

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

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## VILLAGE STUDIES FOUR PLANS TO COVER DITCH

A preliminary report on the proposed covering of the Black Marsh Ditch through Grosse Pointe Village has been made to the Council by Mason L. Brown & Company, consulting engineers.

All the drainage area tributary to Fox Creek will have to be pumped in the near future, the engineer points out, prior to making his recommendations. The capacity of the proposed high-level closed sewer in the Black Marsh Ditch through Grosse Pointe Park, 762 cu. ft. per second, will care for the run-off in that village for several years, according to the engineer, because the problem in the Park entails only elimination of natural flow.

Ultimate need of a relief sewer at Cadieux and Moross Roads to provide for run-off of storm water six to eight times yearly is anticipated under the plan adopted by Grosse Pointe Park. Any limiting of the capacity of the Grosse Pointe Village outlet for Fox Creek should be regarded as inimical to the Village, the engineer declared, unless positive and legal means are provided for future relief. This statement does not mean that the proposed high-level sewer in Grosse Pointe Park jeopardizes the village rights of Grosse Pointe Village, the engineer added, since these rights may be amply protected by an agreement between parties concerned that the Cadieux Road overflow will be built when necessary, the cost to be prorated against all area contributing run-off.

The following four plans for improvement of Fox Creek, or Black Marsh Ditch as it is called, are open to the Village of Grosse Pointe, the engineer declares:

(1) Continue the proposed Grosse Pointe Park high-level, gravity sewer of 762 c. f. s. capacity in the creek bed from Cadieux Road to Fisher Road. Cut the present storm water sewers into this sewer. This plan would cost an estimated \$350,000 and would be the most economical for an immediate job, according to the engineer. But he points out that in a few years this sewer would begin to flood and the village be forced to build an interceptor and pump into the Fox

Creek high-level sewer. When that time came, the Village could join Detroit in the construction of the Cadieux Road overflow. However, the engineer declares that within a period of from five to ten years this high-level construction would have to be duplicated with a low-level sewer in order to properly serve the run-off from the Village.

(2) Construct immediately a low-level sewer of 762 c. f. s. capacity in Fox Creek with a pumping station at Cadieux Road, pumping into the proposed Grosse Pointe Park sewer. Ultimately, of course, the Village would join Detroit in the construction of the Cadieux Road overflow. This project, the engineer declares, would assure the Village of an ultimate solution of its problem. This sewer would be placed deep enough to take care of the sanitary sewers, also, thus eliminating the necessity for operating the disposal plant.

(3) Construct the sewer the same as in No. 2 but arrange with Detroit to pump this sewer with the station it proposes to erect for pumping the Rivard sewer on the basis of an annual pumping charge. Because Detroit must pump the discharge from the proposed Rivard sewer, the engineer points out that it would be cheaper under this plan to pump the combined flows in one station than for the Village of Grosse Pointe to build and maintain its own station as in plan No. 2. Under plan No. 3, the Village would be relieved of the high initial cost of construction and would benefit by a lower annual pumping charge.

(4) Construct a low-level sewer of 762 c. f. s. capacity in Fox Creek from Fisher Road to Rivard Blvd., and of 1,800 c. f. s. capacity from Rivard Boulevard to Cadieux Road, to take the flow from Detroit's Rivard sewer in addition to the storm water from the Village and area east. Give Detroit a right-of-way to construct their Rivard sewer in tunnel from Mack to Fox Creek. Charge the city an annual rental for its use of the Fox Creek sewer from Rivard to Cadieux, or get the city to pay its proportion of the cost of construction and maintenance. The disadvantage of this scheme, according to the engineer, is the fact that it includes the City of Detroit in the strictly local problem of covering the Ditch through the Village.

Under any of the foregoing plans, the engineer believes it should be possible for the Village to collect a reasonable charge from the villages on the east for providing an outlet. This charge should cover both outlet and pumping service so that eventually the Village would normally expect to pay pumping charges equivalent to natural run-off.

The estimates of the costs of the various projects reveal that a high-level project, No. 1, could be installed

for approximately \$350,000, exclusive of pumping and disposal. The low-level projects should not cost more than \$500,000 in any case, according to the engineer, and this figure, he declares, might be substantially lowered under project No. 4.

The report of the engineer informs the Council that the Wayne County Drain Commissioner has released no rights to the Village of Grosse Pointe Park, "and it is understood that before so doing he will formulate a general scheme for sewerage of the Fox Creek basin. He will then be prepared to release all rights under his jurisdiction to any village contemplating improvements, conditioned upon the installation of a sewer which meets his general recommendations. This method of procedure will insure the protection of Village rights to all tributary area and at the same time treat the problem as a whole."

## PROPOSED PARK SITE IS PUT UP TO COMMITTEE

A committee of citizens has been appointed by the President and Village Commission of Grosse Pointe Park to investigate possible sites and to estimate costs of a lake front park on Lake St. Clair in the Village of Grosse Pointe Park. Members of the committee are:

Fred Sutter, Chairman, 1000 Kensington Road; Charles S. Cole, 1014 Kensington Road; E. P. Bayne, 1350 Nottingham Road; Norbert A. Hoffman, 1339 Balfour Road; Louis DeHayes, 956 Pemberton Road; John Machesky, 15402 Jefferson Ave.; W. W. Hannan, 1005 Whittier.

The committee is expected to report its findings and recommendations to the Commission as soon as it is able to complete its survey and study. Grosse Pointe Park is the only village with lake frontage in Grosse Pointe Township which lacks a public park on Lake St. Clair. Suggestions at various times in the past have failed to materialize in results, but the demands of residents this summer have been of such an insistent nature that action now seems more than likely.

## 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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### TRANSPORTATION OR CENTRAL LOCATION?

When the Board of Education voted on August 20th to cease providing free transportation for junior and senior high school students and for elementary school students in the Trombly and Defer districts, it thereby committed itself to the standard policy of providing centrally located schools within reasonable walking distance of the homes of such students.

The law under which a consolidated school district operates specifically states: "The board of education shall provide a sufficient number of vehicles for the transportation of pupils from and to their homes . . . Provided that the school board shall not be compelled to transport pupils who live within one mile of the consolidated school house."

Until Grosse Pointe's proposed junior high schools are built, the seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders from every part of this 10-square-mile district will be compelled to travel to and from the present high school building at Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard. If transportation costs are to be reduced in a fair and legal manner, it is obvious that the Board must provide not only centrally located elementary schools but also centrally located junior high schools.

A suggestion has been made by a member of the Board to locate one of the proposed three junior high schools on a site which has been reserved for an elementary school. Such action would be ill-advised, for it would deprive the elementary district of a centrally located site, while at the same time it would place the junior high school far from the center of population and territory it is designed to serve.

Clearly the Board must choose either transportation of students or central location of schools.

### SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET EXCEEDS HALF MILLION

The budget adopted by the Board of Education for 1928-29 calls for raising of \$546,503.29 in taxes. A total of \$365,646.49 was voted last year. The large items contributing to this year's increase include increases of \$37,719.50 for operation, \$68,326 for debt service and \$69,607 for instruction.

For the first time, a delinquent tax deficiency fund has been authorized with a maximum of \$100,000. The amount to be raised this year is \$50,000. The auditors have made a detailed report of all unpaid taxes due the school district from Grosse Pointe Township. It reveals that for 1925 the sum of \$5,038.56 is still due the Board; 1926, \$15,106.50; 1927, \$40,755.19.

How loosely drawn last year's budget was is revealed in the auditor's report, which shows overdrafts in 18 individual appropriations totaling \$54,053.83. Despite this large amount of overdrafts, the deficit for the year amounts to only \$2,434.99.

In compiling this year's budget, great care has been taken to estimate costs as closely as possible and to separate various items into greater detail in order to obtain a more accurate estimate of expenses, according to Dr. S. M. Brownell, superintendent.

The percentage of the budget for 1928-29 devoted to administration is 6.1; operation, 13.6; maintenance, 1.4; tax charges, 2.8; instruction, 36.5; capital outlay, 1.6; auxiliary accounts, 2.3; debt service, 34.8.

### TOWNSHIP VALUATION SET AT \$124,000,000

The assessed valuation of Grosse Pointe Township for 1928-29 was announced in August as \$124,114,541, an increase of more than \$10,000,000 over last year's total of \$113,916,552. This increase was nearly double that of the increase the previous year, due in large part to an equalization of assessments in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Village lake front district and the addition of approximately \$4,000,000 in personal assessments. Township assessments are designed to be approximately 75 per cent of actual value.

Personal taxes were increased from \$23,197,032 to \$27,351,606. Approximately half a million of the increase was placed on the book arbitrarily by the assessor because taxpayers failed to make returns.

### BOY-GOVERNOR HONORED IN NAMING NEW SCHOOL

The Board of Education last month decided to honor the first Governor of Michigan in naming the new school being erected in the Village of Lochmoor. It has been designated the Stevens T. Mason School.

Governor Mason, known as the "Boy Governor," is one of the most interesting historical figures in Michigan. Under his administration the public school system of the State was organized and the first superintendent of public instruction appointed.

Because of Governor Mason's wise and enthusiastic support of the public school program, honoring his name focuses attention on the history of the State and upon the courageous and substantial men who paved the way for the advantages which we and our children are enjoying today.

### ATHLETIC FIELD TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR

A contract for the finishing of the high school grounds and athletic field at a cost of \$32,190 was awarded Travis Brothers by the Board of Education this summer. Completion is scheduled for December 1st.

The high school site extends from Grosse Pointe Boulevard to Kercheval Avenue and from Fisher Road eastward approximately 600 feet. It contains slightly more than 22 acres. The building, together with walks and drives, occupies approximately seven acres. Rough grading of the other 15 acres was completed this spring while the front lawn received the finished grade, was seeded and shrubs planted. Quicksand has been the chief cause of delay in completion of the grounds, which, when completed, will have a full-sized, tile-drained football gridiron encircled by a quarter-mile cinder track with a 220-yard straightaway. Jumping and vaulting beds with cinder approach will be provided in the area at one end of the gridiron between the goal posts and the track. Eight limestone tennis courts are to be within easy access of the building. There will also be areas for field hockey, baseball, softball, soccer, quoits and archery. The plans also call for a maple-shaded gravel lane along Fisher Road from the school to Kercheval Avenue, which will act as a screen for the athletic field and an avenue of approach to the beautiful high school building.

**TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION**  
(Article No. 4)

Avoidance of duplication of effort by township and villages has proved its worth in the matter of health and educational functions. These two branches require, for their successful administration, a person in charge who has specialized training. After an enabling act was passed by the state legislature in 1917, permitting two or more villages to combine their health work, the four Grosse Pointe villages then in existence voted favorably upon the question of centralizing health work and organized the present Board of Health in October, 1917, the first board of its kind in the state.

The health board is composed of a representative from each village, elected by the village council. The board employs a doctor of medicine to direct its activities. This is a step in advance of usual township health organization where the township board is also the board of health. Though the Village of Lochmoor has not yet voted to be included in the health district, its welfare is looked after by the Board of Health.

In 1920, the elementary school districts in the township voted to consolidate in a single district under the Rural Agricultural School Act. The present single Board of Education, elected at large from the entire township, operates all the schools for the entire area covered by the township. This has permitted a well-rounded program of school building, crowned recently by construction of the beautiful Grosse Pointe High School. Consolidation has permitted improvement in the school system that would have been well-nigh impossible if each village had constituted a separate school district.

**City May Be Solution**

Services rendered by the five village governments in Grosse Pointe Township include police, fire, water supply, street cleaning and repair, paving and sewers, garbage removal and the like. In other words, the villages perform those municipal services which are not cared for by some other governmental organization, and furnish other units of government which must be supervised by the voters at election time.

The success of the health and school boards indicates that consoli-

dation of smaller units into groups that can afford to secure the services of qualified administrators results in improved administration for the citizens of the township. This success suggests also that perhaps a consolidation of the villages into one city, with accompanying economies and improved service, would meet with approval of the electorate if properly presented.

*(The next article in this series will discuss supervisor's duties.)*

**SCHOOLS EXPECT 2,500**

Grosse Pointe public school pupils were to start the new school year Wednesday, September 5th. Teachers new and old were called together for final organization the day previous. More than 2,000 former pupils were expected to return, in addition to approximately 400 new pupils.

Elementary school pupils enrolling for the first time are expected to bring report cards or certificates of promotion while junior and senior high school pupils, new in Grosse Pointe, are required to register at the office of the high school principal before September 5th. High school enrollment is expected to jump from 720 to 900.

School district boundaries remain the same as during the past year:

*Cadieux:* Bishop Road to McMillan and from Lake St. Clair to the middle of Mack Avenue.

*Defer:* City limits to Yorkshire Road and from St. Paul to Mack Avenue.

*Trombly:* City limits to Yorkshire Road and from Lake St. Clair up to but not including St. Paul.

*Kerby:* East of McMillan to Weir Lane and all territory from Lake St. Clair to the middle of Mack Avenue.

*Vernier:* All territory from Weir Lane to the County Line and from Lake St. Clair to Dufflo Road.

At its meeting on August 20th, the Board of Education decided that junior and senior high school students would be sold transportation tickets at cost in the future, instead of receiving them gratis. It was decided to grant free transportation to all elementary school pupils outside of the Trombly and Defer districts who live more than a mile from an elementary school, except those who voluntarily go outside their own district.

Opening dates of other schools in Grosse Pointe: St. Paul, St. Ambrose, St. Clair, September 4th; Grosse Pointe Private School, Detroit University School, September 19th; Jennings Country Day School, September 25th.

**PARK SEPARATES POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

A separation of police and fire departments in Grosse Pointe Park has been effected this spring by William P. Shoemaker, commissioner of public safety, with the approval of the Commission. Action was taken after a survey indicated that separation of the duties of firemen and policemen would result in greater efficiency.

Further efficiency and an effort to obtain a reduction in insurance rates for the village are the objects of plans for construction of a fire hall on the playground facing Maryland Avenue, adjacent to the Municipal Building.

Officers of the new departments are:

**POLICE**

Chief.....James C. Drysdale  
Lieut.....George A. Wallace  
Sergt.....D. J. Logan  
Sergt.....R. Mead  
Sergt.....Jos. Vernier

**FIRE**

Chief.....Richard Holme  
Capt.....Edward Rector  
Lieut.....Edward Brinkman

Of the 41 men in the old combined police and fire force, 22 patrolmen have been assigned to the new police force and eleven transferred to the new fire department. Seven new policemen and four new firemen have been engaged, a total of eleven added to the payroll.

The 1927 budget provided \$84,360 for 41 men. The 1928 budget provides \$80,820 for personnel of the police department, including a chief, a lieutenant, three sergeants, and 29 patrolmen; and \$42,900 for personnel of the fire department, including a chief, captain, lieutenant and 15 firemen. The increase over 1927 is \$39,360.

To insure a trained fire-fighting personnel, Commissioner Shoemaker has arranged for attendance by Grosse Pointe Park firemen at special instruction classes given by officers of the Detroit Fire Department.

The contract for the new fire hall to be built in Grosse Pointe Park on Maryland Avenue, just north of Jefferson Avenue, was let to Ed. P. Chase on a bid of \$62,475. Charles L. Phelps is the architect.

The enrollment for the summer session in Grosse Pointe public schools totaled 194.

## TEACHERS' COMMITTEE ABOLISHED BY BOARD

A progressive step in administration of school affairs was taken at a special meeting of the Board of Education on July 27th when a motion by Trustee Charles A. Parcels, seconded by Trustee Charles A. Poupard, to abolish the teachers' committee, carried unanimously. The superintendent's recommendations for appointments will in future be acted upon by the whole Board in regular session.

New teachers appointed this summer by the superintendent, with the approval of the Board of Education, included the following:

**Dorothy Kieren**, fourth grade, three years' experience, graduated from Duluth (Minnesota) College.

**Edith F. Manierre**, second grade, one year's experience, graduated from National Kindergarten College, Evanston, Ill.

**Elvera Hjerstedt**, third grade, six years' experience, graduated from University of Michigan.

**Ruth Bockes**, fourth and fifth grade, ten years' experience, graduated from Michigan State Normal College.

**Louis E. Vedder**, physical education teacher for elementary school, had three summers' experience as supervisor of playgrounds in Detroit and three years' training in physical education at Ypsilanti.

**Donald R. Campbell**, English and arithmetic teacher at Junior High School, received A. B. at Alma College, and completed one year graduate work at Harvard University.

**Geo. F. Platts**, English and spelling teacher at Junior High School,

A. B. at Salem College. Spent two summer sessions at University of Michigan and has had two years' experience.

**Alice Roberts**, third grade teacher, 5 years' experience, life certificate from Western State Normal. One year at Hillsdale College.

**Virginia Ward**, 5th grade, one year experience, life certificate Michigan State Normal.

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

A library committee which is to confer with the Board of Education for the purpose of establishing a public library has been appointed by P. Hudson Bradley, president, in compliance with a resolution adopted at the annual meeting in June. The committee's personnel announced in August was as follows: Mrs. Henry B. Joy, Mr. Murray W. Sales, Mr. Daniel J. Crowley, Mrs. Strathearn Hendrie, Mr. John R. Russel, Mrs. Chas. A. Parcels, Mr. Fred Shipman, Mr. D. M. Ferry, Jr.

The only public library in Grosse Pointe Township at present is a branch of the Wayne County Library located at Waterloo and St. Clair Avenues in a small building next to the Neighborhood Club.

## \$5,000 HEATING EXTRA IS BEING ARBITRATED

A request by Carl S. Barry, general contractor on the new Grosse Pointe High School, for a heating extra amounting to approximately \$5,000 for heating the building from December 1, 1927, to February 1, 1928, is being submitted to arbitration. The attorney for the Board of Education advises the Board that under the contract the

cost of heating the high school was to be borne by the contractor until completion of the school. George J. Haas, architect, who inserted the specific clause under which the attorney feels the contractor obligated himself to bear the heating expense, has advised the Board that while it was his intention that this expense be borne by the contractor, he believes the delay in completion of the building caused by quicksand was due to no fault of the contractor's and therefore the extra heating expense should be borne by the Board.

## HEAVY TRAFFIC DRAWS PROTESTS OF RESIDENTS

A petition containing 105 signatures of property owners on Kercheval and Goethe Avenues was presented to the Council of the Village of Grosse Pointe last month asking legislation to prohibit the operation of commercial vehicles on Waterloo and Charlevoix Avenues and connecting streets between Kercheval and Goethe, except vehicles carrying building improvement or maintenance supplies for local property.

The objections as to heavy traffic were listed in the petition as follows:

1. The unpleasant noise.
2. The fact that the vibration from the trucks cracks plaster and damages houses and furnishings.
3. The trucks jeopardize personal safety, especially that of children.
4. Heavy trucking destroys pavements and is costly to taxpayers.

The Council deferred action in the matter pending the study of the heavy traffic situation and conference with authorities in other villages in the township.

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