

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

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OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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TROMBLY SCHOOL TO OPEN JANUARY 31st

Robert Trombly School, located in Windmill Pointe at Beaconsfield Avenue and Essex Boulevard, will be opened at the beginning of the second semester of Grosse Pointe Schools on Monday, January 31st. This modern building, the second school in the district to be completed within two years, will replace the present obsolete four-room building situated at Jefferson Avenue and Nottingham Road, and, for the present at least, will serve the territory bounded by the Detroit city limits, St. Paul Avenue, Three Mile Drive and Lake St. Clair. The building will be operated as an elementary school containing a kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, and will have a standard capacity of 540 pupils.

The planning and construction of Robert Trombly School were accomplished in a minimum of time. The architects, Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, appointed late in May, required less than eight weeks for completion of all plans and specifications for the building, which were approved by the school board and the building committee on July 14th. Construction contracts were awarded on August 4th to the Martin-Krausman Company for \$265,800. The Martin-Krausman Company have erected the building within six months, making the elapsed time from the date of appointing the architect to the date of occupying the building less than eight and a half months. The school board, its building committee, the architect and the contractor are to be congratulated on the prompt and efficient construction of the building.

The portion of the building soon to be occupied is the first unit of a completed building of 960 standard pupil capacity. The present unit of 540 pupil capacity and a cubic content of 651,730 cubic feet will cost \$265,800, exclusive of movable equipment, landscaping and architects' fees. These figures show a per pupil cost of \$492 per pupil and a cubic cost of 40 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents a cubic

foot. While the cubic foot cost of the building is higher than that of the George Defer Elementary School, opened in February, 1925, the per pupil cost is \$173 per pupil less. The Defer School planned for 360 pupils cost \$239,704, or \$665 per pupil, exclusive of movable equipment, landscaping and architect's fees. In less than a year after its opening, the building was filled to more than its standard capacity and was badly overcrowded. Opening of the Trombly School will materially relieve the present overcrowding in the Defer building.

The unit of the Trombly School just completed contains the following accommodations: Auditorium, 40 by 60 feet; gymnasium, 40 by 60 feet; playroom, 40 by 60 feet; two kindergarten rooms, 22 by 30 feet; six class-rooms, 22 by 30 feet; an ample library; principal's office; teachers' rest room; clinic and conservatory. At some later date the addition of a wing on the north side of the present structure will add seven class-rooms, two literature rooms, an art room, one music room and a domestic science room, and will increase the capacity to 960 pupils. In the present unit, the auditorium and gymnasium are placed on the first floor in the central portion of the building. On this floor in the south wing, are two class-rooms and the principal's office facing on Beaconsfield. At the rear of the building are two kindergarten rooms, kindergarten locker room and health clinic. Until the north wing of the school is required, one of the kindergarten rooms will be used as an elementary class room.

On the second floor, in the central portion, is located the play room, which is placed directly over the gymnasium. Four class rooms, the teacher's room and library are also on the second floor.

The architecture of the building is modified tudor-gothic, which blends nicely with the prevailing architecture of residences in Wind-

mill Pointe. In every detail of plan and construction, the Trombly School has been given the closest attention of the school board and the architects. The result is a building in which has been incorporated the latest in educational planning and the best in architectural design. Appropriate ceremonies to mark the opening of the new building are being planned by the Parent-Teacher Association of the School.

MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

Note—Dates of meetings and other dates of general community interest will be given in this column each month.

- Jan. 31 Second Semester of Public School begins.
- Feb. 1 Tuesday, 8:00 P. M., Grosse Pointe Park Trustees meeting.
- Feb. 1 Tuesday, 8:00 P. M., Parent-Teachers meeting, Cadieux School.
- Feb. 7 Monday, 8:00 P. M., Lochmoor Village Trustees meet at Twp. Police Station, Mack Avenue and Vernier Road.
- Feb. 7 Monday, 8:00 P. M., Grosse Pointe Shores Trustees meeting.
- Feb. 7 Monday, 8:00 P. M., Grosse Pointe Farms Trustees meeting.
- Feb. 8 Tuesday, 8:00 P. M., Parent-Teachers meeting, Trombly School.
- Feb. 9 Wednesday, 8:00 P. M., School Board meeting.
- Feb. 11 Friday, 8:00 P. M., Parent-Teachers meeting, Kerby School.
- Feb. 14 Monday, 8:00 P. M., Grosse Pointe Health Board meeting.
- Feb. 17 Thursday, 8:00 P. M., Parent-Teachers meeting, Defer School.
- Feb. 19 Saturday, 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M., Registration of new voters in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Village.
- Feb. 22 Washington's Birthday. No school.
- Feb. 24 Thursday, 8:00 P. M., Parent-Teachers meeting, Vernier School.
- Feb. 26 Saturday, 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M., Registration of new voters in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Village.

Grosse Pointe Park recently sold two bond issues totaling \$585,000 to the Detroit Trust Company. The bonds, bearing 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent interest, were sold at a premium of \$930.

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:

H. P. Breitenbach, President.

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Raymond K. Dykema, Secretary.

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Chas. L. Palms, Jr., Benjamin S. Warren,
C. A. Dean, Jr.

THE BEST IN TEACHERS, TOO

The new Grosse Pointe High School will be a physical reality in approximately a year. Last month, as described in the December "Civic News," contracts were let by the school board for its completion. The building, thanks to the untiring efforts of the school board, the building committee and the architect, will be unexcelled among the high school buildings of the entire state.

Two important steps, however, remain to be taken by the school board. One is that of providing physical equipment — the desks, chairs, tables and other furniture, the laboratory fixtures, etc. Such equipment in due course of time will be specified and ordered, and it, too, will fittingly be of highest quality.

The other and by far most important step is that of providing the teaching and executive staff, without which a school building is but bricks and mortar. Here the problem is not so simple. Standards as to room sizes and materials and desks and chairs are more easily set than as to men and women. Where is the yardstick of character? In what scales is talent to be weighed? How is one to assay culture?

Yet where standards are so vital, standards must be set or at least approximated. Would it not be helpful to resolve, inasmuch as our high school, in both its building and physical equipment, is planned to be the equal of any in the state, that the teaching personnel likewise should rank equally high?

No money will have been wasted on the new high school and its equipment, but no money will have been stinted either. With its site, the building fully equipped will rep-

resent an investment of over \$1,700,000, as compared with a value of possibly \$150,000 for the present high school. This is an increase of 1,000 per cent.; but who would question the wisdom of the increased investment? In the history of the whole township no project has received more sustained public support.

To secure the best teaching and administrative talent for such a building is an even sounder investment. It requires no great increase in expenditure, for thanks to recent action of the school board, the salary scale of Grosse Pointe schools compares not too unfavorably with that of neighboring municipalities. A comparatively slight increase in the scale should enable Grosse Pointe to command the services of the best teaching talent in the state. But even if the amount involved were large, there should be no question about disbursing it, since obviously everything depends upon the character of the teaching in the new high school.

This, then, is the immediate problem of the school board. It must set high standards for the teaching personnel. It must judge present teachers by such standards and winnow them accordingly, adding new ones as necessary. It must progressively reward successful teachers, so that Grosse Pointe High School will move forward to ever higher levels.

There is no subject in which the people of this community are more deeply interested than in the education of their children. While the above remarks have centered on the new high school, the situation is no different in regard to the elementary schools. In fact, the principle applies to the whole school system.

A few years ago, the Grosse Pointe villages were semi-rural communities, each with its own village school system. Today they are virtually a great metropolitan suburb united for the sake of maintaining an adequate school system, no longer on a village basis, but according to metropolitan standards.

Should Grosse Pointe bring its schools to the highest stage of efficiency?

Should Grosse Pointe teachers be given the highest salary scale?

If those two questions could be placed on a ballot, there is no doubt that the school electorate of Grosse

Pointe would vote yes on both by an overwhelming majority. An insistent demand exists which nothing but the best will satisfy.

LOCHMOOR APPROVES CHARTER

At a special election on Tuesday, January 4th, electors residing in the portion of Grosse Pointe Township outside of the four Grosse Pointe Villages, approved the proposed charter incorporating the area as the Village of Lochmoor by a vote of more than 8 to 1 and elected village officials to serve until the general election, March 7th.

On the question of adopting the charter, 182 voters favored the question, 22 opposed it and 11 failed to mark their ballots.

Following is a list of candidates for the several offices and the number of votes received by each candidate. The office of village president was the only office not contested. President, Edmund C. Verner, 167; Clerk, Norbert F. Denk, 117; Philip F. Allard, 85; Treasurer, James C. Goodrich, 127; Arthur L. Whitting, 76; Assessor, Bert H. Allen, 108; Carl G. Schleicher, 84; Commissioners (first six elected), Joseph E. Beaufait, 160; Arthur H. Post, 159; Edward Vanderbush, 146; James Van Antwerp, 129; James W. Carter, 127; William J. Michaux, 99; Alois A. Ghesquiere, 94; James G. Van Assche, 79. The interest of residents in the election is indicated by the fact that 215 persons, or 75 per cent. of the 285 registered voters, cast ballots.

Two appointive offices have been filled. Howard Colby has been appointed Village Attorney and Mason L. Brown and Sons have been appointed Village Engineers. Mr. Colby served as legal advisor to the charter commission and was largely responsible for the charter as drafted.

The president of the new village states that the first problem to be taken up will be that of water supply and that the village engineer already has been instructed to prepare plans and estimates for the system.

Grosse Pointe Village is conducting an inspection of all buildings within its limits with a view to reducing the fire hazard of defective heating and electrical installations.

1926 ESTABLISHES BUILDING RECORD

Building permits totaling \$7,252,267 issued during 1926 by three Grosse Pointe villages; Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village and Grosse Pointe Farms, give concrete evidence of the steady growth of Grosse Pointe Township. Within the area of approximately six square miles, covered by these three villages, 513 permits, with a total value of \$7,252,267 were issued. These figures, compared with the building figures compiled by the Citizens' Association two years ago, show a decrease in the number of permits issued, but a substantial increase in the total value of buildings erected. In 1924, 658 permits, with a total value of \$5,806,455, were issued. The value of buildings started during the year just past is \$1,445,812, or 25 per cent. higher than the total value two years ago. This year's figures include permits for one public and two parochial schools and two club buildings. The total value of these five structures makes up \$1,235,243, or 17 per cent. of the total figure. The balance of more than \$6,000,000 is almost entirely for residential structures. Of these, 85 per cent. were single residences ranging in cost from \$3,800 to \$100,000; by far the greatest number ranged from \$12,000 to \$18,000.

Grosse Pointe Park

As in previous years, Grosse Pointe Park leads the other villages both in the number of permits and the total value of permits issued. In this village, 251 permits were taken out for a total building value of \$3,452,834. The Robert Trombly School, which cost \$265,800, and the Parochial School for the newly formed St. Clair Parish, estimated to cost \$150,000, account for \$415,243 of the total. The remainder is for several small store buildings totaling in cost \$46,880, 36 permits for alterations and additions totaling \$16,774, 34 two- and four-family flats costing \$479,780, and 174 single residences costing \$2,494,232. The total figure, \$3,452,834, is approximately the same as the total for 1923, when buildings costing \$3,462,160 were erected. The number of permits issued in 1926 was 175 less than the number issued during 1924. Single residences and multiple dwellings erected provided accommodations for 272 families, or about 1,142 inhabitants.

Grosse Pointe Village

The number of permits issued in Grosse Pointe Village during the past year was 163, an increase of 25 over 1924. The total value, however, more than doubled, increasing from \$1,020,500 to \$2,072,004. The construction of four terraces on Rivard Boulevard, with total accommodations for 35 families, was the outstanding building project in this village. Other multiple dwellings erected consisted of one four-family flat and 10 duplexes. Ninety-seven single residences and 7 commercial buildings, in addition to permits for alterations and repairs, make up the remainder. Accommodations were furnished for 156 families, or approximately 650 new residents.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Compared with 1924 figures, Grosse Pointe Farms shows only a small increase in the number of permits issued during 1926, but an increase in the value of buildings erected of \$403,634, or 30 per cent. Two club buildings, the County Club and the Grosse Pointe Club, together with St. Paul's Parochial School, account for more than twice the increase over 1924. The total value of these three buildings, as shown by the permits, is \$820,000. The total for Grosse Pointe Farms does not include the new \$1,200,000 high school, for which ground was broken late in December. Fifty-seven single residences costing \$864,000 and providing housing accommodations for 335 individuals, were erected in Grosse Pointe Farms during the past year.

It was not possible to obtain building figures for either Grosse Pointe Shores or the newly incorporated village of Lochmoor. In Grosse Pointe Shores 5 permits were issued, 4 of which were for large residences but the value of the buildings were not stated in the permits. Building in Lochmoor has gone forward more rapidly than at any time in the past. The total building for these two villages is estimated conservatively at \$1,500,000. This figure and the \$1,200,000 for the high school added to the building permits for the lower three villages, gives a total of \$10,000,000 for the entire township.

The figures for Grosse Pointe offer some interesting comparisons

with those of Detroit. In Detroit during 1926 40,204 permits were issued for a total value of \$183,721,438, placing it third among the cities of the country in building values. Based upon the value of permits issued per square mile of territory, Grosse Pointe's building record compares favorably with Detroit's. In a comparison of residential buildings erected during the year, Grosse Pointe far exceeds Detroit. In Grosse Pointe 64 per cent. of the permits issued were for single residences, which had an average value of \$14,538 per residence. In Detroit 26 per cent. of the permits were for single residences, the average value of which was \$4,570.

14,267 ESTIMATED POPULATION

In December, 1925, the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township made a study of the present and future population of Grosse Pointe Township, which was used in determining the size of the new high school. In this study, several independent estimates indicated that in December, 1925, the total population of the township was approximately 12,000. To be exact, the final estimate was 12,072.

Assuming the correctness of this figure, a review of building permits for 1926 makes it possible to estimate, at least roughly, the population as of January 1, 1927. During the past year, 328 permits were issued for single residences and 49 permits for multiple dwellings in Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village and Grosse Pointe Farms. The apartments furnished in multiple dwellings totals 157, making 485 new dwellings places in these villages. With an average-size family of 4.2, these figures show accommodations for 2,037 persons. A deduction of eight per cent. has been made for buildings not occupied, making a total net gain of 1,874. Assuming an equal rate of growth in Grosse Pointe Shores and Lochmoor, the total growth for 1926 is 2,195, which gives an estimated population on January 1, 1927, of 14,267 for the entire township. These figures indicate that the population increased 18 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. during the past year.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report of the Grosse Pointe school district for the fiscal year 1925-26 has just been printed as a special issue of "Civic News," and is now being distributed to residents of the township.

This special issue includes the minutes of the annual meeting of electors June 14, 1926, and the adjourned annual meeting July 26, 1926, as well as a detailed statement of expenditures made during the fiscal year. Publication of the information contained in the bulletin is required by law before school districts can share in division of the primary school fund.

The special number was published and distributed by the Citizens' Association at cost, thus effecting considerable saving over the cost of publishing the report in a Detroit daily paper, which, according to estimates given by Detroit newspapers, would have been \$1,500. The material is being published and distributed by the "Civic News" at a total cost to the school board of less than \$400, effecting a saving of more than \$1,100. Two similar reports have been published for the school district within the past year, making the total saving in excess of \$3,300.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT LECTURES

Detroit City College is offering a series of weekly lectures on various phases of municipal work that should be of interest to Grosse Pointe officials and citizens alike. The series, which is really in the nature of an informal study course in municipal problems, will be held at the City College at Cass Avenue and Warren Avenue on each Wednesday evening between 7 P. M. and 9 P. M., beginning February 9th and concluding May 18th.

The date and subjects to be covered by each lecture follows: February 9, Administrative Organization. February 16, Budgets and Municipal Finance. February 23, Elections. March 2, Civil Service. March 9, Purchasing. March 16, Water. March 23, Fire. March 30, Health. April 6, Education. April 20, Recreation. April 27, Police and Traffic. May 4, Courts and Correction. May 11, Waste and Sewage. May 18, Public Utilities.

Each week the group will have the opportunity of hearing a speaker who is a specialist in the field of municipal government. At the conclusion of each lecture there will be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss phases of the subject presented.

TOWNSHIP TAXES

State, county and township taxes collected by the township treasurer up to and including January 22, totaled approximately \$760,000 or 85 per cent of the total \$889,543 levied. According to the township treasurer, this establishes a record that has not been equaled in previous tax collecting periods.

Through addresses obtained from duplicate tax receipts for last year and the tax records of the several Grosse Pointe villages, it was possible for the treasurer to send statements to practically all property owners. The fact that the assessment roll was delivered promptly on September 1, giving the treasurer ten days for the billing of taxes before the first day of the collecting period, also aided in the work.

The treasurer has requested that any owner of Grosse Pointe property who has not received a tax bill, or a receipt for taxes already paid, to call his office at the Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Building, 15115 Jefferson Avenue, phone Lenox 2077.

Until March 1, taxes may be paid to the township treasurer at the address given above, between the hours of 9 a. m. and 5 p. m. About April 1, the roll will be delivered to the county treasurer and payments must be made at the County Building, Cadillac Square, Detroit.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

No better promotor of economy exists than sound school policies economically administered.—William H. Allen, Director, Institute for Public Service, New York City.

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

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Detroit, Michigan
Permit No. 335