

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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COMMUNITY FUND CAMPAIGN

Residents of Grosse Pointe, in common with those of Detroit and surrounding villages of the Metropolitan Area, will be asked to make their yearly contributions to the philanthropic work of Metropolitan Detroit between November 3 and 13, when 4,000 volunteer workers will solicit funds in the ninth annual campaign of the Detroit Community Fund.

The total needed this year to carry on the work of the 75 organizations supported by the Community Fund is \$3,210,000, an increase of only 8 per cent over the amount requested last year. This increase is necessary to take care of increased work in many of the agencies, including the opening of two new health centers, a new fresh air camp for underweight and anemic children and the opening of a new day nursery to care for the children of employed mothers.

A summary of the Community Fund budget shows that of the total to be raised \$2,935,000 will be used for the work of local charity organizations; \$75,000 for national organizations, including Detroit's contributions to the National Red Cross; \$75,000 Reserve Fund and \$125,000 for Community Fund administration. The appropriation for administration is less than 4 per cent of the total budget. This small overhead means that ninety-six cents of every dollar contributed will be used by local and national philanthropic agencies.

Two local organizations, the Cottage Hospital and the Mutual Aid and Neighborhood Club, are financed by the Detroit Community Fund. Residents of Grosse Pointe are familiar with the important work these organizations are performing in Grosse Pointe and through them gain some idea of the services offered by similar organizations maintained throughout the Metropolitan Area.

A recent analysis of contributions showed that Detroit lagged

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ARCHITECT'S FEES ALLOWED

Settlement of a bill totaling \$7,166.68 presented by the architect for the new Grosse Pointe High School for extra services performed in revising the plans, was allowed recently by the school board after strenuous objection to the amount of the bill had been raised by several board members. This amount was claimed by the architect as the exact cost of making changes in the plans after they had been seriously objected to by the State Department of Public Instruction in November of last year.

The total bill for extra services was allowed by the school board in lieu of the one per cent fee usually paid for preliminary plans and elevation sketches. In November, 1925, the architect was paid \$15,000 for the preliminary plans and elevations on which the state department refused final approval. In addition to the fees paid to date two per cent of the construction cost will be due the architect when working drawings and specifications are completed and an additional two per cent when the building is erected.

Working drawings and specifications, which were to be presented to the school board by October 1st, were not completed in time but the architect states that he now expects to have the plan ready by November 1st. Barring further delays, construction contracts will probably be let early in December.

At the October meeting of the village council, Grosse Pointe Park opened bids for the sale of \$50,000 thirty-year street lighting bonds. The Bank of Detroit, offering a premium of \$188.50 for the issue, at 4½ per cent interest, was the highest of six competing companies and was awarded the issue.

Proceeds of the sale will be used to install street lighting equipment on Whittier Boulevard, Aubudon Road and Somerset Road. Installation of this equipment will complete the street lighting system of Grosse Pointe Park.

LAKEFRONT IMPROVEMENT PROPOSED

Improvement of lakefront property in Grosse Pointe Village by constructing a retaining wall and extending the shore line 200 feet is being advocated by owners of lakefront property. The proposal and estimates of cost were submitted to the Village Council at their September meeting, and after considering the plan the Council went on record as favoring the improvement, provided that all owners of lakefront property join in the project. Estimates indicate that the cost of both retaining wall and fill will be from \$23 to \$33 per front foot, depending on the type of retaining wall constructed.

The improvement is being advocated because of the unsightly condition of the present shore line, due to the low lake level. Residents of Grosse Pointe Village estimate that Lake St. Clair has receded two and a half feet in the last six years. Should the fill be made, it will not be done at village expense, but will be a co-operative movement by owners of lake frontage in which each property owner will pay his proportional share of the costs.

ZONING

Plans for zoning ordinances in both Grosse Pointe Village and Grosse Pointe Farms were announced in the last issue of the Civic News. In Grosse Pointe Village additional preliminary work has been done during the past month and on Tuesday, October 26th, the village council met with those in charge of drafting the ordinance to discuss the work accomplished to date. The village plans to hold a public hearing on the ordinance as soon as the final draft is completed.

In Grosse Pointe Farms no further work on zoning was reported. A map of the village showing present buildings, the character and use of each building must be completed before other work on the problem can be undertaken.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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

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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SCHOOL PROPERTY SOLD

Property on the corner of Beaconsfield Avenue, Nottingham Road and St. Paul Avenue, condemned in 1920 for school purposes, was sold recently by the school district. The successful bidders were W. G. Stamman, who acquired 261 feet frontage on Beaconsfield, consisting of six and a half forty-foot lots at \$90 per front foot, and Alfred J. Garska, who was awarded four sixty-foot lots on Nottingham, a total of 240 feet for \$85 a front foot. The total sale price for the entire property was \$43,937.20.

The sale price is approximately the same as the condemnation awards paid when the property was acquired six years ago. Bonds issued to acquire the property were for thirty years and are drawing six percent interest, so that the total cost of the property, including interest charges, is considerably higher than its sale price.

The site was acquired by the fractional school district covering Grosse Pointe Park prior to consolidation of the township school district. Plans to erect a building on the site were drawn by George J. Haas, architect, and a contract for construction of the building was awarded to the F. R. Patterson Construction Company. An injunction charging irregularities in awarding contracts was sought by taxpayers and awarded by the court, and prevented the building being erected. At a later date, after a survey by Detroit school officials to determine the location of future school sites in Grosse Pointe, it was found that the property was not properly located to serve the needs of the district and the site of the present Defer School was selected in its place.

TAXES AGAIN

Township taxes will become due in approximately thirty days. The collection of "winter taxes," which includes levies for state, county and township purposes, including school and health taxes, will begin December 10th and last until March 10th. In the past the township treasurer has designated certain days for collection in the several villages. Should the same policy be followed this year the dates of collection in the several villages will be printed in a later issue of Civic News.

Taxes for Grosse Pointe Township, the school district and the health district total \$394,456 for the coming year as compared with \$396,534 for 1925. The school tax, which has been raised from \$298,559 to \$327,456, is the only increased levy. Taxes for operation of the township have been reduced from \$66,900 to \$53,000, the health tax reduced from \$16,075 to \$14,000, and the highway improvement tax, which last year amounted to \$15,000, has been eliminated.

While the total to be collected remains practically the same as last year, the tax rate per \$1,000 assessed value has been reduced from \$4.00 to \$3.67, due to a substantial increase in the assessed value.

In addition to taxes levied for local purposes, the following amounts will be levied for state and county purposes:

	Amount	Rate Per \$1,000 Assessed Value
State tax	\$227,620.69	2.12
County tax	165,838.43	1.55
Poor tax	287.99	—
Rejected taxes	58.10	—
Good roads tax	98,015.35	.91
Total State and County taxes	\$491,820.56	4.58

The rate per \$1,000 assessed value for state and county purposes is \$4.58, giving a total tax for all purposes of \$8.25 as compared with \$8.81 last year.

Assessed values of the township have increased from \$99,255,189 to \$107,386,072. This increase of \$8,130,883 is due to subdividing vacant lands of the township and to the large amount of building that has taken place during the year.

While the total assessed value has increased personal property assessments have actually been decreased \$37,027. Personal property assess-

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CHARLEVOIX AVENUE

Grosse Pointe Village recently completed the paving of Charlevoix Avenue and within a few weeks the paving of this street in Grosse Pointe Park will be completed. Charlevoix Avenue will provide a fourth highway leading directly to downtown Detroit.

Within Detroit, Charlevoix Avenue is a through traffic street and it has been proposed that it also be made a "stop street" in Grosse Pointe Village. Should this be done it appears that the same regulations should be adopted by Grosse Pointe Park in order to avoid a condition similar to that formerly existing on Maumee Avenue. Because different traffic rules prevailed on Maumee Avenue within the two villages a confused situation existed that was no doubt a contributing factor to a number of accidents. It is of utmost importance that uniform regulations apply to the entire length of Charlevoix Avenue in order that the traffic hazard on this street may be minimized.

SINKING FUND INVESTED

Available cash in the sinking funds of Grosse Pointe Village has been used to purchase long term sinking fund securities. The bonds purchased, which with accrued interest totaled \$49,588.74, consisted of issues from sixteen municipalities of the State, including a number of school districts and villages, the City of Detroit and a block of Grosse Pointe Village's own securities. The bonds yield various rates ranging from 4.15 percent to 4.40 percent, giving an average yield of 4.25 percent.

It is interesting to note that the securities of Grosse Pointe Village were priced to yield the lowest rate of any of the issues, indicating that the securities of the village were rated even higher than those of Detroit in this transaction.

ments totaling \$20,867,294 comprised 21 per cent of the total value last year as compared to \$20,830,267, or 19.3 per cent, this year.

Grosse Pointe Township contains more than twice the valuation of any other township in Wayne County. The cities of Wyandotte, River Rouge and Lincoln Park, with more than twice the area, have less assessed value than Grosse Pointe.

DETROIT'S PROPOSAL TO ENCLOSE BLACK MARSH DITCH

Conversion of Black Marsh Ditch into a sewer to drain all territory in Gratiot and Grosse Pointe Townships and city territory north and east of Mack Avenue has been considered by Detroit officials who have had a study of its drainage area made by Harrison G. Eddy, consulting engineer of Boston, Mass. Mr. Eddy's recommendations, involving an ultimate capital outlay of \$13,000,000, were completed recently and are summarized below.

Black Marsh Ditch drains a triangular shaped area of approximately 25 square miles, about half of which lies within the present Detroit limits, the balance being within Grosse Pointe and Gratiot townships. The entire area is flat and, because of the present low lake level, there is not sufficient fall in the ditch to create a flow. As a result, stagnant water stands in the ditch, giving rise to a condition that is offensive and unsightly. Considerable raw sewage reaches the creek at present through three large Detroit sewers and there is every indication that present conditions will become worse as the area builds up.

Need for Improvement

Stressing the need for a joint drainage project, the report states: "The growth of the city, the rapid development of that portion of the Fox Creek District which lies within the city, the probable annexation to the city of other portions of this district, the high class development of the shore villages, the impracticability of obtaining adequate isolation for local sewage treatment plants, the difficulty of securing harmonious cooperation by the several communities acting independently, the certainty of the discharge of large volumes of sewage in times of storm and of polluted storm runoff either into Lake St. Clair or into Fox Creek, the desirability of maintaining the purity of Lake St. Clair along the water front, the probability of endangering the purity of the Detroit water supply by sewage discharged into Lake St. Clair, and the difficulty of maintaining Fox Creek as an open water course in satisfactory sanitary condition clearly indicates that the entire district should be treated in a comprehensive manner as a single sewage and drainage unit."

The sewerage project recommended in the report is designed for the ultimate population of the area, which, according to the consultant, will be 343,890, and will be reached in forty years. The present population of the area was estimated at 54,000. In connection with the ultimate population for Grosse Pointe Township, it is interesting to note that the report estimates the population here will be 96,100 in 1966. This estimate presents an interesting comparison with that of a population study made by the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township in December, 1925, in which it was estimated that the ultimate population of the township would be 90,000 and would be reached in 1960.

Recommendations and Cost

The proposal to enclose the ditch provides for a single barrel conduit varying in diameter from 16 feet 6 inches to 18 feet 3 inches between Vernier Road and the Seven Mile Road. Flow would be by gravity to a pumping station at Seven Mile Road, where the sewage would be lifted to a higher level to give sufficient grade to permit a flow between Seven Mile Road and Cadieux Road. At Cadieux Road a second pumping station would lift the sewage into a large double barreled conduit that would carry it to a junction with the Jefferson Avenue relief tunnel at Ashland Avenue. A third pumping station would be required at this point. During storm periods when the flow in the conduit is sufficiently diluted by storm water the sewer would discharge through the Fox Creek open channel into the Detroit River.

The ultimate drainage project is estimated to cost \$13,422,000, which is divided in the engineer's estimate as follows: Main conduit between Vernier Road and Ashland Avenue, \$5,722,500; booster pumping stations at Seven Mile Road, Cadieux Road and Ashland Avenue, \$4,555,000; Fox Creek open channel between Jefferson Avenue and the Detroit River, \$1,412,000; diversion works and Grosse Pointe Park north sewer, \$353,500; local pumping stations, \$178,200; contingencies and engineering fees, \$1,220,800. The report, however, recommends that only a portion of the project be undertaken at an early date, such

portion to include one barrel of the main conduit between Cadieux Road and Ashland Avenue, construction of one pumping station, the Grosse Pointe Park north sewer and the diversion works. This portion of the work, including contingencies and engineering fees, is estimated to cost \$3,126,000, and would correct the present condition of the ditch as far as Cadieux Road.

Progress To Date

The project as outlined in the report undoubtedly offers final solution of Black Marsh Ditch as a menace to this community as well as solving questions of sewage and drainage of the entire area. A number of meetings have been held by members of the Grosse Pointe Park Council and Detroit officials but as yet no definite plan of proceeding with even the first section of the improvement has been agreed upon. At a hearing before the Detroit Council on October 18th Grosse Pointe Park representatives requested further information about the exact location of the proposed sewer, if the sewer was to be laid in the ditch or be placed under one of the village streets, at what date construction work could be started and what proportion of the cost would be borne by the village. These questions could not be answered at the time but the Detroit Council directed the city engineer to call a meeting of all the villages interested in the project to discuss the questions raised and to make definite plans affecting the improvement.

Other Plans

Other means of improving the ditch are now being considered by Grosse Pointe Village. This village has been advised by the Wayne County Drain Commissioners that each village can enclose the ditch at village expense by forming a special drainage area upon which the cost of the improvement would be assessed. From this it appears that any of the villages can deepen, drain or convert the ditch into a closed drain by any means agreeable to the drain commission.

Grosse Pointe Village is not primarily interested in the ditch as a sewage outlet, because it now owns and operates its own sewage disposal plant, but the village is vitally interested in doing away with

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the present unsanitary conditions in the quickest and best way possible. Village officials hope that the county drain commissioners will give them permission to carry out their proposed plan of action.

In the September issue of the Civic News it was pointed out that any proposal to improve the middle portion could not be carried on without regard to the upper and lower ends of the ditch. While the plan to enclose the drain now being considered by Grosse Pointe Village may offer the quickest results in that village, it may at the same time delay, if not change considerably, plans to improve the entire ditch. For this reason the proposal will be followed with more than ordinary interest by the other Grosse Pointe municipalities and Detroit.

Of a total tax levy of \$57,491.40 made in Grosse Pointe Shores this year, the village treasurer collected all but \$2,136.40 prior to making delinquent tax returns to the county treasurer. The total collected is 96.3 per cent of the taxes levied and represents the highest percentage of collections ever made by Grosse Pointe Shores.

An ordinance enacted several months ago by Grosse Pointe Shores requires that all sanitary sewers be connected with septic tanks. Installation of the tanks has been made during the past summer and should be responsible for improving sanitary conditions along the shore line.

CHANGE IN SCHOOL ACCOUNTING

At the beginning of the present school year a number of changes were made in the business and accounting methods of the school district.

The major charges dealt with re-vamping of the accounting procedure which has been modernized to conform to the best standards of municipal accounting. The classification of accounts followed is that developed by a committee of the Michigan State Teachers' Association and is to be used by school districts throughout the state. Details of the changed system cannot be given in full here but it may be stated that the changes are a decided improvement and should give the school district more exact information as to the costs of various departments and activities of the school system.

Grosse Pointe Village has purchased a new Studebaker Police Patrol costing \$3,750.

(Continued from page 1, col. 1)
considerably behind other cities in the number of persons contributing between \$25 and \$100. A special effort will be made this year to increase the number of contributions in this class as well as those subscribing between \$100 and \$500.

As in former years, a large number of Grosse Pointe residents are actively taking part in the work of the Community Fund as members of various boards of directors and as campaign workers.

LIBRARY SHOWS GAIN

The quarterly report of the Wayne County Library service for the months of June, July and August ranks the library center maintained at the Mutual Aid and Neighborhood Club third among fifteen centers now operated by the county.

The total circulation of the Neighborhood Club center during the quarter was 1,196, which is high when it is recalled that there are only 810 volumes in the collection. The total number of patrons was 195, an increase of 30 over the previous quarterly period.

A library center is also maintained by the county at the Municipal Hall in Grosse Pointe Shores. Here the total circulation for the quarter was 404. This branch has 322 volumes and during the quarter served 93 patrons.

The county library centers in Grosse Pointe are performing an excellent service in spite of the handicap of limited facilities. The extent to which they are being used indicates the need that exists for an adequate and permanently housed community library.

An extension of Warren Avenue in the City of Detroit is being planned by the city council. The extended street will cut through the site of Grosse Pointe Village's sewage disposal plant and will require relocating of two of the filter beds.

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

The safety of the government depends upon an enlightened criticism of its conduct.

JOHN W. SMITH, *Mayor,*
Detroit, Mich.

Mr. Bernard B. Vogt,
696 Cadieux Rd.,
Grosse Pte. Village, Mich.

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Detroit, Michigan
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