

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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## TAX PAYMENTS

January tenth was the last date for the payment of state, county and township taxes without the three percent penalty being added. The township treasurer estimated that approximately eighty-five percent of the taxes had been paid up to January tenth.

Up to March tenth, with the exception of Fridays, taxes may be paid at the township treasurer's office in Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Hall. On Fridays from January tenth to March tenth the township treasurer will receive taxes at the Wayne County Building in Detroit. After March tenth the tax roll will be in the hands of the Wayne County treasurer for collection.

It is thought that a number of new residents in Grosse Pointe Township have failed to pay taxes because they believed a statement of taxes due would be mailed to them. Statements are not sent out by the township or village treasurer except at the request of property owners.

Notices and dates for the payment of taxes are made regularly through the columns of the "Civic News."

Dates of interest for each month will be found listed in the Municipal Calendar.

## COURT DECISION APPEALED

Appeal has been made to the Supreme Court of Michigan of Judge Dingeman's decision on the proposed high school site at Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard. The decision of the lower court set aside a temporary injunction restraining the Board of Education from condemning the land for a high school site.

Although the Supreme Court will not be able to consider the case for several months to come, the Board of Education has authorized its attorney to start condemnation proceedings in order that final action can be taken soon after the Supreme Court's decision is given.

## MAP OF GROSSE POINTE

As a supplement to this issue of the "Civic News" the Citizens' Association is distributing a map of the Grosse Pointe villages and township.

For some time past, there has not been a combined map of the villages showing present streets and municipal boundaries. No such map was available at any of the map makers in Detroit, so that the present map is the only modern one of this district that has been printed.

The original tracing was made thirty inches wide by sixty-eight inches long and then reduced to its present convenient size. Large sized blueprints are being placed in the various municipal halls and will be supplied to business firms and residents at one dollar per copy. Maps, the size of the one in this issue, but mounted on cloth-backed paper, will be furnished at seventy-five cents a copy.

As a guide in considering problems which the villages have in common, such as uniform street layout and extensions, water supply, parks, schools and the health district, the map should prove of value. One of the disadvantages of maintaining four separate municipal organizations in Grosse Pointe is that residents are apt to consider public problems only as they affect their own village rather than the community as a unit. The consolidation of the School district and the health district and the work of the cottage hospital have pointed out community problems that can be treated jointly. The map may suggest other problems that can best be considered by the entire community.

## NEW FIRE ALARM BOXES

Two new fire alarm boxes have been installed by Grosse Pointe Village, making a total of twenty-six alarm stations in the system.

The new boxes are located at the corner of Lincoln and Charlevoix Avenues and on University Place at the Black Marsh Ditch.

## THE COTTAGE HOSPITAL

The article in the December issue relating to the work of Health District 1-A stated that "the cottage hospital serves as an emergency hospital for the district." The Board of Directors of the hospital has requested that a statement be published defining the use of the hospital for emergency cases.

In addition to its maternity and infant welfare work, the hospital has attempted to give first aid and relief in emergencies but has been able to do so only when space has been available.

Because of the limited quarters and lay-out of the present building, it has been impossible to maintain an emergency ward. This and the fact that the hospital has no resident physician makes it impossible to properly accommodate emergency cases.

Several times during the last few years plans have been considered for a new building which would allow an expansion of the organization's work. At present, an addition to the existing building is being contemplated. While it is hoped that this addition will allow the hospital to give first aid, it can not be considered as a guarantee that all emergency cases will be treated.

## MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20 township taxes can be paid at Wayne County Building, Detroit.

Jan. 20 to March 10 (exclusive of above dates) township taxes payable at Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Hall.

Feb. 2—G. P. Shores Trustees' Meeting, 8:00 P. M.

Feb. 2—G. P. Farms Trustees' Meeting, 8:00 P. M.

Feb. 9—G. P. Farms Primary Election.

Feb. 9—Health Board Meeting, 8:00 P. M.

Feb. 10—School Board Meeting, Superintendent's Office, 8:00 P. M.

Feb. 20—G. P. Village Trustees' Meeting, 8:00 P. M.

## Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

H. P. Breitenbach, Consulting Editor.  
H. G. Fishack, 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:

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### BUDGET MAKING

Within a few months the Grosse Pointe Villages will be starting a new fiscal year and soon their officers will be planning new budgets. These budgets, compiled by the Finance Committees of the Village Trustees, are estimates of the expenditures necessary to operate the municipalities during the coming year. The compiling of such figures, although dry and uninteresting in detail, is of vital importance to the functioning of government and can be made the most important instrument in the administration of the Grosse Pointe Villages.

The scope of a model budget procedure is outlined briefly in this article. Because of the different plans of budget classification now existing in each of the villages, no attempt is made to compare any particular budget procedure with the one here outlined.

The budget should serve a two-fold purpose; first, as the financial plan for carrying out the activities of government; and, second, as a medium of public information.

As a plan for the functioning of government the budget determines what part of the municipalities' income is to be spent for the different services rendered the public. Through public budget hearings and the publishing of the budget, the public is informed of the services that are being given in return for taxes paid. With proper publicity the public has the opportunity of objecting to expenditures they believe unnecessary. A greater advantage is that the public learns to measure taxes by the return they get in the form of efficient municipal services. The continued increase in cost of municipal government is justifiable only as long as tax money is expended for the general welfare

of the entire community and the benefits obtained are commensurate with the expenditures. A budget procedure which provides a means of informing the public of the municipality's financial plans is essential to the public understanding and evaluation of their government.

The United States Bureau of the Census defines a municipal budget as "a formal statement of the financial program or plan of a municipality for a fiscal period comprising a statement of authorized municipal expenditures for that period, correlated with the estimated revenues and other resources for meeting them."

This definition points out that the budget is a balanced document giving a statement of expenditures and the means of meeting them. Therefore, a statement of anticipated expenditures only partially fulfills the requirements.

In tabulating the items to be financed through the budget, a uniform classification is necessary. The classification given here is generally approved by students of municipal finance. Requests should be separated, first, by department, such as police, public works, etc.; second, by fund. This later division is necessary only where the charter provides a specific tax levy shall be held for some particular purpose. Third, by activity. The amounts to be spent for each activity of the department are listed separately for purposes of comparison. For example, the police department estimates would show the amount requested for foot patrol, traffic, etc. Fourth, by character of expenditure. This classification lists amounts to be used for current operation, maintenance, debt service, etc. Fifth, by object or purpose. Amounts to be spent for salaries, supplies, and contractual service are kept separately.

Such uniform budget classification as outlined permits the requests of all departments to be directly comparable. It shows clearly the appropriations for all types of services undertaken by the municipality.

In addition to a uniform classification, the budget should give a comparison of actual expenditures for each item during the past period with the amount requested during the period to be financed. Increases or decreases in the amounts requested should be shown in additional

columns and explained in footnotes. Such comparative figures will point out to the public the purpose for which additional funds are being requested.

Lastly, a complete budget is a balanced document and in addition to showing an estimate of expenditures should show how these expenditures are to be financed. The sources of municipal revenue, such as fines, licenses, income from City services, sale of bonds and tax levies, should be shown in the income statement.

As has been stated, a complete budget system is necessary in order to best administer the activities to be performed and to give taxpayers a definite and reliable source of information regarding the expenditure of public funds. It is believed that some improvement can be made in the budgets of the several Grosse Pointe Villages, especially in making the documents a better means of public information.

### CUTS AND FILLS

The disposal of excess earth from public excavations has been brought to the attention of the Citizens' Association. The complaint has been that persons building in Grosse Pointe have found it difficult to get sufficient earth to make the required fill around their property and have been put to considerable additional expense in having to haul earth from some distance. At the same time, it is claimed, earth from public excavations in Grosse Pointe has been used to make fills in Detroit.

Because of the flat topography of Grosse Pointe township the chief supply of material for making fills is from excavations, and it is believed that residents and persons building in the community should be given preference in the disposal of earth from public excavations.

A clause in public works contracts restricting the hauling of earth outside the village and some method of filling property owners' applications in the order received should prove effective.

It is not suggested that such service should be given gratis but it is suggested that the municipalities might take responsibility for the placing of earth in return for a fee sufficient to cover hauling and other work involved.

### LAND HO!

Many of us, in childhood fancy, have imagined ourselves explorers sailing to far corners of the globe in adventurous search for undiscovered lands. Such expeditions were always to distant regions and clouded with uncertainty. The thought of undiscovered territory within walking distance of our homes never entered our dreams.

However, such property exists. As proof, refer to the map in this issue and note the park bounded by Black Marsh Ditch, University Place and Neff Street. The property was dedicated to Grosse Pointe Village by John M. Dwyer in November, 1919, and has been a village park for more than five years. Yet comparatively few residents have been aware of its existence.

### SCHOLARSHIP LOAN FUND

At the end of the present school year the first students will be graduated from Grosse Pointe High School.

Attention of Grosse Pointe residents is again brought to the suggestion made in the December, 1923, issue of the "Civic News" relative to establishing a loan fund to help needy students of the community through college. In other communities such loan funds have been a means of helping ambitious and worthy students.

In the article referred to the Citizens' Association offered to help form such a fund should it be needed. The plan met with response from a number of citizens, who expressed their willingness to help. The Fidelity Trust Company in Detroit offered its services, free of charge, as administrator of the fund.

The Citizens' Association is ready to take necessary steps toward the establishing of a loan fund and is eager to co-operate with persons interested.

### DEFER SCHOOL

The George Defer School at Kercheval and Nottingham Avenues will be opened the beginning of the second semester. The building proper has been completed and is ready for occupancy. The present delay is due to lack of desks and other needed equipment.

The building will accommodate approximately 400 pupils and will materially relieve the overcrowding in Trombly and Cadieux Schools.

### A STATEMENT BY THE HEALTH OFFICER

*Editor's Note: The following statement of the work of the health department was prepared for the "Civic News" by Dr. B. H. Warren:*

Following an Act of the Legislature authorizing the formation of Health Districts composed of contiguous Townships and Villages, Health District No. 1-A came into existence in Grosse Pointe, the first meeting being held in October, 1917.

The first officers of the Board were George Osius, President, representing Grosse Pointe Shores; Paul Deming, Treasurer, representing Grosse Pointe Farms; Dr. L. E. Maire, Secretary, representing Grosse Pointe Park; and Richard Connor, representing the Village of Grosse Pointe. Dr. J. A. Belanger was acting health officer. Dr. Don M. Griswold was later appointed health officer, but served only a few months before going into the government service. The present health officer, Dr. B. H. Warren, was appointed in December, 1918.

All health activities have been established and have grown steadily with satisfactory results obtained.

At present the following clinics are conducted by the Health District: infant welfare clinic every Friday from two to five P. M.; tuberculosis clinic the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from two to five P. M.; dental clinic four days a week. The dental clinics cover inspection and oral hygiene for children in the public schools and are conducted at the various school buildings of the district.

Ninety percent of the activities is in infant welfare, pre school and school work. Aside from the usual measures of precaution regarding the control of communicable diseases a daily bacteriological examination of the drinking water from the Grosse Pointe Farms pumping station is made.

Except in times of epidemics, public health work is given little thought or attention by people in general and no doubt there are those in the district who hardly realize that the health department is a very vital factor in the health conditions of their community.

There is nothing spectacular in the program of the health work, but a great deal of good is done in a single day that is known to

no one but those whom it affects. For example, at the weekly infant welfare clinic there are as many as thirty-five babies in attendance. About two-thirds of them are given toxin antitoxin—the prevention measure against diphtheria. In one year twenty-six cases of incipient tuberculosis was found through the regular tuberculosis clinic.

Co-operation by the people with their health department is a big help in the successful carrying on of its work, and in this district splendid co-operation is received. For example, during the regular school inspection in September, by the health officer fifty-two tonsillectomies were recommended and by November 1st forty-two of them had been performed. Much of the success in the health work has been due to the co-operation given the department in the schools. One could go on at great length in reciting other services rendered.

Prevention of diseases means also the prevention of worry, anxiety, grief and financial loss.

### BUILDING CONSTRUCTION 1924

A fairly accurate index of the growth of the Grosse Pointe Villages may be gained from the following review of building construction during the past year.

Figures taken from the building permits of Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village, and Grosse Pointe Farms aggregate \$5,806,455. Similar data for Grosse Pointe Shores and territory in the township outside of the municipalities was not available.

Although the largest number of the buildings erected have been single residences, the entire list covers a wide range of building for different purposes. Included in it are a considerable number of two family flats, one four family dwelling and several commercial buildings. Private garages, a municipal garage, a moving picture theatre, a caddy house at the golf club, a greenhouse and a church building are in the list.

In the three villages mentioned six hundred and fifty-eight building permits were issued. The number issued by each village and the value of new buildings, additions and alterations by months is given in the following table:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
<b>Grosse Pointe Park</b>													
New buildings													
Permits Issued	25	14	30	51	53	44	41	39	40	42	24	13	416
Value	\$189,650	\$ 99,400	\$245,670	\$420,470	\$436,510	\$354,410	\$350,710	\$281,440	\$250,710	\$385,590	\$253,810	\$182,460	\$3,459,830
Additions and alterations													
Permits Issued				2	1	1	1	2	3				10
Value				\$700	\$400	\$35	\$20	\$500	\$675				\$2,330
<b>Grosse Pte. Village</b>													
New buildings													
Permits Issued	2	3	13	18	9	8	14	12	9	8	9	8	113
Value	\$ 95,000	\$ 19,000	\$ 87,000	\$145,500	\$101,500	\$ 51,500	\$ 99,500	\$ 56,500	\$ 88,000	\$ 94,500	\$ 99,500	\$ 64,000	\$1,001,500
Alterations and additions													
Permits Issued			3	5	4	3	2		1	4	2	1	25
Value			\$ 3,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000		\$ 500	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 500	\$19,500
<b>Grosse Pte. Farms</b>													
New buildings													
Permits Issued	14	6	3	10	6	5	9	5	9	8	6	1	82
Value	\$447,300	\$147,450	\$ 25,400	\$143,500	\$ 65,700	\$ 66,200	\$176,320	\$ 41,150	\$ 39,500	\$151,700	\$ 6,580	\$ 5,850	\$1,316,150
Additions and alterations													
Permits Issued		1		1		1	2	2	1	2	2		12
Value		\$200.		\$1,000		\$200.	\$3,000	\$1,100	\$100	\$250	\$1,795		\$7,645
Total Permits Issued	41	24	49	87	73	62	69	60	63	64	43	23	658
Total Value	\$731,950	\$266,050	\$361,070	\$715,670	\$606,110	\$473,845	\$630,550	\$380,690	\$388,485	\$635,540	\$364,185	\$252,810	\$5,806,455

Compared with figures for 1923 the number of building permits issued increased 239, or 60%, and the value \$2,911,890, or 100%. Comparison of the 1923 and 1924 figures follows:

Farms. Percentage increase in the value of buildings constructed in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Village was approximately the same.

1923. The estimate for Grosse Pointe Shores for 1923 was \$196,000 and for the township territory \$267,000. Allowing a nominal increase of 25% for Grosse Pointe Shores and 50% for township territory the estimates for 1924 are: Grosse Pointe Shores, \$245,000; township territory, \$400,000. These figures cannot be considered as too high when compared with increases made in Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village, and Grosse Pointe Farms. Adding this estimate to the figures obtained, the building carried on in the four villages and Grosse Pointe Township during 1924 aggregates \$6,450,455.

	Permits Issued			Value		
	1923	1924	Percent Increase	1923	1924	Percent Increase
Grosse Pointe Park.....	295	426	44	\$2,000,890	\$3,462,160	73
Grosse Pointe Village.....	67	138	106	579,200	1,020,500	76
Grosse Pointe Farms.....	50	94	88	296,475	1,323,795	346
	412	658	60	\$2,894,565	\$5,806,455	100

The table shows that while the greatest increase in number of permits issued was made by Grosse Pointe Village, by far the greatest increase in the value of buildings constructed was in Grosse Pointe

The value of buildings under construction in Grosse Pointe Shores and township territory outside of the municipalities was not available but an approximate figure can be taken from the estimates made in

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Our city government is in our hands. It is as good as we deserve, for it is as good as we make it.

—Lyman Abbott.

Mr. Bernard B. Vogt,  
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 Grosse Pte. Village, Mich.