

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

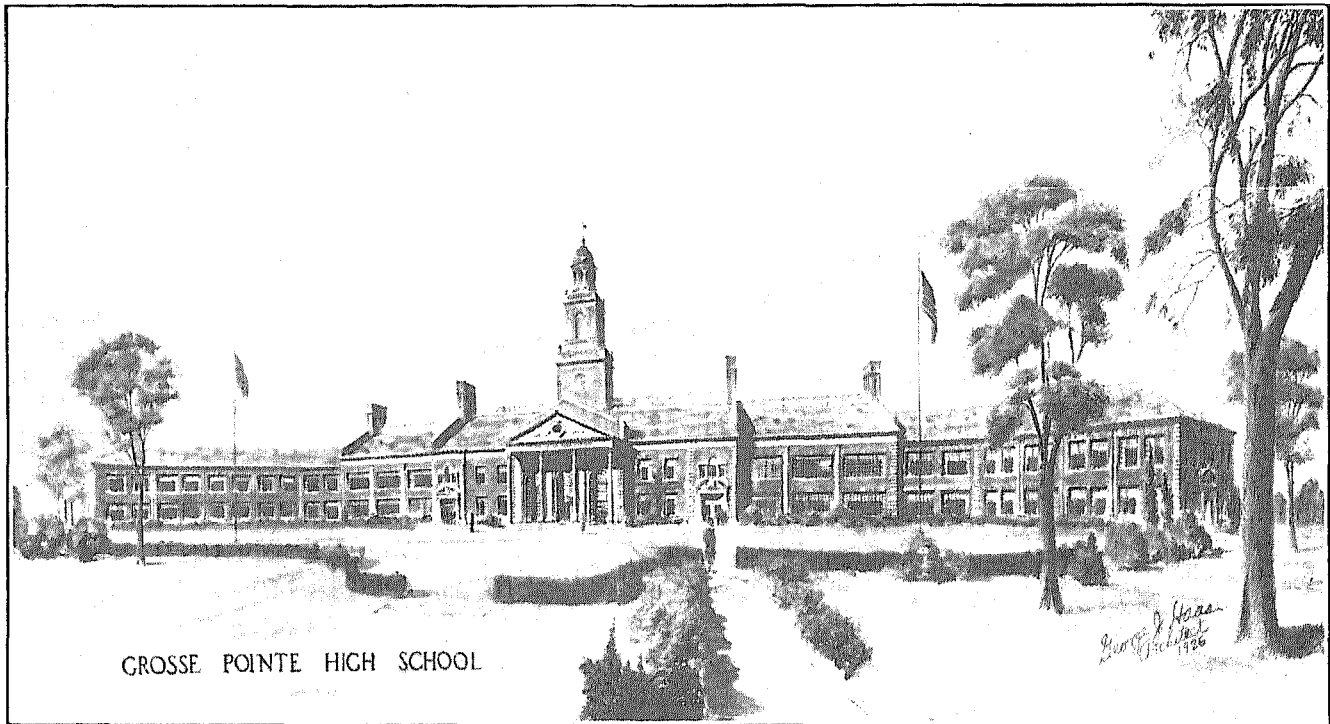
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

Vol. 4

DECEMBER, 1926

Number 6

## CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR NEW HIGH SCHOOL



Sealed proposals for the construction of Grosse Pointe High School at the corner of Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Fisher Road were opened at a special meeting of the School Board on Wednesday evening, December 15th. The meeting adjourned until Friday, December 17th, to allow the Board and its architect to analyze the proposals and select the best offer. At this meeting contracts were awarded totaling \$1,189,343 for the completed building. Malow-Barry Company was awarded work for the architectural trades for \$937,453; W. J. Rewold was awarded the contract for heating, plumbing and ventilating for \$198,500; and the Turner Engineering Company was given the contract for electrical work for \$53,400.

While only two firms submitted bids as general contractors covering all work on the building, thirteen firms submitted bids for the architectural trades, seven competed for

heating, plumbing and ventilating work and six for electrical work. The exceptionally close bidding by this large number of contractors was gratifying to the School Board and architect, who believe that the district, by awarding contracts at this time, has derived the benefit of the seasonal slump in the building market.

The total cost of the completed building, exclusive of movable equipment, will be \$1,189,343. Adding 10 per cent of the contract cost for equipment will bring the total to approximately \$1,300,000. The architect's fees and the cost of landscaping the site will probably require \$100,000, making the total expenditure \$1,400,000, or the amount of the bonds voted for the building last June.

Based upon the architect's estimate of 2,990,000 cubic feet for the cubic content of the building and a total of \$1,189,343 for the building

contracts, the new school will cost 39.5 cents per cubic foot, which is considered an exceptionally low price for a school building of this type and compares favorably with the cubic foot cost of Detroit schools. The Trombly Elementary School, on which work was started in July of this year, cost 40¾ cents per cubic foot exclusive of equipment.

The new school is designed as a senior high school of 1500 standard capacity, making the per pupil cost of construction \$866.66. The per pupil cost of Southwestern High School, Detroit, built in 1921, was \$696 per pupil. The new Central High School completed last year in Detroit has a capacity of 1800 and cost \$825 per pupil. The new Grosse Pointe building compares favorably with the new Central High School, Detroit's latest and best building, both as to its accommodations and per pupil cost. Several features of

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## 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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### PRE-BILLING TAXES

During the past few weeks, an effort has been made by the Citizens' Association working in co-operation with the local officials, to have tax bills mailed to all property holders prior to the date taxes become due.

The proposed change was first suggested to the township treasurer who at the time was preparing to collect the annual township tax. In order to facilitate his work and render a service to taxpayers of Grosse Pointe, it was suggested that the Civic News mailing list covering the great majority of Grosse Pointe residents might profitably be used. The township treasurer stated, however, that because the assessment roll was made up according to subdivisions and lot numbers the list, arranged by streets, would be of no value in his work. For the present year at least, taxpayers desiring statements, must request them from the treasurer.

An effort is now being made to have the treasurers of all the villages send out statements in advance of the tax collecting period next July. The Association is working with the villages at this time in order that officials may have ample time to plan any necessary changes in routine work. Letters proposing the change and asking for pertinent suggestions in changing the practice have been sent to the treasurer of each village. Interviews with these officials and the replies received to date, indicate that the plan is highly feasible and may be put in operation with a minimum of effort.

Pre-billing of taxes offers far reaching advantages to collecting officials and taxpayers alike. Among

the advantages the plan offers to officials, the following are cited:

1. The plan will enable routine work of making up tax bills to be completed prior to the time taxes are payable, thus distributing the burden of work that is now crowded within a few weeks.

2. Taxes would be remitted more promptly thus reducing the amount of delinquent taxes returned to the county treasurer.

3. Reduction of the delinquent tax roll would make a greater portion of the tax levy available for the current budget and would lessen occasional borrowing of funds to carry on work during the latter part of the fiscal year.

To the taxpayer, the plan has one outstanding advantage: The statement will be a reminder of his obligation to pay taxes and will make possible their payment by mail without the necessity of previously inquiring the amount due.

At present three of the five municipalities mail out tax bills during the collecting period. Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Farms, and Grosse Pointe Shores, according to officials of these villages, mail statements to all property owners who paid taxes during the previous year. In Grosse Pointe Shores where the tax levy for 1926 was \$57,491.40, all but \$2,138.40 was collected by the village treasurer prior to making up the delinquent roll. While this exceptional record of over 96 per cent collection prior to the making delinquent returns is in part due to the fact that a large portion of the tax is paid by a relatively few property owners, the fact illustrates at the same time one of the advantages of sending out tax statements.

A review of replies received from village treasurers to the association's proposal, will be given in the next issue of Civic News.

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### LOCHMOOR ELECTION

Residents in Grosse Pointe Township outside of the present Grosse Pointe Villages will vote on Tuesday, January 4th upon the adoption of a charter for the village of Lochmoor and at the same time will elect village officials. The voting booth to be located in the Grosse Pointe Township police booth on Mack Avenue near Vernier Road will be open from 7 A. M. to 8 P. M.

This special election marks the final step in the incorporation of the fifth Grosse Pointe Village which will cover all territory in the township outside of the present villages. Action was started more than a year ago to incorporate the balance of the township and in July of this year, the Wayne County Supervisors granted a petition to incorporate the village. In September voters of the district approved the plan and elected five commissioners to draft the village charter which was approved by the Governor on November 12, 1926, and will be submitted to the electors at the coming election.

The proposed charter, following closely the traditional "mayor-council" form of government, provides for a legislative body of six members to serve two year terms; a president or mayor; clerk; treasurer; and assessor each elected for one year terms. Provision is made for the appointment by the village president with approval of the council of the following officials; attorney; chief of police; chief of fire; superintendent of public works; health officer; two members of the board of review.

Recall of any official can be initiated upon petition signed by sufficient qualified electors to equal 25 per cent of the votes cast for village president in the last preceding election. A chapter in the charter also provides for initiative and referendum making it possible for the voters to adopt or rescind any ordinance irrespective of the attitude of the commission.

With respect to finance the charter provides for an annual budget to include a comparison of proposed expenditures with those of the previous year and listing estimated revenues as well as estimated expenditures. Publication of the budget and a public budget hearing prior to its adoption are also provided.

Following is a list of candidates for offices of the new village: President, Edmund C. Vernier; Clerk, Norbert S. Denk, Phillip F. Allard; Treasurer, James E. Goodrich, Arthur L. Whiting; Assessor; Bert H. Allen; Carl G. Schleicher; Commissioners (6 to be elected) Joseph E. Beaufait, James Carter, Alloys J. Dhesquiere, William J. Michaux, Arthur H. Post, James VanAntwerp, James G. Vanassche, Edward Vanderbush.

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the building exceed those of Detroit's latest schools or of any building in the metropolitan area. While the per pupil cost of the building is higher than the average for Detroit high schools, more spacious accommodations are furnished at only a moderately increased cost.

The architecture of the new building, as mentioned in a previous article, is early American, and has been skilfully developed by the architect. The center portion of the structure is featured by a clock tower of excellent proportions. Extending from the central portion and facing the intersection of Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Fisher Road is a colonial porch two stories high supported by four stone columns. In every detail, even to the proportion of solids and voids worked out by the arrangement and spacing of windows, the central portion shows a purity of design that is seldom found in modern buildings. Because of the window space required in modern schools, colonial architecture is particularly difficult to adapt to school buildings. The fact that it has been so well carried out in the new Grosse Pointe High School is an accomplishment in which the community may justly take pride.

Expert attention has also been given to the interior arrangement of the building for no part of the educational plan has been sacrificed for architectural effect. The educational plan of the building is the work of Dr. Arthur B. Moehlman of the University of Michigan, who was retained by the School Board to study and revise original plans for the school. Such action was taken by the Board after original plans for a high school of 1000 standard capacity with a cubic content of 3,450,000 cubic feet were seriously objected to by Detroit school officials and failed to meet the approval of the State Department of Public Instruction. Dr. Moehlman's work has resulted in a building that is proportioned to give proper space to each of the various activities that will be carried on within its walls. Grosse Pointe, therefore, is assured of a building that is not only architecturally in keeping with its setting in the community, but one in which the educational work of the community can be carried on most efficiently. Such problems as arrangement of rooms

to minimize congestion in the halls between class periods and reduction of stair climbing to a minimum are among the many problems that were considered in working out the educational plan.

For the purpose of brief description, the school may be divided into three major sections: (1) Library, auditorium and health unit; (2) classrooms and study halls; and (3) shops and laboratories.

#### Library, Auditorium and Health Unit.

These three units are located in the central portion of the building where they will be most convenient for community use. The library, which is 30 feet by 72 feet and two stories high, is well lighted by large windows opening on the colonnade. The interior decoration of the room will be paneled gumwood and ornamental plaster. The auditorium, which, with the balcony, has a seating capacity of 600, is located across the corridor back of the library and will be finished in wood and plaster paneling. Provision is made in the auditorium for the installation of an organ which it is hoped may at some later date be donated by one or more public spirited residents. At the rear of the central portion is located the health unit consisting of two gymnasiums each 60 feet by 90 feet, a swimming pool 25 feet by 60 feet and the showers and locker rooms.

#### Classrooms and Study Halls

Four study halls or reference libraries are provided, two on the first floor flanking the main library and two located on the second floor directly above the first floor study halls. Of the fifteen classrooms provided, twelve are located on the second floor. In addition to these rooms there are science lecture rooms, one journalism room and one instrumental music room, all of standard class-room size, which can be used as class-rooms when necessary. The class-rooms are 22 by 26 and planned to accommodate 35 pupils. Study halls are 22 by 52 and will accommodate 83 pupils.

#### Shops and Laboratories

Most of the laboratories and all of the shops are located on the first floor in the wings of the building.

In the west wing extending toward Fisher Road are located the general shop, automotive shop, mechanical drawing room, print shop and journalism classroom. The two shops each 22 by 52 are sufficiently large to give the fundamental shop training. It is not planned that Grosse Pointe High School will give extensive shop work, but where additional shop work is desired pupils will be transferred to Cass Technical High School, Detroit. As in the case with the shops and other features of the building, the laboratories are of ample size and will have most modern and efficient equipment. In addition to the Domestic Science unit containing a domestic science or cooking laboratory, sewing room and housekeeping suite, provision is made for four science laboratories as follows: one general science laboratory for junior high school classes; one biology laboratory connected with a conservatory with a south and east exposure; one physics and one chemistry laboratory adjoined by lecture rooms, preparation and work rooms.

The commercial branches will be housed in four rooms on the second floor of the west wing. One room each will be devoted to the following subjects: typewriting, stenography, bookkeeping and commercial appliances. Rooms for art classes include one classroom and an art workroom.

Space does not permit description of numerous other features of the building such as cafeteria, faculty dining room, faculty rest rooms, offices, health clinics, etc. In every detail, however, the building appears as complete as possible and in every way is in keeping with the high standards of Grosse Pointe without being extravagant. The total expense of providing the school including the site, building, equipment, landscaping, and all fees, will aggregate close to \$1,700,000, indicating that this district is willing to pay for the best school buildings obtainable. With completion of the new building specified for December 1st, 1927, there will be an opportunity and an incentive to place Grosse Pointe schools on a plane equal to the best. Pending unforeseen delays, the building will be completed and equipped for the second semester of next year, February 1, 1928.

### PARENT-TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION

Parent-Teacher's Associations of the five Grosse Pointe Schools have organized for the current school year and are planning monthly programs that should be well attended by parents and other persons interested in our schools and juvenile problems.

The Parent-Teacher's Association of Cadieux School, which also includes the high school grades, has elected the following officers: R. O. Petter, president; Miss Ruth Crain, secretary; E. W. Marquardt, treasurer. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month and are generally well attended by the present membership of seventy. Meetings of the Association to date have included a number of interesting talks, one of them being a report of the State Teacher's Convention. At a subsequent meeting, W. L. Walling, superintendent, discussed the plans of the new high school building.

The Parent-Teacher's Association of Defer School has just recently organized for the year and has not as yet decided upon a program. At the first meeting, December 2nd, Dr. W. J. Voorheis was elected president; Edward Hock, first vice-president; Mrs. Alfred Knapp, second vice-president; Miss Mable Haddock, third vice-president; Miss Belle Redmond, secretary; E. E. Staub, treasurer. About fifty members attended the organization meeting, but a larger attendance is expected at the

next meeting on January 20th. Regular meetings of the association will be held on the third Thursday of each month.

Kerby School Parent-Teacher's Association started its work this year on October 15th, with a membership of fifty. The Association will hold regular meetings on the second Friday of each month. Officers of the Association are Theodore Beaupre, president; Mrs. Bertha Lampkin, first vice-president; Mrs. W. R. Hudson, second vice-president; Mrs. Thomas Dolsen, third vice-president; Alfred Aukland, treasurer; Mrs. Elizabeth Barnes, secretary.

At the first meeting of the Trombly School Parent-Teacher's Association on October 7th, it was decided to hold regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Officers of the Association are: Mrs. F. Anderson, president; Miss S. Whiting, first vice-president; L. W. Forrester, second vice-president; Mrs. Ethel J. Cowe, third vice-president; Mrs. O. T. Coffelt, recording secretary; Mrs. Ray Talcott, corresponding secretary; Mrs. A. H. Lindley, treasurer. This association, while the youngest in Grosse Pointe and connected with one of the smallest schools, is one of the most active. The association has provided its school with a banner, which is held each week by the room having the best attendance record. An American flag to be held by the room responsible for the largest attend-

ance of parents at the monthly meetings of the association also has been placed in the school. Both last year and this the association aided several needy families at Christmas time. At the time that the new Trombly School at Essex Boulevard and Beaconsfield Avenue was being agitated the association was active in pointing out to the school board the urgent need for the building and in following development of the plans.

The Vernier School Parent-Teacher's Association has elected the following officers: Albert Heckendorn, president; George Butterfield, vice-president; Miss Rosalie Clifford, secretary; William Wiedbusch, treasurer. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month and have been generally well attended by the sixty members of the organization.

It is planned that notices of the Parent-Teacher Association meetings will be given currently in Civic News in order that all may keep in touch with the constructive work being done by these organizations.

### TOWNSHIP TAXES

Taxpayers of Grosse Pointe are reminded that township taxes have been due and payable since December 10th and that after January 10th, a penalty of three per cent will be added for late payment. The Treasurer announces that tax statements will be mailed only to those making requests for such statements.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

## CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

<p>1½c Paid Detroit, Michigan Permit No. 335</p>
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