

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

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OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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MUNICIPAL STUDIES TO BE MADE BY CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

A series of surveys to cover a selected list of important municipal problems in Grosse Pointe is to be started soon by the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township. This decision was made at a recent meeting of the Executive Board, who believes that the Association may be of further service to Grosse Pointe in publishing unbiased studies of certain subjects of widespread community interest.

The decision does not affect the present policy of publishing currently in the columns of Civic News facts of local municipal interest. It means that, in addition, comprehensive articles will be prepared to bring to the attention of the public a number of important community problems. In the future the major portion of the Association's program will be devoted to a study of the following subjects: 1. Administration; 2. Library Facilities; 3. Municipal Finance; 4. Sanitation, Including Sewage Disposal; 5. Transportation; 6. Zoning and Planning. The subjects as listed are given in alphabetical order and not in the order of their importance nor the order in which they will be presented.

The subjects chosen are of vital importance to Grosse Pointe and are of community-wide interest, affecting as they do all portions of the township. At the same time they are subjects that have been prominently in the minds of many residents but have never been thoroughly discussed or presented to the community at large for general review. The purpose of the Citizens' Association in selecting them for study and analysis is to bring all available data together in the studies and to present the full facts of the problems. Where the facts lend themselves to various interpretations they will be so presented that the community may be fully informed on all sides of the matters.

It is hoped that this work will serve as a guide to a general program of community betterment.

As in the past the Association will maintain a strictly non-partisan position and will make recommendations and advocate their adoption only when careful study of the facts indicate desirable changes.

Several similar studies have already been made by the Citizens' Association or have been conducted at its suggestion. In May, 1924, the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research at the request of the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township made a survey of the administrative organization and procedure of the local school district. The Detroit Bureau recommended a number of changes that have since been made by the school board. In December, 1924, a study of the health district was prepared by the Association.

In December of last year the Association suggested that the school board employ an expert to study the educational plan of the new high school. The school board selected Dr. Arthur B. Moehlman of the University of Michigan, whose work in revising the plan promises the district a more efficient building at a considerable reduction in cost. A study of the present and ultimate population of Grosse Pointe Township compiled by the Association at this time was instrumental in determining the size of building necessary to meet future high school requirements. In addition, informal studies covering budgets, financial reports, bonded debt, and other phases of local problems have been made from time to time.

The Executive Board believes that the results of the Association's effort in advocating and conducting these studies warrant further effort

in studying other community problems and hopes that benefits of far-reaching character may result. Our community is already one of the outstanding residential sections of the country. With its present exceptional advantages and highly intelligent public Grosse Pointe can confidently look forward to a program of development beyond the hope of other less fortunate communities. Moreover, Grosse Pointe is still in the developing period where it may readily profit by the errors made in other communities. The projected studies may be expected to bring to light desirable changes that are not now apparent. As the possibilities of future improvement are discovered and set forth, enlightened public opinion will no doubt take steps to secure them.

The co-operation of citizens and officials in this work is earnestly solicited in order that it may be made a truly community-wide enterprise. Suggestions regarding any of the topics announced in this article will be welcomed and a discussion of these and other pertinent subjects is hoped for. The studies will be published in the Civic News as rapidly as they are completed. Certain of the articles, it is hoped, will be ready within a few months, while other survey topics may take a year or more to complete. The Executive Board cordially invites residents to co-operate with the Association in carrying forward this community program.

The recreational field at the corner of Maumee Avenue and St. Clair Avenue is being banked and as soon as cold weather sets in will be flooded and used as a skating rink. The village plans to light the rink to permit its use during winter evenings.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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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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HIGH SCHOOL PLANS COMPLETED

Detailed plans and specifications for the Grosse Pointe High School were presented to the school board and the building committee at a special meeting of the board Monday evening, November 8th. After a review of the principal features of the building and an explanation of the specifications by the architect, George J. Haas, the school board and the building committee voted their approval of the plans and directed the architect to advertise for construction bids to be opened at the school board's office on Wednesday evening, December 15th at 8:00 p. m.

Prior to approving the plans the board listened to a communication from the State Department of Public Instruction giving the State's official approval. Dr. Arthur B. Moehlman of the University of Michigan, who was employed by the school board last December to develop the educational plan of the building and specify the room arrangement, was present and stated to the board that the recommendations made by him had been carried out by the architect.

Letting of contracts within the next few weeks will mark the beginning of actual construction of the high school and will bring the district a step nearer the completion of the building. Almost from the time of consolidating the school district in 1921, the task of furnishing adequate high school facilities has been the major problem of the school board. At first various legal delays and court action over selection of the site at Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard were responsible

for more than two years' delay. Later the need for complete revision of preliminary plans caused a further delay of several months. But in spite of the hindrances, final plans for a building that meets with the unanimous approval of the school board and the building committee are now ready.

Space does not permit more than a general description of the building's features in this issue, but a large portion of a later issue of the Civic News will be devoted to the school.

The building is of early American architecture, featured by a graceful clock tower similar to that on Independence Hall, Philadelphia. It will face the intersection of Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard. Its central portion two stories high and approximately 300 feet across the front, is flanked by wings 107 feet long extending from the main portion of the building at an angle of approximately forty-five degrees. The building will be placed more than 400 feet back from the street intersection to give it a proper setting in wide lawns. The school is planned for ultimate use as a senior high school housing the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades, and will have a standard capacity of 1500. For a number of years, however, it will be used as a junior-senior high school to house the grades from the seventh through the twelfth. Operating upon this schedule it will have a standard capacity of 1200 pupils.

In addition to the requisite number of class rooms, study halls, laboratories, shops, and domestic science rooms, the school will have two gymnasiums, a swimming pool, an auditorium, a library and a cafeteria. Special attention has been given to the architectural treatment of the auditorium, library and cafeteria.

The building, it is expected, will be completed about February 1, 1928. Grosse Pointe will then have a high school building that will be a constant source of pride and that will be in keeping with other fine specimens of architecture in this fine residential area. The school board, the building committee and the architect are to be congratulated on their splendid accomplishment soon to take tangible form.

TAXES DUE

Collection of township, school, county and state taxes totaling \$886,276.56 will be begun by the township treasurer on December 10 and will continue to March 1, 1927.

For the convenience of residents in the several villages the treasurer has announced the following schedule of collection dates:

December 10, Grosse Pointe Shores, Municipal Hall.

December 11, Grosse Pointe Farms, Municipal Hall.

December 13, Grosse Pointe Village, Township Hall, Roosevelt Place and Maumee Avenue.

December 14 to 31, incl., Grosse Pointe Park, Municipal Hall.

January 2, Grosse Pointe Shores, Municipal Hall.

January 3, Grosse Pointe Farms, Municipal Hall.

January 4, Grosse Pointe Village, Municipal Hall.

January 5 to March 1, Grosse Pointe Park, Municipal Hall.

The tax rate for all purposes is \$8.25 per \$1,000 assessed value. Between December 10 and January 10 one per cent of the tax bill will be added as a collection fee. On January 10 an additional three per cent penalty will be added.

HEALTH DISTRICT BUDGET

Below is a summary of the budget of the local health district for the fiscal period beginning January 1, 1927, with a comparison with the budget for the present year:

	1926	1927
Salaries	\$11,450	\$11,850
Office Expense	1,500	1,500
Laboratory	50	50
Printing and Stationery..	50	100
Contingent Fund	500	2,500
Transportation	2,250	2,250
School Supplies	175	175
Miscellaneous	150	150

Total.....\$16,125 \$18,575

The budget has been increased \$2,450 due largely to an increase of \$2,000 in the contingent fund. This fund is a reserve held by the district to be used in case of epidemics or other unforeseen demands upon the health district. As such it is not strictly a normal operating expense. The contingent fund has never been used in the past and its inclusion in the budget makes the normal expenses of the health district appear \$2,500 greater than they actually are.

An estimated balance of \$4,575 in the present year's budget reduces the amount to be raised by taxation from \$18,575 to \$14,000.

PLANS FOR DITCH PROGRESS

Detroit's proposal to construct a large trunk sewer in the Black Marsh Ditch, outlined in the October issue of Grosse Pointe Civic News, has received further discussion and study by city and village officials during the past few weeks. Representatives of Grosse Pointe Villages and Gratiot Township met with the Detroit Commissioner of Public Works and the City Engineer on Friday, November 5th to consider in more detail the problems involved in the project.

Those attending the meeting agreed that definite action to enclose the ditch must be taken soon and that the proposal to work jointly with Detroit offered the most logical solution and expressed a willingness to co-operate with Detroit in working out further details. Representatives of Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Village were more than ordinarily interested in the plan and indicated that their villages desired the improvement started as quickly as possible.

The proposal to enclose the ditch was made by Detroit after a survey of the drainage area had been made by Harrison G. Eddy, Sanitary Engineer of Boston, Mass. Mr. Eddy strongly recommended converting the ditch into an enclosed sewer to drain approximately 25 square miles area in the City of Detroit, Gratiot Township and the Grosse Pointe Villages. Construction proposed includes a large concrete single barrel sewer between Vernier Road and Cadieux Road with pumping stations at Moross Road and Cadieux Road. At Cadieux Road a double barrel conduit would be extended to a junction with the Jefferson Avenue relief tunnel at Ashland Avenue and Jefferson Avenue. The entire project, which would require a number of years to complete, would cost, according to latest estimates, in excess of \$14,000,000. Construction of a single barrel conduit as far as Cadieux Road estimated to cost \$3,126,000, was recommended by the report for early construction.

The plan of financing the project discussed by the joint meeting November 5th is to apportion the cost upon the area within each municipality. This method, it is believed, offers the most equitable means of distributing the expense.

The following table shows the approximate area within each of the municipalities and gives a distribution of the cost based upon these areas. While the figures can not be considered exact, they indicate the cost to be borne by each of the Grosse Pointe Villages.

	Area in Acres	Esti- mated Cost
City of Detroit.....	7,544	\$ 6,746,800
Grosse Pointe Park.....	1,433	1,281,500
Grosse Pointe Village....	688	613,300
Grosse Pointe Farms.....	1,788	1,599,000
Grosse Pointe Shores.....	603	539,200
Lochnoor	2,141	1,914,800
Gratiot Township	1,802	1,611,400
Total.....	15,997	\$14,306,000

The means of raising funds to finance the project will be left to each of the villages but inasmuch as the improvement will benefit the entire area of each village it is expected that general obligation bonds extending over a period of years will be issued. The expense of constructing lateral sewers in each village to connect with the main conduit will not be a part of the joint project, but will be financed and installed by the villages individually.

Representatives of the Grosse Pointe Villages who attended the meeting agreed to report the results of the meeting to the village councils and recommend that engineers representing each of the villages meet with the city engineer of Detroit to consider in more detail the construction of the project. A meeting of the legal representatives of the villages with the Detroit corporation counsel is also to be arranged to draft a general agreement covering construction and the method of financing to be used.

Residents living on Cadieux Road have presented petitions to the councils of Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Village asking that the Mack Avenue Bus line be rerouted to remove the busses from Cadieux Road. The petition states that the busses run at a high rate of speed and create an excessive noise due to the uneven pavement. Further, that the street is narrow and poorly adapted to heavy bus traffic and that the recent change of route benefits few if any passengers. Twenty-five signatures appear on the petitions.

HEALTH CONDITIONS ARE GOOD

That health conditions in Grosse Pointe continue to be unusually good is indicated by the fact that since January 1, 1926, only five cases of diphtheria have been reported in the entire township. This remarkable record is due largely to the preventive work done by the health district, which has been very active during the past three years in administering toxin-anti toxin as a preventive of diphtheria. During the first year of this work, 100 persons were treated while last year 540 were given the injections. To date this year over 200 persons have been immunized at the health district's weekly clinics, and since September 1, 284 children have been treated in the schools.

The health officer believes that a large portion of Grosse Pointe residents have already received the treatments but urges all who have not done so to take the injections immediately. Health District clinics at which toxin-antitoxin is administered without charge, are held every Friday afternoon from 1:30 p. m. to 4:30 p. m.

Several cases of chicken pox and of measles have been reported recently but based upon the number of cases per thousand population the rate is not high.

MACK AVENUE TO BE WIDENED

Approval of plans to make Mack Avenue a 204 foot super-highway has been given by the highway commissions of Wayne and Macomb counties. Securing of the wider right-of-way will necessitate condemning considerable property, a part of which is within the Grosse Pointe villages.

Between Alter Road and Cadieux Road Mack Avenue will be widened on the north or Detroit side of the present right-of-way. Beyond Cadieux Road additional right-of-way will be taken from the Grosse Pointe side of the highway according to present plans. In Grosse Pointe Village alone approximately twelve buildings are within the limits of the proposed widening.

The Wayne County Highway Commission has requested the villages to refuse building permits for construction on any of the lots to be condemned.

LAKESHORE ROAD WIDENING

At the fall meeting of the Wayne County supervisors in October, 1925, plans were discussed to widen Lakeshore Road right-of-way to a width of 120 feet and to condemn portions of the lake frontage for a public park. After a preliminary survey and appraisal of the property it was found that the cost of the project as originally planned would be nearly \$10,000,000. This figure was due largely to the estimated cost of land for park purposes and was responsible for such portions of the plan being abandoned at least for the present.

A second proposal to widen the right-of-way and construct a pavement thirty-six feet wide was made later by the County Road Commissioners who were directed by the Board of County Supervisors to negotiate with Grosse Pointe Shores and Grosse Pointe Farms for permission to widen and improve the road at county expense. In order to make the improvement at county expense it was necessary that control of the road during construction be turned over to the County Road Commission. Grosse Pointe Shores has given much favorable consideration to the county proposal to pro-

vide an 86-foot right-of-way on which the county would build a pavement 36 feet wide or approximately twice the width of the present pavement. A roadway of this width, it was pointed out, would permit four lines of traffic and, it was believed, would be sufficient to relieve congestion along the drive.

In Grosse Pointe Farms the county's proposal did not meet with the favor that it did in the upper village. The Farms proposed a 75-foot right-of-way but this was refused by the County Road Commissioners who felt that the greater width was necessary.

It now appears that the project may be postponed for another year. No mention of the widening program was made in minutes of the Wayne County Supervisors fall meeting and Grosse Pointe Farms officials state that no further discussion of the improvement has been held between their village and the Road Commissioners. The budget of the Wayne County Road Commission for the coming year does not contain any appropriation for the improvement, which makes it unlikely that any definite steps to widen Lakeshore Drive will be taken within the next year.

The matter has been complicated somewhat by the action taken by the Superhighway Commission for Wayne and Macomb Counties on February 2, 1926. At that time the Commission adopted a resolution to make Jefferson Avenue from the Detroit City Limits to New Baltimore 120 feet wide. Records of this action were sent to the County Auditors of Wayne County, with the request that no plats for the subdivision of land fronting on Jefferson Avenue, be accepted in the future unless sufficient land be dedicated to make that street 120 feet wide. The effect of this will be to make Jefferson Avenue 120 feet wide wherever and whenever the land fronting upon it is platted and the plat placed on record. In Grosse Pointe Shores, for example, a good deal of the land fronting on Jefferson Avenue, particularly north of Vernier Road, remains unplatted but is ready for subdividing. It therefore results that, in Grosse Pointe Shores at least, a portion of Jefferson Avenue will be 120 feet wide as soon as plats of the lands fronting on it are made and recorded. The effect of this will be want of uniformity in the street, with part of it 86 feet wide and part of it 120 feet wide, causing jogs here and there in the westerly line of the right of way.

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

Education is nearer the hearts of the people than any other single public interest.

—Calvin Coolidge.

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

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