

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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LAKESHORE ROAD WIDENING PROGRAM

The question of widening both the right of way and pavement of Lakeshore Road through Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores, again came to the attention of the Wayne County Supervisors at the fall meeting. However, no final action was taken respecting the project.

The original proposal as introduced at the Supervisors' meeting last fall was to make Lakeshore Road right of way one hundred and twenty feet wide and to condemn portions of the lake front for the park purposes. No recommendation with respect to the width of pavement was made, and the whole matter was placed in the hands of the County Road Commissioners and the Board of County Park Trustees for study. A preliminary survey and appraisal of the property made during the winter and spring by the road commissioners' office, was presented in a report to the Supervisors at the spring meeting. The estimated cost of securing the additional right of way and the land for park purposes was:

Cost of widening.....	\$ 602,049.00
Cost of property between Lakeshore Road and Lake St. Claire, Vernier Road and the County line.....	3,641,570.00
Cost of property between Lakeshore Road, Lake St. Claire from private claim, 261 to Vernier Road.....	5,544,000.00
Total	\$9,787,619.00

The report also pointed out that Lakeshore Road was not a county road and that before any work could be undertaken by the County, the consent of the villages would be required.

The report stated that in addition to lacking the legal right, funds were not available and that the excessive cost of obtaining land for a park made it advisable to defer action on this part of the program until a later date. This view was concurred in by the committee on ways and means and supervisors adopted a resolution rescinding the action to make Lakeshore Road right of way 120 feet wide and abandoning

the scheme of condemning the lake front between private claim 261 and Vernier Road for a county park. The same resolution directed the County Road Commissioners to negotiate with Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores for the widening and improvement of the road at county expense.

Grosse Pointe Shores has acceded to making the right of way 86 feet, upon which will be constructed a pavement 36 feet wide. The pavement will be wide enough to carry four lines of traffic and it is expected that provision will be made at intervals for parking. Moving of the D. U. R. tracks will be necessary to construct the road. The expense of providing necessary storm sewers must be borne by the village but the widening and construction of the pavement will be at county expense.

No agreement has been reached between the road commissioners and Grosse Pointe Farms. Village officials have indicated their desire to make any improvements necessary at village expense and have suggested a pavement 36 feet wide placed upon a 75-foot right of way. The road commissioners' report states that a right of way of not less than 86 feet should be obtained and that a pavement as narrow as 36 feet had been allowed in order to preserve shade trees and other ornamental improvements along the highway.

Final action in the matter was delayed until a later meeting of the supervisors. In the meantime, an effort will be made to reach an agreement with Grosse Pointe Farms. Funds to finance the undertaking will not be appropriated before the fall of 1926, and construction work, in all probability, will not be started before the spring of 1927.

Sidewalk lines and building grades have been established on St. Paul, Waterloo, Charlevoix and Goethe Avenues in Grosse Pointe Village.

TOWNSHIP TAXES

Nearly \$400,000 of the total fall tax of \$874,761.50 to be collected this year will be used by the township for schools, highways, the health district, and running of our township government. The remaining \$478,227.50 is Grosse Pointe Township's share of state and county tax, including the county road tax.

Amounts of the several taxes to be levied follow:

Township Tax, Poor Fund tax and Sinking Fund.....	\$ 66,900.00
Highway Improvement Tax...	15,000.00
School Tax.....	298,559.00
Total, for Township, Health and Schools, etc.....	\$396,534.00
County Tax.....	157,983.76
County Board Tax.....	86,009.09
State Tax.....	233,489.47
Re-assessed Taxes.....	76.31

Total, all purposes..... \$874,761.50

Assessed valuation of Grosse Pointe Township for 1925-26 has been fixed at \$99,255,189, consisting of real estate assessed at \$78,387,895 and personal property totalling \$20,867,294. Seventy-nine percent of the total assessed valuation is real estate, as against twenty-one percent personal property.

Tax rates, to the nearest cent for each one thousand dollars assessed valuation are: township, health, schools, etc., \$4.00; county, \$1.59; county road, .87; state, \$2.35; total, \$8.81. Of every ten dollars paid to the township treasurer as a fall tax \$3.41 will be devoted to the operation and maintenance of Grosse Pointe Schools.

Collection by the township treasurer will begin December 10th. For the convenience of residents, in making payments, the treasurer will spend several days in the several village halls. His schedule of collection dates, in the several villages, will be published later.

Street signs of the type used by Detroit, Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms have been ordered and will be erected in Grosse Pointe Village.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

P. O. Address, 316 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

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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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TRAFFIC ORDINANCES

The desirability, in fact, the necessity of uniform traffic laws for the Grosse Pointe Villages was advocated a number of months ago through the columns of the "Civic News." It was pointed out that traffic problems of all the villages are the same and in the interest of safety and convenience to motorists standardized traffic laws should be put in effect. Uniform through traffic streets were urged as a part of the plan.

The Citizens' Association is pleased to note that since publishing the article the village of Grosse Pointe Park has designated Jefferson, Charlevoix, Kercheval and Mack avenues as through traffic streets. Grosse Pointe Park was the last village of the township to designate stop streets and its final adoption of the plan has no doubt reduced the possibility of accidents on the streets named.

But the necessity for further uniformity still exists. For example, Maumee avenue, within Grosse Pointe village, was made a through traffic street in June, 1924. The street also extends into Grosse Pointe Park as far as Kensington road, but has not been made a stop street by that village. At the corner of Maumee avenue and Cadieux road, the boundary between the villages, a number of accidents have occurred which doubtless are due to the fact that uniform traffic rules do not apply. Persons driving on Maumee avenue in Grosse Pointe village naturally assume it to be a stop street for its entire length, and believe they have the right of way. Those approaching Maumee on Cadieux road and the streets in Grosse Pointe Park properly assume that the vehicle approaching on the right has the right of way.

Representatives of cities and vil-

lages of the entire state met recently in Detroit to consider the establishing of uniform traffic laws for municipalities. A larger meeting was recently called by Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, to develop uniform regulations for the nation. Both conferences agreed to the necessity of a standardized traffic code.

If representatives of cities and villages of the state and nation recognize the desirability of a uniform code, the necessity of co-operation looking to the same end by four contiguous villages can scarcely be questioned.

Since the above was written, another accident occurred. A large touring car collided with a truck and was completely overturned at the danger point described above.

COMMUNITY FUND

November 4th to 14th are the days set for the eighth annual drive of the Detroit Community Fund, in its effort to raise nearly three million dollars for the support of seventy-one charitable and philanthropic organizations of the city. The goal this year, \$2,950,000 is greater by \$271,300 or 11.5% than the total raised last fall. Increased work of the agencies whose operating deficits are financed through the Community Fund necessitates the larger amount requested.

In Grosse Pointe two agencies are supported by the Community Fund: the Cottage Hospital and the Mutual Aid and Neighborhood Club.

Grosse Pointe residents have been closely allied with Community Fund, both as liberal supporters and active workers on the board of directors and in the campaigns.

SALARY SCHEDULES

The last meeting of school electors showed considerable interest in teachers' salaries. Therefore, the following comparison is timely.

The salary range for Grosse Pointe teachers this year is: Elementary teachers, \$1,200 to \$1,750; special teachers, \$1,600 to \$1,900; high school, \$1,475 to \$1,975.

For Detroit schools the following schedule of teachers' salaries prevail: Elementary teachers, \$1,500 to \$2,100, increase \$100 per year; Intermediate teachers \$1,600 to \$2,600, increase \$200 per year; special teachers: Music, \$1,500 to \$2,100, domestic art \$1,700 to \$2,100, manual training \$1,700 to \$2,700, auditorium teachers \$1,500 to \$2,300, high school teachers \$1,600 to \$2,600.

HIGH SCHOOL PLANS

Preliminary drawings for the new Grosse Pointe High School have been completed by the architect and approved by the Building Committee and School Board. Space does not permit a description of the building and its features in this issue, but it is planned to devote a large part of the next issue of the "Civic News" to the building.

It may be mentioned in passing that the building, based on the superintendent's estimate of the space needed to accommodate one thousand pupils, is of pleasing design and appears to provide in a liberal manner for every feature contained in a modern high and intermediate school.

A number of residents had the opportunity of hearing an explanation of the plans when they were shown at the October meeting of the Cadieux School Parent-Teachers' Association. Parent-Teacher meetings of other schools will also have the opportunity of seeing the plans.

The architect estimates that working drawings and specifications will require four or five months' additional work, but that the building could be completed for the 1927-28 school year barring unforeseen delays in construction.

The site at Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard for which the building is planned, is still in dispute. The property has been purchased by condemnation by the district, but the question of the right to erect a school building on the site is pending before the State Supreme Court. The present legal question involves the granting of a temporary injunction in May, 1924, restraining the district from obtaining the site. A plea for a permanent injunction on the same grounds was denied by the circuit court in December. Appeal of the case was heard by the Supreme Court several weeks ago and a decision is expected within ninety days.

In the meantime, the school board has asked members of the Detroit School system to review the plans in order that Grosse Pointe may have the benefit of Detroit's experience in educational planning. The Detroit superintendent and staff have indicated their willingness to co-operate in every way possible.

CHANGES IN BUSINESS PROCEDURE SCHOOL BOARD

Ernst and Ernst, recently appointed auditors for the school district, have recommended a number of changes in the business procedure of the district, which have been accepted by the board and will be put in effect.

In place of the present scheme of using a separate warrant and check to authorize and draw funds, a system of voucher checks will be installed. The warrant and a statement of the item covered by the amount will be combined with the check in this voucher. A separate payroll account, to which a single voucher can be drawn instead of separate warrants for each salary paid, will also be set up. A purchase order in triplicate will be used, in the future, by the board's business manager. A standardized purchase order has not hitherto been used by the business manager's office.

The recommendations made prove the value of having a firm of competent accountants serving as auditor for the district.

Changes in committee organization of the board also has been made. A committee on teachers to study the present salary schedule and teachers' qualifications was appointed. The discrepancy in salaries between Grosse Pointe teachers and those of Detroit and Highland Park was discussed in the September issue of "Civic News." This committee will be charged also with the duty of raising standards in order that the school may qualify for membership in the North-Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Committees on janitors and on buildings and sites were also appointed.

A second attempt of the present fiscal year to re-appoint the school board attorney was made at the board meeting of October 21st. Members of the present school board have objected to fees paid the attorney last year and to date have failed to sanction his re-appointment. The total fees paid as shown in the annual audit were \$10,554.05, which covered legal services on three condemnation cases.

September 1924 the total enrollment in Grosse Pointe Schools was 1,449. In September of this year 1990 were enrolled, an increase of 541 or 37.3%. Kindergarten and grades 2, 5, 6, 10 and 12 show the greatest increase.

BUILDING PERMITS AND FEES

Information relative to building permits and fees charged by Grosse Pointe villages is given here, in order that persons planning to build in Grosse Pointe may be familiar with the procedure.

All Grosse Pointe villages, with the exception of Grosse Pointe Shores, have enacted building codes to regulate the type and construction of structures erected. Detailed information relative to the requirements may be obtained from village halls or through the Citizens' Association.

A copy of plans and specifications of the proposed building must be submitted to the village and have approval of the building commissioner before a permit will be issued. A fee of one dollar for each thousand dollars construction cost is charged for this service, and is used to defray the expense entailed in checking the plans.

In Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms the building commissioner receives a fixed salary for his services, amounting to \$1,200 and \$2,500, respectively.

In Grosse Pointe Village building fees are allowed the commissioner in lieu of salary. During the calendar year 1924 building permits totaling \$1,020,500 were issued, and fees totaling approximately \$1,020 were paid the commissioner for his services.

PAVEMENT REPAIRS

Sections of Jefferson avenue in Grosse Pointe Village that were damaged by the heavy rains of the summer have been repaired. The work, in charge of the George Cooke Company, consisted of relaying the old wood blocks and wherever necessary replacing them with new blocks. A tarvia flush coat covered with fine screenings was then applied.

Before proceedings with the work, village officials considered widening and repaving Jefferson avenue, but, due to the expense of such a program, decided to recondition the present pavement.

Widening of the south side of Jefferson avenue, between Barrington and Pemberton roads, in Grosse Pointe Park, is nearly completed. It was evident that this section was badly in need of repair. The additional width provided will no doubt relieve traffic congestion at this point.

SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS

The special election of October 6th, to decide the question of annexing two parcels of Grosse Pointe Township to the city of Detroit attracted little attention and brought out a light vote. Only three hundred and eleven votes were cast out of a total registration of over three thousand.

Two questions were presented. The first, to annex to the city all township territory north of Mack Avenue between the city limits at Cadieux Road and the Seven Mile Road, carried by a vote of 147 to 79 in the township and 72 to 39 in the territory affected. The proposition carried in Detroit by a vote of 73,527 in favor to 34,279 against the question. The second proposal, affecting territory north of Mack Avenue between the Seven Mile Road and the Wayne County line, was defeated. The total registration in the territory affected voted against annexation, defeating it 9 to 0. The question carried in the township at large 205 to 106, while in Detroit 72,383 favored and 34,027 opposed the question.

It is rumored that township officers were active in opposing the annexation of this portion of the township and campaigned at the polls against annexation. It would seem that any campaign conducted by an official either for or against a public question is outside his regular line of duty and should be discouraged.

It is also rumored that township territory outside of the present Grosse Pointe Villages is planning to incorporate as the village of Lochmoor. What progress has been made other than the selection of a name is not known. It is evident that this territory needs public improvements not obtainable except by annexation or incorporating as a separate village.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS TO BE INSTALLED

Installation of automatic signals on Jefferson avenue at the Detroit city limits has been authorized by the Grosse Pointe Park council. The type of signals to be used, consisting of lights erected on standards placed between the sidewalk and curb, rather than at the street intersection, was recommended to the village by the traffic bureau of the Detroit Police Department.

Officials believe the signals will speed up traffic and relieve congestion.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Parent-Teacher Associations of all Grosse Pointe Schools are planning meetings of interest to their members, during the entire school year.

The first meeting of the Cadieux School association on Tuesday, October 13th, was given over to a review of plans for the proposed Grosse Pointe High School. Parent-Teacher meetings of other schools of the district will be shown the plans during the next few months.

The officers and meeting date of the several associations and a short review of the activities planned by them follow:

Defer School; President, Mrs. Charles Phelps, 1st Vice President, Paul Henning, 2nd Vice President, Mrs. M. J. Dierling, Secretary, Harry Siebert, Treasurer, Burt Wilson. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month.

Trombly School. The Parent-Teacher Association of the Trombly School has not been organized. The teachers of the school entertained the mothers of pupils on October 15th, the object being to get acquainted and discuss the association.

Cadieux School; President, Charles H. Parcels; Vice President, Mrs. Jordan; Secretary, Mrs. Nella Ells-

worth; Treasurer, E. W. Marquardt. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Hansein School: President, Mrs. Laura Nash; Vice President, James Sullivan; Secretary, Mrs. Marion Wetherby; Treasurer, Mrs. Rose Peters. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month. Women members of the association have formed a sewing circle and are devoting one afternoon a week to remodeling clothes for the needy children of the school. On November 13-14 a bazaar will be held at the school to raise money to purchase milk for under weight children of the school.

Kerby School: President, Rose Dolson; First Vice President, Albert Ede; Second Vice President, Clarence Lemon; Third Vice President, Lucy Swink; Secretary, Helen Thompson, Treasurer, Alfred Auckland. Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month.

Vernier School: President, A. A. Heckendorn; Vice President, Mrs. James Van Asshe; Secretary, Miss Rosalie O. Clifford; Treasurer, Mrs. Harold Carter. The next meeting of the association is on Wednesday, October 28th, when plans of the new high school will be shown. After this date regular meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month.

NATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

"American Education Week" has been set this year for the week of November 16 to 22, by the bureau of education, department of the interior. Certain days of the week have been set aside by the bureau to emphasize national and patriotic phases of our education. Monday of the week will be given over to a study of the constitution. Tuesday's subject will be the flag and patriotism. School and teacher day will be Wednesday. Lessons in conservation of national and private resources will be given Thursday. Friday will be "Know Your School" day.

The definite program to be followed by Grosse Pointe Schools has not been announced as yet, but will be, no doubt, along the lines suggested by the bureau of education.

STREET LIGHTING

New street lights, mounted on ornamental standards, are to be placed on Cadieux road. Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Village are co-operating in placing the standards of similar design along the street, which is the boundary between these villages.

Grosse Pointe Park is also completing the installation of street lights on Kercheval and Mack and a portion of Jefferson avenue. Lighting on Harcourt road is included in their program.

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

"Government of American cities is becoming, each year, more a matter of scientific administration than of politics and personalities."

—Civic Searchlight,

September, 1925.

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Detroit, Michigan
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