive vice-president of Detroit Convention & Tourist Bureau and president of the Detroit Automobile Club; owns real estate in Grosse Pointe; has one child attending Grosse Pointe High School, another the Cadieux School; resided in Grosse Pointe Shores the last fourteen years and was a member of the Parent-Teachers' Association of Vernier School; is active in yachting and an officer of Detroit Gold Cup Committee, Yachtsmens Association of America, Greater Detroit Committee, Inc., Southeastern Michigan Tourist & Publicity Association; formerly general manager of Gar Wood, Inc., secretary-treasurer of Detroit Marine Aero Engine Co., and

representative of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; candidate for three-year term as trustee of the Board of Education; has never held public office before; served on Stone tax committee which this year aided Detroit Council with suggestions on 1930 budget; educated in public school, manual training high school and business school in Indianapolis. *Endorsed by Voters' League for Better Schools.*

CHARLES A. POUPARD, 382 St. Clair Avenue, Grosse Pointe Village, 56 years old, gardener; has been treasurer and trustee of the Board of Education for several terms and is seeking

DO NOT NEGLECT YOUR CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

Two trustees are to be elected to the Board of Education for three-year terms on June 9th. In this issue of Civic News may be found informative articles on candidates and issues. Only property owners and parents of school children may vote. *Be sure to cast your ballot June 9th.*

re-election; educated in public and parochial schools of Grosse Pointe; owns real estate in Grosse Pointe and has served various terms in public offices, including township supervisor, highway commissioner, township and village treasurer and village assessor. *Endorsed by Voters' League for Better Schools.*

Polling Places

The polls will be open from 12 to 8 p. m., on June 9th; Precinct No. 1, Grosse Pointe Village, at the Cadieux School; Precinct No. 2, all of Grosse Pointe Park south of Kercheval Avenue at the Municipal Hall, 15115 Jefferson Ave.; Precinct No. 3, Grosse Pointe Farms, Kerby School; Precinct No. 4, Grosse Pointe Shores, Municipal Bldg., Vernier and Lake Shore Road; Precinct No. 5, Lochmoor Village and Gratiot Township, at the Mason School, Vernier and Goethe

Avenue; Precinct No. 6, all of Grosse Pointe Park north of Kercheval Avenue at the Defer School.

The Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the school district will proceed at 8 p. m., June 9th, in the auditorium of the high school, Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Fisher Road, following the closing of the polls. While the election officials are tabulating the votes, the meeting will proceed with the reading of annual reports of the superintendent and the officers of the Board of Education. Among other matters to come before the meeting will be a request for authorization of the dedication of land from the Bewick elementary school site for the opening of Beaupre Road by the Village of Grosse Pointe Farms.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Judge John V. Brennan, of the Recorder's Court, Detroit, will address the fifty members of this year's graduating class of Grosse Pointe High School at the commencement exercises in the high school auditorium, Thursday, June 19th, at 8:15 p. m. The senior class play, "So This is London," was presented on May 28th and 29th.

VACATION NEAR

June 20th is the last day of classes for the regular school year in Grosse Pointe. The customary six weeks' summer school will begin Monday, June 23rd. School grounds of the Trombly, Defer, Mason and High School will be supervised this summer as usual for recreation of children and adults. The municipal parks in the Village, Farms and Shores and the Neighborhood Club at Waterloo and St. Clair are also prepared to encourage outdoor activities of residents.

BOARD OF REVIEW

The township board of review will be in session at the municipal hall, 15115 Jefferson Avenue, to hear complaints on assessments between 9 a. m. and 4 p. m., on June 3rd, 9th and 10th.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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

Lincoln Maire, President.
James E. Morrison, Vice-President.
George Porter McMahon, Secretary.
Charles H. L'Hommedieu, Treasurer.
John F. Keys. LeRoy W. Forrester.
Frank H. Dewey

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THE SCHOOL ELECTION

The school election next Monday deserves the careful consideration of every qualified voter who is interested in the continuance and progress of good government in our school system.

Politics and education should be divorced. It was the intent of the constitution of Michigan to separate the school organization from the general municipal government. Most of Grosse Pointe's difficulties in arriving at its present enviable position have been caused by election of men to the school board who placed the interests of themselves and their political friends above the interests of the children.

In a recently published announcement, the Voters League for Better Schools described the issue in the following significant language:

"It is vital to the interests of the children of Grosse Pointe that you go to the polls on June 9th and vote for men whose integrity, intelligence and experience qualify them for this important office. (School Trustee.) The educational service of a school district is no better than the Board of Education which administers such service. If through your neglect a school board be composed of men of narrow vision, lowly ideals, men of political type whose first thoughts are for themselves and their political friends, your children pay the price of your indifference."

This league, which is composed of public spirited men and women who have devoted thought and effort to the elevation of our school system to its present high position, has publicly endorsed Messrs. J. Lee Barrett and Charles A. Poupard for the two trusteeships to be filled on June 9th.

At the time of going to press, no other candidacies have been reported. Information about the candidates endorsed by the league for better schools will be found elsewhere in this issue

of Civic News. Though no others have filed, there are rumors of possible trickery. Every eligible elector ought to familiarize himself with the facts and then VOTE!

MACK WIDENING

An open letter from the Village of Grosse Pointe to property owners, dated May 1, 1930, informs taxpayers that all property in the village 3,000 feet south on a line parallel to Mack Avenue is included in the special assessment district for the proposed widening of Mack Avenue from Cadioux Road to a point beyond the Village of St. Clair Shores.

"The estimated cost of the project," says the letter, "was at first given as \$4,698,000, but has now been increased to \$5,500,000. The minutes of the meeting called by the State Highway Commissioner at which it was decided to widen Mack Avenue states: 'that approximately 60 per centum of the cost of the road would be paid by the Township, County and District.' In other words, the State will not pay for the road as a State Road, but only 40 per centum of its cost. Also, those owning property within a certain distance of Mack Avenue will be subject to a special assessment to be paid over a period of ten years. The assessment district extends a distance of approximately 1,500 feet north of Mack Avenue in the City of Detroit . . . and in our village extends 3,000 feet."

The letter concludes with these observations: "There is considerable opposition to the whole project as being an unnecessary expenditure of money at this time, and because it requires the residents of Grosse Pointe Township to pay too great a part of the cost. Others think that Mack should be widened, but only to 120 feet rather than 204 feet. The whole matter is to be decided by the superhighway commission of Wayne County and by the state highway commission in the near future."

GROSSE POINTE PARK

Building permits were issued for construction in Grosse Pointe Park in 1929 valued at \$2,772,435, a slight decrease over the \$2,909,704 total of 1928. The first four months of 1930 permits were granted for \$396,719 worth of construction. The peak building year was 1925, with \$3,889,153.

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

The eighth annual meeting of the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township will be held in room 114, Grosse Pointe High School, Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard, on Thursday, June 12th, at 8 p. m. Three directors are to be elected for three-year terms, one to fill a vacancy. Terms expire this June of Messrs. John F. Keys and LeRoy W. Forrester. The Association was organized in May, 1923. For seven years, it has published Grosse Pointe Civic News monthly, keeping citizens informed of important public developments.

Every resident is eligible to membership. The Association's non-partisan activities are supported by the voluntary subscriptions of its members, ranging from one to thirty-five dollars annually. It is a non-profit corporation; the directors, who hold weekly meetings to discuss public matters and give constructive support to all measures calculated to advance public interests in Grosse Pointe, serve without pay.

In 1924, the Association secured the services of the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research to prepare a survey of our school system, which has resulted in notable improvements. Recently, the Association completed publication of a similar survey of the township government. Numerous civic improvements have been advocated and secured by the Association, such as uniform traffic laws, proper zoning regulations, scientific budgets, higher standards for teachers, severance of the school board from local politics, etc. It is the only organization in Grosse Pointe Township working constantly for the benefit of all the citizens.

BONDS SOLD BY FARMS

Grosse Pointe Farms has sold \$464,000 of the half million in bonds authorized by the voters this spring: \$314,000 25-year water works bonds at 4½ per centum (\$95,000 worth at 4 per centum) and \$150,000 15-year Kercheval paving bonds at 4½ per centum. A premium of \$200 was obtained. Specifications on the new water works have been delayed pending discussion of a proposed agreement with Highland Park that may result in arrangements to pump Highland Park's supply as well as Grosse Pointe's.

TOWNSHIP NOTES

Norbert Denk, supervisor's clerk, reports that he is engaged in setting up a card index file that is expected eventually to contain the name and address of the owners of every piece of property assessed for taxes on the Grosse Pointe roll. In addition to the name and address, each card is to contain the assessed valuation and data relative to the amount of the tax and whether it has been billed, and is paid or delinquent. He explained that he did not see the value of having the name and address typed right on the tax roll, as is the custom in progressive communities today, in addition to the lot number and legal description. The name is required on the roll by law.

Having the name and address of property owners on cards will be sufficient, Mr. Denk believes, to facilitate inspection of the records by interested taxpayers and to enable the treasurer to pre-bill taxes.

The supervisor's clerk also reports that he is equalizing assessments in Grosse Pointe Park this year, raising some and lowering others, and is using a front foot basis on vacant property to see how this system will work out. In future, he said, this same method will be followed in other villages if found satisfactory.

An addressograph salesman appeared before the township board, May 14th, and explained how certain detail work of the township that now takes two months or more to do by hand could be done in two days. Supervisor Edmund C. Vernier declared he was satisfied with the customary way of handling the affairs of his office. Justice Walter Schweikart said the supervisor ought to handle affairs of his office as he thought best and that, anyhow, two thousand dollars was more than the township could afford to spend at this time.

GROSSE POINTE SHORES

Plans for a sewer system for Grosse Pointe Shores to cost an estimated \$206,000 came before the village council in February. In view of a decision to build a water main this year in Lake Shore Road at a cost of \$60,000, coupled with an expected decrease in personal property assessments, the council withheld action on the sewer program. Contemplated sewer construction would have meant an increase of 18 per centum in the tax rate over the 1929 rate to provide for retirement of

bonds. (The water main bond issue was approved, 36 to 4, on April 7th; contract was awarded to contractor who is building Lake Shore Road for Wayne County.)

UNIFORM CRIME RECORDS

The first time that the extent and incidence of known offenses have been given a factual basis in the United States is in the first monthly bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police for January, 1930. The number of contributing police departments is expected to increase materially in the future, so that the accumulation of these figures will in time lay the foundations of a nationwide system of uniform crime statistics. The registration area for the 400 cities in the first bulletin—including Porto Rico, half of Hawaii and Alaska—includes a total population in excess of 20,000,000. Forty Michigan cities are registered.

The chairman of the police committee on uniform crime records is William P. Rutledge of Detroit; chairman of the advisory committee is Dr. Lent D. Upton, director of the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research. Bruce Smith, 261 Broadway, New York City, is editor of the bulletin. The first number of the bulletin contains reports of offenses committed in 400 cities, located in 43 states. One-half of all cities over 30,000 population were represented, as well as one-quarter of the cities of lesser size. (Total population of the five Grosse Pointe villages is approximately 25,000.)

Excerpts are given below of the reports of a few large cities and several local municipalities.

KNOWN OFFENSES: January, 1930

| | Felonious Homicide | Murder | Man-Negligent Man-slaughter | Man-slaughter by Negligence | Rape | Robbery | Aggravated Assault | Burglary Breaking or Entering | \$50 and Over | Under \$50 | Auto Theft |
|------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------|---------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| G. P. Farms .. | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| G. P. Park ... | 16 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | ... | 3 | 3 |
| G. P. Shores... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| G. P. Village . | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... |
| Lochmoor | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| St. Clair Shores | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 2 | ... |
| Birmingham .. | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Pleasant Ridge | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Ferndale | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Hamtramck .. | 125 | ... | 1 | 1 | 6 | ... | ... | 4 | 55 | 31 | 27 |
| Highland Park | 88 | ... | 2 | 1 | 16 | ... | ... | 17 | 8 | 25 | 19 |
| Dearborn | 103 | 1 | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | 22 | 3 | 13 | 59 |
| Detroit | 2,026 | 11 | 3 | 31 | 206 | 48 | 167 | 133 | 831 | 596 | 844 |
| *Chicago | * | 27 | 6 | * | 933 | * | 415 | * | * | * | 844 |
| Cleveland | 1,329 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 130 | 9 | 307 | 49 | 551 | 273 | 273 |
| Salt Lake City | 270 | ... | ... | ... | 25 | 1 | 85 | 15 | 66 | 78 | 78 |
| Milwaukee ... | 507 | 1 | ... | ... | 7 | 5 | 70 | 57 | 218 | 149 | 149 |
| Los Angeles .. | 2,624 | 6 | ... | 7 | 159 | 34 | 554 | * | * | 976 | 976 |

*Incomplete or not classified.

CONFISCATION OF SCHOOL TAXES DECLARED ILLEGAL

Wayne County cannot legally confiscate delinquent school taxes due the Grosse Pointe Board of Education by way of collecting from Grosse Pointe Township in a disputed road assessment matter, the attorney-general has ruled in reply to a request for an opinion by the school board's attorney.

Lochmoor's growth during 1929 is indicated by a record of 41 permits issued for construction valued at \$241,075.

POLICE RADIO IN DOUBT

Township and village officials who attended the hearing before the Federal Radio Commission in Washington, April 24th, upon Grosse Pointe's application for a license to operate a police radio station stated upon their return that they expected a recommendation from the Commission for co-operation of all communities around Detroit with the Detroit police radio station. The township board, early this year, approved construction of a radio transmitter, which is now practically completed at a cost of approximately \$1,000.

Those who attended the hearing officially or unofficially included Supervisor Edmund C. Vernier, Clerk Daniel G. Allor, Justice Walter Schweikart, William A. Neff, electrician, Police Chief James C. Drysdale, Police Commissioner William P. Shoemaker, Charles H. Marden, engineer. The township board on May 14th, transferred \$2,000 from the health fund to the police radio fund.

TOWNSHIP CANVASS

Canvass of the votes cast in the township primary, March 3rd, revealed that out of a total of 2,396 ballots cast for Democratic and Republican candidates, Justice Walter Schweikart, running unopposed for re-election to a four-year term, led the field with 1,510 votes. Democrats polled 2,312 ballots; Republicans, 84. Balloting by precincts was as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------|-------|
| | Village | Park | Farms |
| | No. 1 | No. 2 | No. 3 |
| Republicans | 46 | 19 | 7 |
| Democrats | 506 | 556 | 532 |
| | Shores | Lochmoor | Park |
| | No. 4 | No. 5 | No. 6 |
| Republicans | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| Democrats | 71 | 252 | 395 |

Vote for Supervisor

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------|----------|-------|
| | Village | Park | Farms |
| | No. 1 | No. 2 | No. 3 |
| Edmund C. Vernier | 315 | 304 | 384 |
| Charles A. Paye | 190 | 238 | 117 |
| | Shores | Lochmoor | Park |
| | No. 4 | No. 5 | No. 6 |
| Edmund C. Vernier | 63 | 201 | 241 |
| Charles A. Paye | 7 | 46 | 139 |

Mr. Vernier received more than double his opponents' votes, 1,508 to 737. Votes for other Democratic candidates:

Clerk: Daniel G. Allor, 1,451; Albert E. LaBelle, 568; Treasurer: James M. Rasmussen, 508; A. F. C. Vernier, 409; Stephen Van Tiem, 395; Milton Renaud, 339; Clyde Burgess, 315; Frank Allard, 217. Board of Review, Jerry Vanderbush, 1,440. Constables: Andrew T. Phillips, 1,372; Frank W. Defer, 1,053; Bert Forton, 910; Emmett O. Pentecost, 775; Roy Wallwork, 574;

Louis Wisser, 556; Alex W. Elfers, 528.

Republican candidates for treasurer: Joseph H. Primeau, 45; Edward VanAssche, 31.

James M. Rasmussen, Democrat, was elected township treasurer over Joseph H. Primeau, Republican, at the township election April 7th. The vote was 584 to 287. This was the only contest at the election, the other candidates on the Democratic ticket being elected without opposition.

PLAN \$86,600 LOAN TO PAY \$65,890 PAVING

At a meeting of the village commission of Lochmoor on May 20th, bids were opened and contracts awarded on four special assessment district street paving jobs at a total cost of \$65,890.22 to the low bidder, Bishop & Wier. The contracts were awarded in executive session. The commission then voted to issue \$86,600 in bonds to defray the expense of the work. Rolls for the districts were confirmed and assessments ordered collected in fifteen annual installments, the first of which is due in sixty days. The streets which will be paved by August 1st are Anita Avenue, east of Mack to Marter, and Country Club Drive, Hunt Club Drive and Lochmoor Boulevard from Mack Avenue west, to the village limits.

The commission plans to purchase \$15,000 of these special assessment bonds with sinking funds which total \$15,895.53. Bids for the remaining \$71,600 are to be received June 2nd. (Since the law permits a municipality

to have not more than twenty-five per centum of its sinking funds invested in special assessment bonds, the purchase contemplated by Lochmoor with its entire sinking fund would be illegal.)

Asked why it was thought necessary to borrow \$21,000 more than the cost of the paving, the officials cited a five per centum engineering fee, attorney fees and incidental expenses, which must be paid before collections begin and the likelihood of delinquent taxes embarrassing the commission when bonds fall due in the future as is the case at present.

A loan of \$12,000 to meet operating expenses of the village was authorized by the Commission at a special meeting May 12th, at which delinquent village taxes for the last three years were reported to total about \$30,000. Figures announced on special assessment fund deficits have been conflicting, but whatever the total may be it was sufficient to cause the commission to ask a charter amendment at the March election to permit borrowing in anticipation of collections instead of meeting deficiencies out of the general fund. The voters approved the amendment.

SHORES' ELECTION

At the annual village election in Grosse Pointe Shores, May 20th, the president, clerk, and three trustees were re-elected without opposition: President Fred A. Behr, 31 votes; Clerk William C. Roney, 30 votes; Trustees C. J. Chandler, 31; George Osius, 32; William E. Roney, 30.

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Citizens Association

OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP
51 West Warren Ave.
Detroit, Mich.

Just being interested in public questions is not enough.

—Alfred E. Smith.

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