

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

Vol. 5

DECEMBER, 1927

Number 6

GROSSE POINTE PARK STUDIES PROPOSED SOLUTION FOR BLACK MARSH DITCH PROBLEM

AN early start on solving Grosse Pointe's long-standing Black Marsh Ditch problem was forecast on December 2nd, when the Grosse Pointe Park village council was requested by its engineer, Charles H. Marden, to approve plans for construction of a covered sewer in Fox Creek from Cadieux road to the village limits, at an estimated cost of \$725,000. The proposed sewer, a 14-foot concrete cylinder, would have a capacity of 762 cubic feet per second.

The council is expected to act soon. If the council approves, then the plan will go to the City Engineer of Detroit for check-up on how it ties in with Detroit's announced plans for solving the drainage requirements of the 25-square-mile Fox Creek Drainage District.

Detroit's first step in this area has been construction of a 14-foot tunnel in Jefferson Avenue from Connors to Manistique and erection of an emergency pumping station at Connors Creek and Clairpointe Avenue. The next proposed step is construction of the 14-foot sewer in Black Marsh Ditch through Grosse Pointe Park to Cadieux Road. If the village decides to proceed with this project, Detroit's city engineer, Perry A. Fellows, said he proposes to request funds of the Detroit council for backwater gates and terminal construction at Jefferson and Ashland Avenue to provide an outlet for the Black Marsh sewer.

In addition to asking the village council to approve the Black Marsh closed sewer plan, Mr. Marden urged that permission be granted Detroit to construct a 14-foot sewer in Cadieux Road from Mack Avenue to Fox Creek and to construct and operate a sewage pumping station on a site to be purchased near the intersection of Fox Creek and Cadieux Road, with the understanding that this sewer and pumping station are to be integral parts of a comprehensive program of develop-

ment of Fox Creek drainage area, "that the pumping station shall discharge into Fox Creek outlet (Black Marsh Ditch sewer) until further relief is required." Then a covered storm water overflow would be constructed in Harvard Avenue, Kercheval Avenue and Bishop Road, or on a route designated by Grosse Pointe Park, from the pumping station to Lake St. Clair to discharge storm water run-off from excessive storms only—all dry weather flow and storm water run-off to be carried by the Black Marsh sewer up to its capacity.

It is important, Mr. Marden informed the council, that right-of-way for the entire route be obtained before any construction is started, right-of-way to be occupied, however, only when the overflow sewer is considered necessary and funds are available.

Under the new "substitute plan" worked out by the City Engineer subsequent to the recommendation by Harrison G. Eddy, Boston sanitary engineer, which was reported in CIVIC NEWS a year ago in November, Grosse Pointe Park would need to undertake no further trunk sewer construction than the one-cylinder tube in Black Marsh Ditch.

Grosse Pointe Village

The "substitute plan," as it would affect Grosse Pointe Village, was outlined to that municipality's engineer, Mason L. Brown & Son, in a letter August 29, 1927. It proposed a pumping station on Rivard Boulevard near Fox Creek, which would pump into the ditch as a natural outlet; and a storm-water outlet to the Harbor Line on right-of-way in Rivard Boulevard, Jefferson Avenue and Lakeland Avenue.

But this plan has now been superseded by the City Engineer's plan for a city sewer down Rivard to Mack, and down Mack to Cadieux, where a pumping station is proposed for the

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

DEFER CONTRACTS LET

Henry Martens, lowest bidder, was awarded the general contract on the Defer School addition by the Board of Education on Nov. 25. His bid was \$69,880, only five dollars under the second lowest bidder, F. H. Cooper. Fifteen bids were received in all. Work was to begin immediately, with completion scheduled for April 15.

The heating, plumbing and ventilating contract was awarded J. W. Partlan, whose bid of \$19,388 was the lowest of seven submitted. Electrical contract was awarded the Kuehni Electric Co. on a bid of \$4,995, also the lowest of seven bids submitted.

A clause calling for installation of vitaglass, which would have added \$3,000 to the general contract, was stricken out when the Board decided not enough was known about the value of that glass as compared with ordinary glass windows to warrant the added expense.

12-Room Addition

The contracts, totaling \$94,263, were awarded for construction of a 12-room addition to accommodate 480 pupils, as well as for changes in the original building costing an estimated \$8,000 to be made at the time the addition is made.

The erection of a 12-room addition, instead of an eight-room structure as outlined in April, 1926, by the school board's educational consultant, was recommended to the board on Sept. 6, 1927, by Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, superintendent, after a study of the consultant's plans and the present George Defer School, which was not properly planned to serve the district's needs and was filled to more than its 540 capacity soon after it was opened.

Terracing Plan

Dr. Brownell advised the Board that there was not sufficient justification for leaving the ground floor space unfinished and unused as recommended by the consultant in 1926.

"By proper terracing of the school grounds," Dr. Brownell explained,

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 2)

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

P. O. Address, 51 Warren Ave., W., Detroit
H. P. Breitenbach, Consulting Editor
B. E. Meyers, 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.
Wm. M. Mertz, Vice-President.
Raymond K. Dykema, Secretary.
Jos. L. Hickey, Treasurer.
Chas. L. Palms, Jr., Benjamin S. Warren,
John F. Keys, Robert M. Allan

ASSESSED VALUATION

Assessed valuation figures for Grosse Pointe Township show an increase for 1927-8 over 1926-7 of \$6,530,480. For 1927-8, the assessed valuation was set at \$113,916,552; for 1926-7 it was \$107,386,072. The growth of building in the township is primarily responsible for this increase, according to the supervisor. In 1924-5, the assessed valuation was \$86,009,089, revealing that in the last three years the total increase has been \$27,907,463, or an average of \$9,302,487 per year. The average increase of the two years from 1924-5 to 1926-7 was \$10,688,491, approximately 66 per cent greater than the increase in assessed valuation for the last year.

Personal taxes have increased from \$20,829,667 in 1926-7 to \$23,197,032 in 1927-8. More than 80 per cent of the taxpayers fail to make personal tax returns, the supervisor declared, making it necessary for the assessor to place an estimate of his own on the tax rolls.

OZONE FOR NEW POOL

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, superintendent of schools, and Dr. B. H. Warren, health officer, the Board of Education voted on Nov. 25 to install an ozone system in the new Grosse Pointe High School, in place of the chlorination system formerly planned.

"Ozone purifies water to the point of highest perfection, it has been found by expert investigation," Dr. Warren told the Board, following a conference on purification of water pool methods at Ann Arbor which he and Martin A. Preston, works manager on the new high school, attended at the Board's direction.

Pools which have employed the ozone system of purification include Wyandotte High School, Henry Ford Hospital and the Grosse Pointe Country Club. In tests of water at the

latter place, Dr. Warren said it was found that the ozone eliminated the chlorine in the water as well as all harmful bacteria. Dr. Brownell reported a personal investigation of Wyandotte's results with ozone that substantiated other favorable reports on ozone.

Dr. L. E. Maire, trustee, cited the experience of St. Louis schools, where the use of ozone to purify the air has met with remarkable results in improved health of children and teachers and accelerated educational progress.

HEALTH BUDGET APPROVED

The Board of Health budget for 1928 submitted in October has been approved by all the villages, Dr. B. H. Warren, health officer, was notified in November.

Comparison of health budgets:

	1927	1928
Salaries	\$11,850	\$14,010
Office Expense	1,500	1,500
Laboratory	50	50
Printing and Stationery....	100	100
Contingent Fund	2,500	2,500
Transportation	2,250	2,500
School Supplies	175	175
Miscellaneous	150	150
Total.....	\$18,575	\$20,985

Due to an unexpended balance from 1926, the budget of \$18,500 in 1927 called for raising only \$14,000 in taxes. The actual increase in 1928 over the 1927 budget is \$2,485, Dr. Warren explained, this increase being due principally to the addition of a nurse to the staff. Seven years ago, when the school population numbered between 800 and 900, two nurses were employed. With the school population now in excess of 3,000, an additional nurse was considered necessary.

Diphtheria and smallpox immunization in Grosse Pointe is now near 100 per cent, thanks to the co-operation of parents, Dr. Warren stated in November. From June, 1926, to July, 1927, only six cases of these diseases appeared in the health district. Immunization efforts began five years ago. Health District No. 1-A of Grosse Pointe, formed 10 years ago, embraces legally Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village, Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores, while for practical purposes the Village of Lochmoor is also included, though as yet unofficially.

Members of the Board of Health are John H. French, president; Dr. A. J. Neumann, secretary; Dr. F. C. Kidner, treasurer, and R. K. Dykema. Its accounts were audited and reported correct on August 31, 1927, by the Union Trust Company.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL TO BE READY FOR USE FEB. 1

Definite announcement that the new Grosse Pointe High School will be ready for the use of classes the second semester of this year, beginning February 1, was made to Civic News in November by Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, superintendent of schools. Jerome Burt, new high school principal, arrived in Grosse Pointe on December 1 to take charge of preparations for equipping rooms and arranging his program of school work.

"Although the new high school will not be fully equipped by February 1," said Dr. Brownell, "it will be ready to care for classes much better than they now can be in the Cadioux School. Some departments, such as printing and auto mechanics, will not be ready but there are no teachers for them as yet so there is no necessity to equip them.

"All the students in the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades, 630 in all, as well as the teaching staff of those grades, will be moved into the new high school in February. No new appointments to the teaching staff have been made as yet, though a study of rearrangement plans now indicates a need for two additional teachers.

Rough grading of the new high school grounds is under way, a contract having been awarded by the Board of Education on November 11 to Oliver J. Trudeau on a low bid of \$14,375. Decision to let rough grading bids separate from finished grading and landscaping was made on November 7 when the lowest bid on the whole job, \$54,758, was found to be more than the Board anticipated.

At the regular December meeting of the Board of Education, the superintendent and new high school principal were appointed a committee to plan dedication exercises for the new structure in March. Tentative plans for holding graduation exercises there for the February senior class have been dropped. A recommendation by the superintendent that the school board offices be removed to the new high school building on Jan. 1 has been taken under consideration by the Board.

Bids for seating and desks in the new high school were to be opened by the Board on December 14; lighting and other equipment bids, December 21 and subsequent dates not yet determined.

SIMPLIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT CALLED AIM OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION; TWO NEW DIRECTORS NAMED

WHEN government in Grosse Pointe has been simplified to the point where voters will be asked to ballot on broad issues only and to elect officials charged with the duty of hiring experts in municipal administration to do the detail work, the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township will have accomplished its objective and will have no further reason for existence.

Thus did H. P. Breitenbach, president of the Association, sum up the organization's aims at its fifth annual meeting held in the Cadieux School on Monday, December 12.

Declaring that local government is too often the weakest spot in American government, Mr. Breitenbach explained that the Citizens' Association was formed to supply accurate information to voters from a nonpartisan, disinterested viewpoint and to work toward simplification of local government.

Signs of Progress

Setting up in the last year of higher school standards, improvement in village financing methods, development of zoning regulations, and taking of steps to better the framework of village government by adoption of new charters were cited by the speaker as evidences of progress in Grosse Pointe civic affairs.

"Without considerable simplification of the processes of government, a heightening interest of the public in governmental affairs—which alone can bring about efficiency and economy in government—is difficult to attain," Mr. Breitenbach concluded. "Being frequently called to the polls to decide on matters too technical for an intelligent voter, citizens soon lose interest. Our association must carry on to help correct this situation."

Two new trustees were elected to the Association's Executive Board at the annual meeting, and Raymond K. Dykema, secretary of the Board, was re-elected for a three-year term. The new trustees named for three-year terms are John F. Keys, 1031 Bishop Road, and Robert M. Allan, 920 Balfour Road.

\$1,100 Saving

An incidental service of the Citizens' Association that is saving the taxpayers \$1,100 annually was revealed in the report of the treasurer, Joseph L. Hickey. His report showed that the

amount the Board of Education paid for publication of its Annual Report in Civic News last July was \$547.50, approximately \$1,100 less than the cost of publishing the same report would be in a Detroit newspaper.

(Editor's Note—The Citizens' Association is a non-partisan, non-profit corporation financed entirely by subscription. Any resident of Grosse Pointe Township is eligible to membership. Dues, which are voluntary, range from \$1 to \$35 annually. No one individual is permitted to subscribe a greater sum than \$100 in advance for three years' dues. Civic News is sent to members and non-members without charge. To keep the publication's mailing list up-to-date, with the great increase in population that Grosse Pointe is experiencing as well as the many changes in address is a task in which every citizen's aid is welcome. Names and addresses of residents who are not now receiving Civic News may be sent to the Civic News office, 51 W. Warren Avenue, Detroit, at any time.)

SCHOOL POPULATION JUMPS

School population figures for October revealed 2,059 public school students, 819 parochial school students and 274 private school students, a total of 3,152, in Grosse Pointe. The public school figures include 63 students who are attending the Hanstein School, but whose tuition will stop when room will be available for them in the new Grosse Pointe High School in February.

How the school children have increased since a year ago in October is shown in the following table:

	Oct. 1926	Oct. 1927
Public Schools	1,933	2,059
(Defer, Cadieux, Trombly, Kerby, Vernier)		
Parochial Schools	586	819
(St. Ambrose, St. Paul, St. Claire)		
Private Schools	176	274
(Jennings Country Day School, Grosse Pointe Private School)		

Opening of the new St. Paul Parochial School on Grosse Pointe Boulevard opposite Lewiston Road, September 14, was celebrated at a Fall Festival in the school gymnasium, November 14 to 17, sponsored by the Ladies' Altar Society, Parent-Teach-

ers' Association, Young Ladies' Sodality and Holy Name Society. Mrs. John Dwyer was general chairman. The first unit of 900 capacity was built at a cost of \$300,000. Additions later are expected to bring the total to \$450,000. Dominican Sisters are teachers of the present 10 grades, which will be increased to 12 in two years. St. Paul's was built to care for students formerly taught by the Sacred Heart Academy. Pastor of the parish is the Rev. A. H. B. Nacy; assistant, the Rev. Frank Stack.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND BOXING BOUTS

The middle of January will see the holding of the first amateur boxing bout of the season at the Neighborhood Club, if plans now being made by George Elworthy, director, are carried out. The gymnasium where the bouts will be held has an estimated seating capacity of 1,000.

A Christmas Party free to all children in Grosse Pointe Township is to be held at the Neighborhood Club on December 29. A pantomime by the Grosse Pointe School of Dancing class, now in charge of Miss Mary Hazel Benedict, carols by the Bluebirds, a real Santa Claus and moving pictures are on the program beginning at 8 p.m.

The Christmas Party, being a special occasion, will be run by the House Council, of which Harry Furton, president of the Grosse Pointe Athletic Club, is chairman.

The clubhouse is located on an eight-acre site donated by D. M. Ferry, Jr., at St. Clair Avenue, Neff Street and Waterloo Avenue. The building, designed by George W. Graves, was constructed by the H. G. Christman Company. It is two stories high with a common-brick exterior.

Central control is provided at a focal point in the lobby on the first floor from which the front entrance, the 60 by 90-foot gymnasium, social and club rooms, kitchen and stairway are under observation of the desk attendant.

Across the east end of the gymnasium is a stage flanked by dressing rooms. Separate lockers, showers and dressing rooms for boys and girls and visiting teams are provided in the basement, from which spiral stairs lead directly to the gymnasium. The second floor has an assembly room seating 300, a game room and billiard room. Funds for the building were raised in a campaign in which all Grosse Pointe Township joined hands.

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2)

near future, and a storm-water overflow outlet sewer to Lake St. Clair in the distant future.

The Village of Grosse Pointe is the only one of the Grosse Pointe municipalities that has a sewage disposal plant. It owns an Imhoff tank system, capable of caring for a population of 16,000, and located on a 26-acre site in Detroit, north of Mack and extending to Harper, west of Fisher Road. The site is 200 feet wide and a mile deep, only a portion now being used. Site and plant cost \$300,000 in 1918.

Grosse Pointe Farms

The Village of Grosse Pointe Farms embarked in 1927 on a \$425,000 sewer program, including a temporary pumping station and settling basin near Seven-Mile (Moross) and the Black Marsh Ditch, to relieve present sewers. The first job to be completed on this program is a sewer, varying in size from 18 to 54 inches in diameter, in Moran Road between Ridge Road and the Black Marsh Ditch.

Under construction now is a combination sanitary and storm sewer, 21 to 54 inches, extending from the Country Club Drive in Grosse Pointe Boulevard to Provencal Road and thence to a proposed intercepting sewer in Lakeshore Road and to Lake St. Clair.

Other jobs for which the \$425,000 bond issue approved July 18, 1927, is to be used include:

Sewer in Moran Road, 24 to 48 inches, from Oak Street in Grosse Pointe Boulevard to Moran Road and down Moran to an outlet in the lake.

Tunnel sewer, 48 inches, in Kerby Road, extending from Lake St. Clair to the Black Marsh Ditch.

Sanitary Interceptor, 18 to 30 inches, in Lakeshore Road, extending from McKinley to Kerby.

Sanitary Interceptor, 24 to 27 inches, in Lakeshore Road, extending from Provencal to Kerby.

Sanitary and storm sewer, 24 to 36 inches, beside Black Marsh Ditch, from Weir Lane to temporary pumping station at Kerby Road.

Sanitary and storm sewer, 36 inches, beside Black Marsh Ditch, from Fisher to pumping station at Kerby.

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)

"the ground floor of the building can well be finished off for classroom purposes without there being objectionable basement rooms. The ground floor rooms would be practically on grade, with window space the same as for all other classrooms. The waste of cubage resulting from not finishing or using the ground floor appears economically unjustifiable."

To obtain the greatest amount of additional classroom space possible with the funds available (\$100,000), Dr. Brownell urged a 12-room addition containing eight classrooms, two literature rooms and two science rooms, leaving a playroom and gymnasium for future addition.

Estimated cost of the 12-room addition of approximately 211,899 cubic feet was \$84,739.60, or 40 cents per cubic foot. This plan with a few changes increasing the cubage to 230,165 was submitted for bids. The cost of the addition, on the basis of \$94,263 less \$8,000 or \$86,263 for 230,165 cubic feet, will be 33.15 cents per cubic foot, exclusive of engineering and architect fees. Detroit elementary schools are now being built for approximately 35 cents per cubic

foot, including engineering and architect fees.

Changes To Be Made

Changes in the original building will cost approximately \$8,000, the architect estimates. The principal changes in educational facilities are to be conversion of the manual training and home economics' room in the basement to a lunch room, men's community room and women's community room; removal of partition between kindergarten and office and the entire space given over to kindergarten; classroom to left of west stairway to be used for office and room across the hall for a physical director's room and clinic; partition between library and one special room on second floor to be removed to enlarge library to proper size for increased capacity; teachers' rest room to be provided west of library.

GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Plans for widening Fisher Road pavement from 20 to 46 feet between Kercheval Avenue and Grosse Pointe Boulevard at the new Grosse Pointe High School grounds are being drawn by F. P. Walter, engineer of Grosse Pointe Farms, at the direction of the Council. How large a sewer will be needed in Fisher Road to replace the present 12 to 15 inch pipe is also being studied. Opening up of Kercheval Avenue 80 feet wide through the village from Fisher to Moross Road has also been ordered by the Council. Grosse Pointe Farm's proposed zoning ordinance, on which a hearing was held by the Council on September 15, is still awaiting a few minor changes before passing.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

<p>U. S. POSTAGE 1½c Paid Detroit, Michigan Permit No. 335</p>
--