

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

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OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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GEORGE OSIUS HONORED FOR 17 YEARS' PUBLIC SERVICE

COMMEMORATING the 17 years of public service which George Osius, past president, has contributed to the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, the village council in October presented him with a handsomely bound testimonial containing the record of his progressive and painstaking achievements as reflected in the well-governed, beautiful, lake-shore community which he this year turned over to other hands to carry on.

Commenting on the signal tribute of his fellow-citizens, The Detroit News on November 10th pointed out that no man could desire a better monument than such whole-hearted recognition of his public service.

"The Village of Grosse Pointe Shores," said The News' editorial, "has taken praiseworthy action in circulating the resolution adopted by the Council on the retirement of George Osius as president of the village, after a service of 17 years without pay.

"Without pay, but not without remuneration, for as the resolution shows, Mr. Osius has accomplished a splendid work, and has his reward in the satisfaction of seeing his far-sighted plans coming to perfection. Here is a village which appreciates the value of its water front. First of all the communities in this section it has planned a wide road on the shore of Lake St. Clair, and easy access for its people to all water-side pleasures, summer and winter. And that was only one of many activities which Mr. Osius has planned, fostered and carried through for the good of the community in which he dwells.

"The testimonial deserves wide reading. It should stimulate other men to similar endeavor. It should increase the rivalry of the various municipalities of this district in self-improvement. No better monument could any man desire than such whole-hearted recognition of his public service."

Ever a constructive and far-sighted leader in his own community, Mr. Osius was also sensible of the necessity of co-operation with neighboring areas in the best interests of all. In 1917 he took the lead in organiz-

ing the Grosse Pointe Health District, first in getting the necessary special legislation and then in serving several years as president of the Board of Health.

"The enactment of a zoning ordinance in 1924," says the testimonial, "sponsored by Mr. Osius, has proved to be of immeasurable benefit. . . . The most notable recent improvements on the program planned by him as president are the widening and paving of the Lake Shore Road and the building of a new outer and inner harbor. . . . It is noteworthy that all these projects were carried out so harmoniously that whenever a bond issue was required to finance any needed improvement, it was usually voted by the electors without a dissenting vote. . . . The taxpayers realize fully the great care with which he scrutinized all public expenditures. . . . He inspired and held the complete confidence of the entire vil-

lage, and in consequence the electors paid him the unique tribute and distinction of returning him to the office of president for seventeen successive years (unanimously, on all but one occasion). . . . He retires as president voluntarily only to secure a much needed and well earned rest. . . . By such a legacy of service, Mr. Osius has indelibly written his personality and character into the progressive development of this community, which will doubtless for many years to come recall his achievements with pride and gratitude."

The testimonial was signed by Hobart B. Hoyt, president pro tem; Harry Mulford Jewett, Edward R. Grace, John T. Hurley, Clarence J. Chandler, Ford Ballantyne, trustees; William E. Roney, Alex I. McLeod, Benjamin S. Warren, Abner E. Larned, past trustees; Fred A. Behr, president; William M. Mertz, attorney; William C. Roney, clerk; and A. H. Bennett, superintendent.

PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON SCHOOL SITES

A public hearing on the proposed location of junior high school sites is to be held by the Board of Education on Monday, November 19th, at 8 p. m., in the auditorium of the Grosse Pointe High School, Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard. The Board has been considering the advisability of a two-, three- or four-junior-high-school plan for the district. The effect which each of these plans would have upon the ratio of public school area to total village area is given below:

	At Present				
	Park	Village	Farms	Shores	Lochmoor
Total Area (Acres).....	1,408	686	1,713	603	2,141
Public School Area.....	14	8	28	.5	13
Ratio to Total.....	1%	1.3%	1.6%	.08%	.6%
Under Two-Junior-High School Plan					
Total Area (Acres).....	1,408	686	1,713	603	2,141
Public School Area.....	14	16	28	.5	21
Ratio to Total.....	1%	2.6%	1.6%	.08%	1%
Under Three-Junior-High-School Plan					
Total Area (Acres).....	1,408	686	1,713	603	2,141
Public School Area.....	21	8	35	.5	21
Ratio to Total.....	1.5%	1.3%	2%	.08%	1%
Under Four-Junior-High-School Plan					
Total Area (Acres).....	1,408	686	1,713	603	2,141
Public School Area.....	21	8	32	.5	21
Ratio to Total.....	1.5%	1.3%	1.8%	.08%	1%

The taking of land for schools removes it from the tax rolls. With this in mind, as well as other factors, primarily centrality of location, the Board of Education has always sought an equitable distribution of school sites.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

P. O. Address, 51 Warren Ave., W., Detroit

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WHAT ARE THE FACTS IN THE BEACH-PARK PLAN?

The facts so far established are, briefly as follows:

1. There is a general public sentiment in Grosse Pointe Park favorable to acquiring park access to the lake.

2. A committee has recommended to the Commission an 11-acre site with 750 feet lake frontage at the foot of Trombley Road.

3. The Commission has ordered its engineer to survey the recommended site and has instructed its attorney to proceed with condemnation.

4. Opponents of public purchase of so much expensive and undeveloped lake frontage have suggested that a more centrally located, six-acre site, fully developed and about half as costly, is available for immediate use, with 200 feet frontage on Jefferson Avenue, the main thoroughfare of the village, as well as 200 feet frontage on Lake St. Clair.

Other facts remain to be established. Some of the unsettled questions are the following, which ought to be answered before a final, intelligent decision should be made:

1. How large a lake park should be obtained? If it were desirable to provide now and in this one spot for the time when the village's 1,408 acres will be fully built up with a population of about 20,000, then, on the basis of five per cent of area for recreational purposes recommended by city planners, a 70-acre site should be obtained.

2. Is it desirable to have all the village's recreational facilities concentrated in expensive lake frontage?

3. How much frontage is necessary to provide access to the lake? The Village has a four-acre park with 170 feet of lake frontage. The Farms' lake-front park is a little larger, 4.85 acres. The Shores' Park, now being completed, is about 6 acres. Lochmoor, of course, is dependent on the Shores for access to the lake. Both the Farms and Village contemplate increasing recreational facilities at their parks by extension of piers to accommodate more boats and more bathers farther out in the lake. It is

well known that one must go out in the lake several hundred feet to reach a satisfactory swimming depth.

4. What kind of beach have the two sites in question? Sand-sucking activities, some of which contributed to the filling in of the "made-land" which the Commission now proposes to purchase for a park, have often been noted by residents. Are there dangerous spots left in the lake? Have bacteria tests been made to determine relative purity of water at both sites?

5. What will be the cost of developing a large piece of filled-in, low-lying land, drainage, roadways, landscaping, etc.? At \$10,000 an acre, an 11-acre site would require more than \$100,000. The scheme of development and its cost should be known if voters are to make an intelligent decision.

6. What is the location of these proposed sites with reference to other recreation areas? The Trombley school site and the Defer school site are the village's only other public recreation places at present. The Defer serves the northwest area, the Trombley the southwest. The latter is but a few blocks from the proposed 11-acre park site. The six-acre site is more central for a larger portion of the village than the 11-acre site, and is also in the eastern half where there are now no recreation areas.

7. Is it legal and businesslike for the Village Commission to obligate the taxpayers by a condemnation suit for a particular site before the site and the money for its acquisition have been authorized at the polls? The present procedure of the Commission puts the cart before the horse. The officials are spending the money and then asking for approval of the expense account. If approval is given, the expenditure of course will be legalized. What if approval should be withheld, as was the case in Detroit's recent vote on a proposed \$20,000,000 bond issue for a city-county building project?

COURSE OF LECTURES TO START ON NOV. 30TH

A program of five lectures by celebrated speakers has been arranged for the season of 1928-29 in the Grosse Pointe High School auditorium by a committee on arrangements of which Dr. Hugh Stalker, 533 Neff Road, is chairman. The lecturers and the dates for which they have been obtained: Capt. George Finlay Simmons, November 30th; Albert Edward Wig-gam, December 14th, Roy Chapman Andrews, January 23rd; Guy Maier, February 22nd; and Prof. Stanley T. Williams, March 29th.

Capt. Simmons, who will be heard first, is curator of ornithology of

the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. A zoologist and explorer, he has twice visited the dread Sargasso Sea in a blue-water windjammer, has been wrecked on Pirates Beach, Treasure Island, and has had other adventures and experiences in strange places, including Napoleon's lonely home at St. Helena.

Season tickets for the Grosse Pointe Lectures are being sold for \$5 to defray expenses, reservations being accepted by mail or telephone by Dr. Stalker, Lenox 4139. The project has the approval of the Board of Education, Trustee Fred Sutter having been appointed to the committee by President P. Hudson Bradley. Other members include the Misses Olive Ann Brown and Katherine S. Russel, Mesdames Joseph L. Hickey, Theodore A. McGraw, Jr., Richard M. Morgan, Charles A. Parcels, Earle W. Parcels, Joseph M. Parsons, Charles L. Phelps, Henry H. Sanger, John N. Stalker and Mr. Mark Sibley.

Guarantors of the course are the following: Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Barbour, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Booth, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Bulkley, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Butler, Mr. Henry M. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Dalby, Mr. and Mrs. Dexter M. Ferry, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. William W. Hannan, Mrs. Louis N. Hilsendegen, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Hodges, Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Joy, Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Joy, Mr. and Mrs. A. Russel Keys, Mr. E. E. McCrone, Mrs. Arthur McGraw, Mrs. Charles L. Palms, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Parcels, Dr. and Mrs. Walter R. Parker, Mrs. Morse Rohnert, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Rumney, Mr. John R. Russel, Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Sanger, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scotten, Mr. and Mrs. Fred M. Sibley, Mr. and Mrs. Howard F. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sutter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Warren, and Mr. and Mrs. Willard S. Worcester.

ZONING ORDINANCE IS PASSED BY THE FARMS

The zoning ordinance that has been under consideration in Grosse Pointe Farms for more than a year was adopted by the village council on November 5th. The Hoch parcel of property at Moross Road and Lakeshore Drive, which was the principal stumbling-block since zoning was proposed, has been put in Class A residence district. All of Grosse Pointe Township is now protected by zoning legislation, with the exception of Lochmoor Village.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION (Article No. 6)

Readers of Civic News who have been following this series of articles describing the antique township government with which Grosse Pointe is saddled, despite its mature urban development, have been asking themselves and their neighbors why it wouldn't be a good thing to consolidate the entire Grosse Pointe district under a single city government.

"Why have five or six governments where one could handle the job more efficiently and be more easily supervised by the voters?"

"Consolidation, of course, is the sensible thing for Grosse Pointe's five villages. Little provincial groups at present are threatening to break up the municipal unity represented by the consolidated Board of Education by bringing local pressure to bear in determining location of a school site. The schools were placed under a central authority to avoid just that thing, but local village ideas are being injected, nevertheless. Consolidation would speed up municipal progress, get singleness of purpose and singleness of service organized so the whole Grosse Pointe district can go ahead unhampered by little provincialisms—to the great benefit of all the people. Grosse Pointe must advance or lose ground already gained. The time seems ripe for a public-spirited attempt to progress.

The township board consists of the supervisor, the clerk, and the two justices of the peace whose offices soonest expire. The treasurer is not a member of the board, although he attends the meetings, and while not allowed to vote, has the authority to refuse to issue any money for a purpose which he considers illegal.

The revised statutes of 1846, under which the township is working to a great extent, provide for an annual settlement of all claims at the time of the audit of the bills. Such leisurely methods do not conform with our present ideas, and so the township board now meets twice a month to pass on all expense items incurred by the township.

The present township law provides for an annual meeting to be attended by all township electors, modeled after the New England town meeting. But just as the New England town meeting failed to meet the changing times, so the township annual meeting has been discontinued by the larger townships and the duties assumed by the township board. Thus, the township board now votes the moneys to be raised by taxation, with a limit

of one-half of one per cent on the assessed valuation of the township. It also receives the budgets of other units, such as the health and school districts, but is not allowed to change them in any way.

Other business that comes before the township board includes authorization of salaries and compensation paid township and election officials, awarding contracts, investment of sinking funds, etc. The supervisor, clerk and treasurer do not receive extra compensation for attending board meetings, but the two justices of the peace receive \$5 for each meeting, which is the amount fixed by statute.

The board of review of the township has charge of equalization and approval of the assessments in the township. It is composed of the supervisor as chairman, and two taxpayers elected alternate years for a two-year term. They hear any complaints of the taxpayers, making corrections, alterations and additions as they see fit. When the board approves the roll, it becomes the official assessment roll for the state, county, good roads, school, township and health tax to be raised that year. The meetings are held early in June and continue for about three days.

The board of elections of the township is the township board. The duties are concerned with the printing, and distribution of the ballots for elections and fixing the compensation of election officials.

The board of registration is also the township board, but other officials may be appointed by the township board, as necessary.

(The next article in this series will describe the duties of the clerk and treasurer.)

LIBRARY COMMITTEE DECIDES ON A SURVEY

At the first meeting of the new library committee with the Board of Education at the board offices in Grosse Pointe High School on October 1st, a motion was passed calling for a survey to determine the present library needs as well as future requirements of the Grosse Pointe district. It was the unanimous opinion of the Board and the committee that any steps toward increasing present facilities should take into consideration and should be co-ordinated with present activity to avoid duplication and unnecessary expense.

Adam Strohm, Detroit librarian, will probably be asked to supervise the proposed survey, the object being to uncover the needs of the district and report them to the library committee. The committee will then be in a position to advise the district's taxpayers and prospective donors of memorial gifts, through its recommendations to the Board, as to the wisest expenditures possible in this direction.

Grosse Pointe is at present served by a branch of the Wayne County Library Association, supervised by the Neighborhood Club and located in a cement block cottage at Waterloo and St. Clair Avenues. Before the club was given its present 7½-acre site, on which the new clubhouse was erected last year, the library was conducted in a very small way in the old club building on Oak Street.

Since moving into its new quarters a year ago the library has noticed a tremendous interest in reading, Mrs. Edgar B. Whitcomb, chairman of the library committee of the Neighborhood Club, reports. A year ago there were 800 books on the shelves. Now there are 3,261. And during a single month this summer, August, 2,429 books were taken out by patrons. The library's sponsors believe that it is meeting present demands of the district with books adequate in quality, variety and quantity. Its capacity for usefulness, it is estimated by Mrs. Whitcomb, may be enlarged as demand grows to 7,000 volumes, with a circulation of 5,000.

As a part of the Wayne County Library System, the Grosse Pointe villages are entitled to books and administrative services of a trained librarian. (No taxes are levied for this library system, its support coming from fines paid in justice courts and recorder's courts in Wayne County.) Rent or buildings, heat, light and furniture are supplied by the localities having libraries. Branch libraries are empowered to establish sub-stations, and the Grosse Pointe branch has started one sub-station in Grosse Pointe Shores and is contemplating establishment of others, one in Lochmoor and one in Grosse Pointe Park. Books are interchanged by all libraries in the system.

As soon as a village or unincorporated area becomes a city, the

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county library system support ceases. Such will be the case this year, for example, in Lincoln Park. This year's budget of the Wayne County Library System totals \$75,000, according to Miss Loleta Dawson, supervisor. The Board of Supervisors voted \$61,000 for its support. Local support is relied on for the remaining 20 per cent.

IRREGULARITIES IN SEWER BIDDING CHARGED IN SUIT

Twelve bids for the proposed Fox Creek sewer job in Grosse Pointe Park were received by the Village Commission on October 26th, as follows: Callahan & Gross, \$497,000; Detroit Drainage Construction Company, \$547,425; Mark R. Hanna, \$565,828; Fred Bisball, \$577,000; S. A. Healy, \$613,000; Thomas D. Nolan, \$619,451; Spencer, White & Prentis, \$668,000; State's Contracting Company, \$715,000; Lennane & McIlvenna, \$725,000; Blank & Gargaro, \$728,560; J. Mercier-Brandon Company, \$738,000; R. D. Baker, \$764,965.

On November 2nd, an order to show cause why the village officials should not be restrained from considering all bids was granted Mark R. Hanna, 1048 Yorkshire Road, by Judge Guy A. Miller of the Circuit Court. Mr. Hanna charged irregularities, saying he was unable to get a set of specifications on which to base a bid until October 23rd, three days before the bids were

opened. He charged further that the figures on the low bid of \$497,000 were so blurred the night the bids were opened that it was difficult to tell whether the bid read "\$497,000" or "\$477,000." When he asked to see the low bid later, Mr. Hanna charges that he was shown a clean page reading "\$497,000."

Whether or not Mr. Hanna's suit succeeds in having all bids thrown out, it would seem a wise course under the circumstances for the village commission to safeguard the interests of taxpayers by providing a reliable inspection service so that whoever gets the contract may be held to strict account for fulfillment of its provisions.

(Mr. Hanna's suit was dismissed on November 9th.)

NEW HOSPITAL OPEN

November witnessed the opening of the new \$250,000, two-story and basement Cottage Hospital on Kercheval Avenue at the head of Mapleton Road. Spick and span, in its attractive white covering, the building was a revelation to visitors, who compared it with the cottage rented by Baroness von Ketteler (nee Maud Ledyard) during the war.

Tired and sick eyes inside find, in place of the usual chilly whiteness, soft greens, yellows, tans throughout. In the children's wing, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Murray W. Sales, decorations by the French

artist, Laine-Lamphere, are designed to catch childish fancy. From basement to roof, every detail shows the careful thought of ministering to patients. Financing of the structure was obtained largely through legacies by Mrs. Phillip H. McMillan, A. M. Henry, Burns Henry, Miss Jessie S. Hendrie and Mr. and Mrs. Sales.

Gifts announced included memorials as follows: Lady John Harrington (nee Amy McMillan), operating suite; Mr. and Mrs. Truman H. Newberry, laboratory; Mrs. Edwin H. Lodge, Mrs. Hayward N. Hoyt, and Mrs. Henry G. Sherrard, out-patient department; Mrs. John S. Newberry, X-ray department; John S. Newberry, internes' suite; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence D. Buhl, isolation department; Mrs. Henry B. Joy, superintendent's suite; estate of Mrs. John Wynne, coat room; Mr. and Mrs. James S. Holden and Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Wardwell, each one of the sun rooms; the Misses Hodges, Charles H., Clarence and F. W. Hodges, a private room; Mr. and Mrs. John G. Rumney, F. W. Brooks, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McMillan, Mrs. Edwin S. Barbour, Mrs. John W. Staley, Baroness von Ketteler, Mrs. Phelps Newberry and Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Whitcomb, each a private room, and a private room in memory of Miss Jessie S. Hendrie.

Other donors include: Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Sheldon, the creche; Mr. and Mrs. Russell A. Alger, a ward cubicle; a group of close friends of Mrs. Eleanor Standart, a nurses' station in her memory; Mrs. Richard P. Joy, two infants' cribs; Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Mason P. Rumney, Cooper Ward, Mr. and Mrs. John V. Redfield and Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Doughty, cribs. Other gifts and memorials are expected. The dedicatory address on November 4th was made by William J. Norton, secretary of the Detroit Community Fund.

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Citizens Association

OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

51 West Warren Ave.
Detroit, Mich.

Ignorance breeds suspicion. Full knowledge is the only sure basis of confidence in organized society.

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