

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS

Township elections, April 5th, resulted with but one exception in the return of "democratic" candidates to office. The exception was the defeat of Charles A. Paye by Stephen Van Tiem for township treasurer. Total returns from the four precincts follow:

<i>Supervisor</i>	
Edmund C. Vernier.....Dem.	1076
Albert F. Meininger.....Rep.	228
<i>Clerk</i>	
Daniel G. Allor.....Dem.	753
Cyrus G. Cadieux.....Rep.	513
<i>Treasurer</i>	
Stephen Van Tiem.....Rep.	668
Charles A. Paye.....Dem.	664
<i>Highway Commissioner</i>	
Walter A. Allard.....Dem.	900
<i>Justice of Peace (full term)</i>	
Walter Schweikart.....Dem.	812
Joseph Snay.....Rep.	392
<i>Justice of Peace (to fill vacancy)</i>	
Jerry Vanderbush.....Dem.	842
<i>Member of Board of Review</i>	
Michael C. Beaupre.....Dem.	854
<i>Drain Assessors (two elected)</i>	
Henry Huvaere.....Dem.	804
Samuel Bastien.....Dem.	751
<i>Constables (four elected)</i>	
Fred Champine.....Dem.	778
Wm. E. Dansbury.....Dem.	745
Emmet O. Pentecost.....Dem.	729
Andrew T. Phillips.....Dem.	785

Only in the balloting for township treasurer was there any spirited contest in which the successful candidate, Stephen Van Tiem, won by the small margin of four votes.

The result came as a surprise to many, for the defeated candidate, Charles A. Paye, has been active in Grosse Pointe politics for a number of years, and has been successful in acquiring a number of township, school and village offices.

Mr. Paye's nomination at the party primary, March 3rd, was closely contested but he succeeded in defeating Clyde C. Burgess by 35 votes. The privilege of a recount was requested by Mr. Burgess, but was denied by the Board of Canvassers on the ground that the ballot boxes were not properly sealed.

In view of the close vote for treasurer in the final election, April 5th, it is expected that the defeated candidate will ask for a recount.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS ELECTED

Elections in Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village, and Grosse Pointe Farms on March 8th resulted in all candidates for re-election being returned to office by a large majority. In no case did election in any of the villages present a spirited contest. In Grosse Pointe Village, where opponents were in the field for practically all offices, candidates for re-election were returned to office by a majority vote of more than two to one. In Grosse Pointe Farms practically as large a majority was given successful candidates. Grosse Pointe Park recorded only a very light vote.

The results in Grosse Pointe Village, where a total vote of 657 was polled as compared with 511 votes a year ago, are given below:

<i>President</i>	
Richard P. Connor.....	441
Ernest E. Brown.....	204
<i>Clerk</i>	
Norbert P. Neff.....	537
Albert Chisnall.....	3
<i>Treasurer</i>	
Edmund G. West.....	538
Albert Chisnall.....	1
<i>Assessor</i>	
Julius A. Stork.....	522
<i>Trustees (3 elected)</i>	
Louis G. Rabaut.....	469
Dexter M. Ferry, Jr.....	431
Wm. Fisher.....	346
Edward G. Roberts.....	215
Stephen H. Van Tiem.....	148
Frank Moulin.....	143

The proposition to issue \$56,000 bonds to pave Charlevoix Avenue was favored by 485 voters and opposed by 140 voters.

No contest existed in Grosse Pointe Park this year which accounts for the general lack of interest and the small vote polled. Total votes cast this year were 140 as compared with more than 1,468 votes cast in the village election in March, 1925.

<i>President</i>	
George Defer.....	140
<i>Clerk</i>	
Waldo Burns.....	136
<i>Treasurer</i>	
Charles D. Hoise, Jr.....	136
<i>Assessor</i>	
Edmond F. Poupard.....	135

Trustees

Samuel Bastien.....	120
Finton L. Henk.....	130
Wm. P. Shoemaker.....	133

Election Commission

Frank X. Zeck.....	132
Oscar G. Kirsch.....	131
Bertram Leviller.....	129

The vote cast March 8th is 10 per cent of that cast a year ago and represents approximately 5 per cent of the registration.

In Grosse Pointe Farms the total ballots cast this year totaled 424 as compared with 387 ballots a year ago.

President

Daniel G. Allor.....	286
Arthur W. Vernier.....	123

Clerk

John R. Kerby.....	335
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Treasurer

Ignatus A. Backman.....	305
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Assessor

Douglas Allor.....	212
Ethel Tucker.....	187

Trustees

Herman Dondero.....	242
William J. Mason.....	242
Neil McMillan.....	192
W. Ledyard Mitchell.....	157
John Rasmussen.....	157
Phelps Newberry.....	147

ELECTION EXPENSES

Candidates at the several recent elections should note the provisions of a new act passed in 1925 relative to election expenses. This law requires that every candidate shall within ten days after any primary election, caucus or convention, and within twenty days after any final election, file a sworn statement of campaign expense with the county clerk.

The statement must show the names of the persons from whom funds were received, the persons to whom funds were paid, and the purpose of such payment. The law also sets forth the purposes for which funds can be paid and provides for legal action by the prosecuting attorney in certain cases.

The twenty day period for both candidates for village offices and those of the township primary has now been exceeded.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

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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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GROSSE POINTE HEALTH DISTRICT

A review of the work undertaken by the Grosse Pointe Health District as recently compiled by the Health Officer indicates that the district is keeping pace with the rapid increase in population. During the twelve months ending December 31, 1925, the Health Officer and staff accomplished more work than in any similar period since the health district was organized. At the same time health conditions were better than during any time in the past which indicates that preventive work done by the district is showing results.

The major work of the health district has been carried on through three clinics held at regular periods during the year and through nurses' visits in the homes.

Tuberculosis clinics were held approximately every three weeks during the year. The nineteen clinics held were attended by 136 persons who were given thorough physical examinations with special attention to tuberculosis symptoms. Sixty-one of the total examined were suspected of having tuberculosis, thirty-nine of which on further examination were diagnosed as positive cases. X-ray examinations were used in many of the cases.

Weekly infant welfare clinics gave treatment to 490 children during the year. Advice to mothers on diet and infant care is a part of these clinics.

One hundred and twenty-nine dental clinics were held by a dentist who serves the board part time. Regular dental and medical inspections of children in public schools are given by the district each semester. A monthly weight record of all school children is kept.

A large part of the health work this year as in the past has been carried on in homes of the district. The health officer is in charge of all quarantine regulations. An effort is made to remove all contagious cases to a hospital, but where this is impossible the case is followed closely by the health district through nurse's visits. All cases of absence from school for more than two days are reported to the health office and are followed up by nurses' visits to determine the cause. During the year just ended nurses' visits totalled 4,831.

Daily analysis of drinking water from the Grosse Pointe Farms pumping station is made by the health officer in order to fix the amount of chlorine necessary to insure a safe water supply. In connection with the work of guarding the health of the community from mosquitoes bred in stagnant and unsanitary pools the health officer has advocated the draining or enclosing of Black Marsh Ditch.

A statistical comparison of health clinic work for 1924 and for 1925 is given below:

	1924		1925	
	No.	Attend- ance	No.	Attend- ance
Dental	103	681	129	903
Infant Welfare.....	46	693	47	490
Tuberculosis	18	214	19	136
Total.....	167	1588	195	1529

For the present year the budget of the health district is \$16,125 or approximately \$1.33 per capita.

NEW FIRE EQUIPMENT ORDERED

Bids on a new ladder and fire service truck for the Grosse Pointe Farms' fire department were received recently by the village council.

Following are the prices submitted:

Seagraves Fire Engine Company, Columbus, Ohio, price for new equipment, \$9,500.00; allowance on old truck, \$750.00; net price, \$8,750.00.

American La France Fire Engine Company, Elmira, New York, \$9,550.00; allowance on old truck, \$1,500.00; net price, \$8,250.00.

Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, \$10,500.00; allowance on old truck, \$1,500.00; net price, \$9,000.00.

The bid of the Ahrens-Fox Company was accepted although their price was the highest submitted.

The new equipment will replace the present White Motor truck now operated by Grosse Pointe Farms.

MUTUAL AID AND NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB

The annual report of the Mutual Aid and Neighborhood Club, recently compiled by its director, George Elworthy, centers attention on the wide range of activities and fine community service performed by this organization. The Neighborhood Club has become so much a part of community life in Grosse Pointe, carrying on its work in a quiet, unassuming way that many of our residents do not know of its existence and too few realize the importance of its work. For example, Neighborhood Club attendance during the past year totaled 35,000, approximately 3 times the total population of the township. Funds to carry on this work amounting to \$11,974.42, were furnished by the Detroit Community Union and raised as a part of the Community Fund Campaign. This amounts to 34 cents for each person in attendance during the year. The budget for the present year is \$14,459.32.

Sixteen club organizations, covering a wide field of interest, are sponsored by the Neighborhood Club and use its facilities for various purposes.

The men's club, known as the Grosse Pointe Athletic Club, is open to all men in the community over 18 years of age. This is a thriving organization having for its principal interests gymnasium work and physical development. Considerable equipment for its teams has been purchased by the club during the year. Basket ball contests and boxing exhibitions have been frequently given, drawing capacity crowds.

The Camp Fire Girls, under the direction of a staff member of the Neighborhood Club, Miss Jordan, meets each month. This group was largely responsible for the Christmas Carolers furnished by the Neighborhood Club. This group has been aided in a number of ways by their chairman, Mrs. Edwin K. Hoover, and by Mrs. John S. Newberry and Mrs. E. D. Speck.

The organization affording recreation for young women is known as the V. V. V. Girl's Club, whose interests include both social and athletic activities. Among its members are Miss Bastien, State champion in the high jump for women, and Miss Wolf, State champion in the baseball throw, javelin and

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discus. A summer camp at Lakeville was attended for a week by club members, and another outstanding event was a club theater party given by Mrs. Murray Sales.

The local boy scout troop is sponsored by the Neighborhood Club and has been doing its share in raising funds for the reconstruction of the Camp Brady. This is the summer camp of the Detroit council of Boy Scouts, which burned last fall.

Grosse Pointe and Eastern Michigan Horticultural Society, an organization for gardeners has grown so rapidly during the year that it is now claimed to be the largest organization of its kind in America. Professional horticulturists and teachers of horticulture have spoken before the society on a number of occasions. Last fall the society held a flower and vegetable show at the Neighborhood Club, offering prizes for the best exhibitions. Included in this exhibition was a display of wild flowers, collected by members of the Camp Fire Girls and Boy Scouts.

Last spring the Neighborhood Club was responsible for the most unique contest, the inter-settlement marble tournament. Contestants from community centers of Detroit and suburbs proved that the boyhood game was still a game of skill and by no means a lost art.

Among general activities open to all organizations of the community center was a lawn party given by Mrs. John S. Newberry and the third annual "clubship dinner," which concluded the club work of the year. Both of these events were enthusiastically praised by those present.

This brief review cannot express adequately the value of the community work carried on by the Neighborhood Club. Lack of space forbids mention of much of the club's work and several of the groups that are being sponsored by it. In addition to the work mentioned the club is giving aid and friendly advice and is serving as employment agency for distressed individuals. It has also organized and conducted the playground activities of the community. In short, the club is performing a valuable community service and deserves the full support of Grosse Pointe residents.

GROSSE POINTE PARK FINANCIAL REPORT, 1925

The financial statement of the Village of Grosse Pointe Park for the year ending December 31, 1925, has been compiled by the village clerk and is available at the Municipal Hall. The report shows the balances, receipts and disbursements for the forty-six funds maintained by Grosse Pointe Park. Details of the source of receipts, whether from taxes, fees, bonds, etc., are given for each fund, but a consolidated statement of receipts and disbursements is not given.

Disbursements for a single activity are not grouped under one head, which makes it difficult if not impossible to accurately determine the cost of any single phase of village work. For example, the highway fund shows total disbursements of \$46,101.42, which includes street and sidewalk maintenance and minor repairs, garbage and rubbish collection, etc. It might be assumed that the amount above named shows the total expense of these activities, but this is not the case, for at least part of highway salaries is included in the general fund as is the cost of certain street cleaning equipment and the cost of garbage disposal to the city of Detroit.

Disbursements from the general fund cover a multitude of activities and cannot be segregated to show the cost of the different kinds of work performed. Among the larger items of \$257,045.62 disbursed from the general fund, \$105,386.02 is for salaries, divided as follows: Police and Fire Department, \$77,203.33; Administrative offices (which includes Assessors, Building Commissioner, Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Clerk) \$11,083.16; Highway Department, \$3,594.84; Electrical Department, \$5,317.18; Water Department, \$6,604.01; Attorney, \$1,583.50; Auditor, \$300.00.

The forty-eight funds which include all the financial transactions carried out by the village can be divided as follows:

1. Operating funds to provide for the current operations of the village departments, interest on bonds outstanding, and sinking fund changes.
2. Improvement funds to provide for capital improvement for construction undertaken by the village, water mains, street widening, police and fire signals, etc. Funds for this work have been provided by general bonds of the village.
3. Special assessment funds. Money received by special assessment taxes is expended by the municipality for improvement benefiting only a portion of village property. The expense of the improvement is borne therefore by the

property benefited and not by all taxpayers of the village.

An effort was made to analyze the financial report of Grosse Pointe Park so as to indicate, at least in a general way, the cost of the various activities undertaken by the village. Because no detailed classification of disbursements within the funds exists this could not be done with any degree of accuracy. Instead, only the principal receipts and disbursements by operating, improvement and special assessment funds as outlined above are given. Detailed classification according to activity or type of work performed would be essential to make the report informative.

Funds used for operation of the village departments had a balance, January 1, 1925, of \$86,434.40; amount received during the year, \$397,126.60, from the following sources: current taxes, \$228,201.22; delinquent taxes, \$31,594.99; weed tax, \$4,805.45; interest earned, \$13,696.84; fees, fines and damage collections, \$9,360.40; service charges, \$131.66; refunds, \$8,619.51; transferred funds, \$70,732.03; water collections, \$29,982.61; miscellaneous receipts, \$1.89.

Certain operating receipts need further explanation. The weed tax is for extra work performed in mowing weeds on subdivisions, and is therefore in the nature of a special assessment. The item for transferred funds is to reimburse the operating funds for money advanced for improvements prior to bonds being issued.

Disbursements for operation of village departments totaled \$398,415.47 or \$1,288.87 more than receipts during the fiscal period. The larger items making up this amount include salaries, \$105,686.02 (already mentioned). Highway labor, \$14,595.11, which is exclusive of labor on construction work done on contract. Ashes, rubbish and garbage collection, \$9,813.46; street and alley cleaning, \$1,928.25; trimming and spraying trees, \$3,803.50; equipment replacement, supplies and printing, \$31,681.93; water costs, \$21,224.10; street lighting current, \$16,656.05; interest on bonded debt, \$43,798.20; interest on special assessment funds, \$6,710.06.

The balance in the operating funds of the village on December 31, 1925, was \$85,134.53. From this, however, must be deducted \$61,733.64, which is held as a cash balance in the sink-

ing fund to retire bonds when due. The total sinking fund of Grosse Pointe Park, including securities and cash, is \$108,377.57. To show the cash balance held by the sinking fund as a part of the net balance of the village seems confusing, for annual sinking fund charges are in fact an annual expense and it would appear that when once placed in the fund should be shown as a disbursement to the sinking fund and not carried as a balance.

A number of improvement projects were undertaken during the period covered by the report. Bonds totaling \$500,000.00 were the chief source of revenue for this work. Premiums on bonds, the sale of buildings on condemned property and transferred funds amounted to \$10,047.76, making total receipts \$510,047.76. The cost of the several projects during the year are: water main construction, \$47,897.62; Mack Avenue widening, \$215,062.38; street lighting construction, \$92,770.57; police and fire signals, \$20,917.68; street resurfacing, \$44,193.59.

In the receipts listed above is \$350,000.00 bonds voted in July, 1925, and sold in August, 1925, to finance the widening of Mack Avenue. The cost of this project has been \$215,062.38 to date. The bond issue bears interest at 4¼%. Approximately \$135,000.00 of the total still appears as a balance and is drawing 3% interest as a bank deposit or 1¼% less than the cost of the loan to the vil-

lage. It appears that either bonds in access of the needs were authorized or that sale of part of the authorized bonds might properly have been deferred until the money was needed.

No attempt was made to analyze the special assessment funds inasmuch as the expense of special assessment improvements are borne by the property benefited and is not a burden on the village as a whole. The fund had a balance of \$145,717.11 on January 1, 1925, and received during the year \$322,778.98. Special assessment improvements totaling \$374,448.00 were completed. The larger part of this was spent on improvements installed in a recently opened subdivision. A large part of the closing balance of \$94,048.03 in the special assessment funds is held to retire special assessment notes. As in the case of sinking fund balances, it seems confusing and not good accounting to show these amounts as available cash balances. Inasmuch as part of this fund is held for a special purpose, that part should be shown as disbursements to the particular fund involved.

Some improvement in the financial report for 1925 has been made over the report of the previous year, but there still seems to be possibility of further improvement to make it a comprehensive and at the same time a clear statement of financial transactions. Desirable changes include a statement of salaries paid by the several village departments, a state-

ment of cash and securities held by the sinking fund, and a list of bonds outstanding. The desirability of including such information was pointed out in a review of last year's financial report published in the Civic News in May, 1925.

It appears that officials of Grosse Pointe Park are attempting to improve the form of the report as is evidenced by the changes made this year. Another step in advance which is suggested is that village officials adopt a properly classified and detailed budget procedure this spring which will show the proposed expenditure of the several departments. The budget could then be used as an intelligent plan of work and would be the basis of showing the expenditures actually made when the next fiscal period is concluded. Only by grouping the expenditures of village departments under separate headings and subclassifying such department expenditures in a uniform way can the financial statement be made clear and of value to taxpayers. Such work necessarily begins with a well-planned budget which appears to be one of the outstanding needs of Grosse Pointe Park.

The Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township will gladly cooperate with any of the Grosse Pointe Villages in matters in connection with improved municipal methods.

The May issue of Civic News will give a review of the financial report of Grosse Pointe Township.

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

No single change in government adds so greatly to democracy and efficiency as the introduction of proper budget methods.

*Dr. A. R. Hatton,
Cleveland, Ohio.*

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