

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

Vol. 8

SEPTEMBER, 1930

No. 3 and 4

SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION SEPTEMBER 30

At 10 A. M. Sept. 30th our Board of Education will call a special meeting of the qualified electors of the Grosse Pointe School district in the High School auditorium. This meeting will be asked to ratify the Board's estimate of a \$399,000.00 bond issue to finance the proposed three Junior High School sites.

After ratification at the open meeting the electors will proceed to vote by ballot on the question of whether or not the bonds shall be issued. Voting in this form to continue through the day until 8 P. M. when the ballots will be counted and the results made known. All of the voting shall be done in the High School and all of the procedure will be technically a part of the one meeting. According to a recent ruling of the Attorney General, there can be no voting by precincts on bond issues.

The three sites for which bond issues are to be voted on are as follows:

Site No. 1: Generally spoken of as the Audubon site, is bounded on the north by St. Paul Ave., on the east by Whittier, on the west by Audubon and on the south by a line parallel to St. Paul and 1,100 feet south of it, giving an area of about seven and one-half acres.

Site No. 2: A ten-acre tract of land between Charlevoix Ave. extended, and Beaupre, and east of Mt. Vernon. This location is unsubdivided and is not blocked by any streets at the present time.

Site No. 3: The southeastern corner of Vernier Road and Fairway, running four hundred and fifty-three feet frontage on Vernier Road and extending on Fairway to the eastern line of P. C. 156 which is about 900 feet.

Sites No. 2 and 3 in newly and undeveloped districts, have not been

the cause of any opposition, but site No. 1, in the village of Grosse Pointe Park has been the basis of a great deal of controversy. The determined resistance of some of the residents in the immediate neighborhood have delayed the issue of this site since 1928.

A one hundred and thirty-eight-page report on Junior High School sites, on file at the offices of the Board of Education, gives a detailed history of the case. In 1922 Dr. H. W. Anderson, Asst. Director of Detroit Schools, made a survey of Grosse Pointe with regards to location and type of schools. Dr. Anderson recommended the elementary, Jr. High and High School plan which is being used in Detroit and suggested seventeen elementary schools, three intermediate and two High Schools.

Then in 1925 a population study was made of Grosse Pointe Township for the School Board. At a

special meeting October 24th, 1927, the Superintendent, Dr. Brownell, made recommendation for the location of three Junior High Schools. Basing his report on population data and walking distances of school children, he suggested the three sites now under consideration. On Feb. 17, 1928, after a personal tour of the grounds the Board tentatively selected the Audubon site for Junior High No. 1. It was at this point that opposition to the site began to form, and the next school election resulted in a three-man majority against this location. The next move was to shift the site from Grosse Pointe Park just over the boundary line into the Village of Grosse Pointe to the southeastern corner of Kercheval and Cadieux Road, (Date Oct. 8, 1928). The Board met opposition here in the Village Council and attorney who filed an appeal on the Board's action with the Superintendent of Public Instructions at Lansing. At this time it was arranged with Dr. Spain of the Detroit School System to confer with the Board on the matter. On Jan. 7, 1929, Dr. Spain rendered a detailed and studied report favoring three Junior High Schools and recommending the Audubon site. A month later the Board reconsidered its action on the Cadieux Road site. In February, 1929, they engaged Strayer and Engelhardt of New York, nationally known for their work in selecting school sites. This report was given in April and substantiated Dr. Spain's and Dr. Brownell's recommendations of a three Junior High School plan and again selecting the Audubon property as site No. 1.

At the June election of trustees the candidates representing the opinion of the opposition were defeated and the new Board proceeded to designate the three sites recom-

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SPECIAL ELECTION

Electors should attend
MEETING—10 A. M.—
SEPT. 30,
on ratification of bonds.

PURPOSE: Bond issue for purchase of 3 Junior High School sites.

AMOUNT: \$399,000.

VOTERS: only registered taxpayers qualify.

TIME: Sept. 30, 10 A. M. to 8 P. M.

PLACE: High School Auditorium, Fisher Rd. and Blvd.

REGISTRATION: Office of Board of Education, Cadieux School, St. Clair Rd., during office hours previous to September 30.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

P. O. Address, 466 Larned Street, W., Detroit

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.

Charles H. L'Hommedieu, Vice-President.

James E. Morrison, Secretary.

George Porter McMahon, Treasurer.

Henry S. Slyfield. Charles S. Cole.

Benjamin G. Vernor. Frank H. Dewey.

Circulation of Civic News is 4,700

FLOWER SHOW

The Eleventh Annual Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show of the Grosse Pointe and Eastern Michigan Horticultural Society was staged at the Neighborhood Club, Grosse Pointe Village, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 12th, 13th and 14th of September.

Despite the exceptionally dry season the competition was very keen and the hundred classes scheduled were well filled with quality flowers, fruits and vegetables and made a colorful picture—in fact one of the best exhibits ever held under the auspices of the local society.

Among the exhibitors and prize winners were Edgar B. Whitcomb, George C. Martindale, Waldo A. Avery, Mrs. Joseph B. Schlotman, Mrs. Lawrence D. Buhl, E. L. Ford, Mrs. Edwin Scott Barbour, Paul H. Deming, Mrs. Fred T. Murphy, Mrs. Russell A. Alger, Mrs. E. P. Hammond, Dr. Adlington Neuman, Mrs. D. M. Ferry, Mrs. Frank W. Hubbard, Fred Fisher, Arthur T. Buhl, Mrs. Benjamin S. Warren, Mrs. P. L. Stephens, William P. Stevens and Jere C. Hutchins.

In connection with the show a cottage garden contest has been conducted with the slogan and aim for "Grosse Pointe more beautiful."

Prize winners announced at the opening of the show were as follows: 1st, Percy Sheppard, 1150 Maryland; 2nd, Mrs. H. Hougardy, 57 Oak St; 3rd, Mrs. L. C. Pratt, 1375 Somerset Rd., and 4th, H. J. Grain, 1231 Gratton Rd.

The gardens were judged for neatness and beauty.

TOM PEARSON,
Show Chairman.

The society made every effort to stress the educational side of the show. All flowers, plants and fruits were labeled for names and varieties and in some cases instructive and authoritative books were awarded for prizes.

A very worthwhile and lasting feature of this year's work was the publication of a booklet on "Judges Scale of Points;" thus standardizing for this and other shows to come what has always been a debatable and delicate problem.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

A tentative calculation of our public schools shows a student enrollment of 3,188. Later and more complete records are expected to increase this total another 200 or better.

The enrollment by schools:

High School, Senior..	529
Junior ..	823
Defer	643
Trombly	306
Cadioux	208
Kerby	110
Richard	387
Vernier	25
Mason	157

Total3,188

This total gives an increase of 327 over last September's enrollment. Two-thirds of the increase took place in the High School, filling it to capacity, and indicates the immediate need for our first Junior High.

With the 1930 census to check against we find our public schools have enrolled 16% of our population. In 1925 the proportion was only 8% and in 1928 9.5%. 16% is high for the average of the country and is only another way of saying that in the last 5 years our school system has doubled its services to the taxpayers.

With the new enrollment of the Richard School being 387 the district boundaries of four of the other schools were changed. Following is an outline of the districts as they are now:

District No. 1, Defer School—Wayburn Ave. to Three Mile Drive, and the north side of Jefferson Ave. to the south side of Mack Ave., inclusive.

District No. 2, Trombly School—Wayburn Ave. to Grand Marais, and the shore of Lake St. Clair to the south side of Jefferson, inclusive.

District No. 3, Cadioux School—Audubon to Neff, and the shore of Lake St. Clair to the south side of Mack Ave., inclusive.

District No. 4, Richard School—Lakeland to Moran and the shore of Lake St. Clair to the south side of Mack Ave., inclusive.

District No. 5, Kerby School—Merriweather to Weir Lane, and the shore of Lake St. Clair to the south side of Mack Ave. as far as Seven Mile Road and to Dufflo Road, north of Seven Mile Road.

District No. 6, Vernier School—Beyond Weir Lane to the County Line, and the shore of Lake St. Clair to Fairway Drive.

District No. 7, Mason School—Beyond Weir Lane to the County Line, and west of Fairway Drive to Dufflo Road.

1930 U. S. CENSUS

Federal census returns give the present population of Grosse Pointe Township as 20,272. This represents a 250% increase in the last decade.

Grosse Pointe Park has a little over half of the total with 10,200. The Village has 5,043, the Farms 3,458, Shores 579, Lochmoor 946, and according to census figures 40 not included in any village.

In 1900 there were 2,933 people in the township, which was little more than a farm land distribution of population. The growth from 1900 to 1910 was very slow, increasing only 646. But from 1910 to 1920 we find an increase from 3,579 to 6,068.

The increase from 1920 to 1930 by villages was as follows:

	1920	1930
Grosse Pointe Pk.	1,355	10,200
Grosse Pointe Vil.	2,084	5,043
Grosse Pointe Farms. .	1,649	3,458
Grosse Pointe Shores. .	519	579
Lochmoor		946
*Balance of Township. .	461	40
	6,068	20,272

*In 1920 this included territory that is now the Village of Lochmoor.

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mended by the authorities, and on July 1st, 1929, made a final approval. At the July 1st meeting an effort was made by the minority of the Board to shift the Audubon site a little to the south, but the majority of the Trustees by this time realized that to pick a new spot merely meant picking new resistance.

There are no buildings on sites 2 and 3 but there were 2 homes on site 1 at the time of its designation July 1, 1929. Since then two more houses have been started on the site, although the realtors handling the property were well aware of the situation and the School Board sent a prompt notice to the builders (August 21, 1930.)

The bond issue is for the odd sum of \$399,000 rather than a round \$400,000 for convenience of records and accounting. The amount \$399,000 is devisable by the period of issue 30 years in an even \$13,300.

Desirous of getting all of the facts of the controversy on Site 1 before the electors, the Citizens Association asked a member of the School Board and a member of the opposition to give their respective views in this issue of Civic News.

The group of citizens opposing the site refused the offer of the Citizens Association. Following is an article by Mr. Fred Sutter.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL SITES

FRED SUTTER

President, Board of Education

It may be well to review a few facts, well known, perhaps, to some, but which I find are not understood by many of our citizens. The school district of Grosse Pointe includes the five villages, namely, the Park, the Village, the Farms, the Shores and Lochmoor. It takes in also a small part of Gratiot township. It is six and one-quarter miles long, measured on a line half-way between Jefferson Avenue and the Mack Road. This length of six and one-quarter miles should be kept in mind for it plays an important part in our junior high school program.

The Board of Education administers the public school system of the district described above, the assessed valuation of which is about \$130,000,000.00. The cost of running the school system for 1929-30 will be about \$880,000.00.

Our system is operated on the

6-3-3 plan, which means that a child spends 6 years in elementary school, 3 years in junior high and 3 years in senior high school. This popular modern plan was adopted a number of years ago for reasons which are just as good today as then. We have seven elementary school buildings, and sites for three more; we have a senior high school building, BUT WE HAVE NO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING NOR SITES FOR SAME.

Our junior high pupils are housed in the senior high school building on Fisher Road, together with the senior high school students. This building now houses 823 junior and 529 senior pupils, a total of 1,352. By next February we will have 1,411 pupils in a building designed for 1,375. Our junior high population is growing rapidly, having doubled in the past three years. I doubt if anybody in Grosse Pointe will deny the necessity of building junior high school No. 1 at once. But before a school be built, however, or even a site acquired for it, the Board of Education must formulate a plan so that each school as it is built will take its place as a unit of the harmonious whole. It is this junior high school plan which I would like to place before you and explain briefly, some of the reasons which motivated the Board in adopting it.

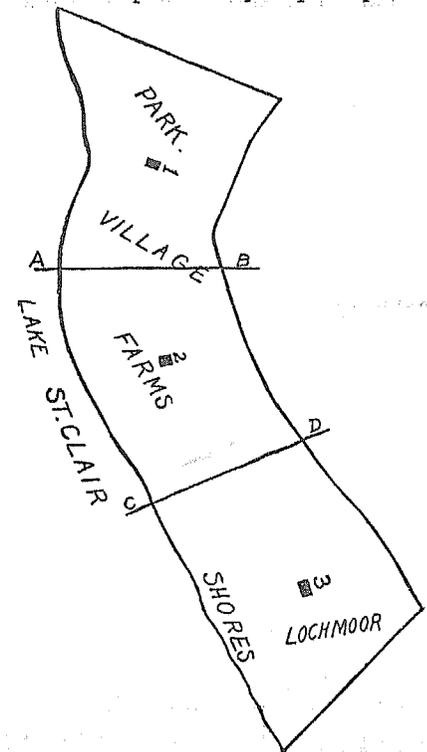
First let me point out that we are, at present, furnishing free bus tickets, according to law, to 750 children who live beyond walking distance. This is costing the district \$15,000.00 per year, although the tickets are bought at less than the five-cent rate. It costs \$20.00 per year to transport each child. Please keep these figures in mind for they, too, loom large in the junior high picture.

Some facts relative to modern practice in school locating may now be examined and then we will be ready to look at the junior high school program. Elementary schools (kindergarten-6th grade) are located about one mile apart so that no child will have much over a half-mile to walk to school, which is regarded as reasonable for children of this age group. Educational authorities are substantially agreed that junior high schools (7th, 8th and 9th grades) may be located about two miles apart and thus the

furthest pupils walk not much over $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles, a distance well within their powers.

THE PLAN

Your Board of Education has decided that three junior high schools will adequately take care of the school district, that the first of these be built as soon as possible, and the other two later as the need arises, but that all three sites be bought at this time paying for them with a bond issue of \$399,000.00. I have drawn to scale the map of the school district shown below and by means of the lines A-B and C-D divided it into three practically equal parts.



Remembering that the district is a little over six miles long, each of these parts will be about two miles in length. The Board proposes to locate the three schools at the black squares on the map, numbered 1, 2 and 3. I have examined our latest school survey map (1929) on which were drawn circles of ONE AND ONE-QUARTER miles radius, using the above schools as the centers and find that 99½% of the children of junior high school age live on or within these circles. Only 7 children lived outside of the $1\frac{1}{4}$ -mile circles, and of these 7 there were 3 who lived almost on the rim. This boils down to the fact that three junior high schools located as pro-

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posed by the Board, will be within walking distance, and will eliminate expensive and undesirable bus travel.

It has been suggested that two schools instead of three would result in a large saving. This is not a fact. It is true that two large schools OF THE SAME CAPACITY as three smaller ones would cost less than these but by no means one-third less, for it is obvious that we cannot build two large schools for the price of two small ones. Furthermore, two schools attempting to serve a six-mile district will inevitably create a heavy bus transportation expense which may run well over \$30,000.00 per annum. This sum is sufficient to pay interest on and retire a \$500,000.00 bond issue so why not put the money into a school instead of bus fares? Entirely aside from its cost bus transportation is undesirable. There is a definite physical and moral hazard involved. I will be glad to go into this further if anyone wishes. The buses must leave when school is dismissed, but many pupils stay later for rehearsals, practice, athletics, reading, con-

sultations, disciplinary reasons and so on. Many of these pupils would then have to walk long distances to their homes, so that these activities are handicapped.

A word now as to cost. These particular pieces of land were selected because they are the cheapest of any property suitably located for our purpose. I caution you not to accept statements to the contrary. To pay interest and retire the \$399,000.00 bonds used to buy these sites will require about \$24,000.00 per annum. This is about \$1.15 per annum or less than one-third of a cent per day for each Grosse Pointe resident.

This is a good time to buy land, for we would buy at hard times prices and pay off the bonds in the good times ahead. At this time we are borrowing money at the lowest interest rates in years. It should be noted that a school built now will give much needed employment to many of our citizens.

It is important to remember that no matter WHERE a school is located, there will be some objectors. Our useful and beautiful new high school was delayed for two years by

a small, organized group. If you wish to prevent your junior high school program being delayed in a similar manner, if you wish to back up your Board of Education vote YES on September 30th.

A NEW PARK

On the 25th of August, last, the people of Grosse Pointe Park voted in favor of a bond issue for the purchase of several acres of lake front at the foot of Alter Road.

Eleven hundred and fifty-three votes were cast in favor of the issue and 598 against. Of the 1,751 votes cast the required 60% would have been 1,051 which means the lead in favor of a park was 152 votes or 8.68 per cent.

This was a heavy vote for a special election bond issue and indicated the public interest in the question. Last year's voting on the park site totaled 807.

Now all the 4 lake shore villages have water front parks. Grosse Pointe Park has more claim to its name for its new park should be the finest in the township, occupying a most picturesque point in the shore line.

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Citizens Association

OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP
466 Larned Street West,
Detroit, Mich.

The present day effectiveness of government has been largely the result of fact-finding. A handful of facts have been worth a barrel of incensed public opinion.

—Dr. Lent D. Upson.

Mrs. B. Vogt,
1304 Grayton,
Grosse Pointe Park, Mich.

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