

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

Vol. 6

DECEMBER, 1928

Number 6

TAX COLLECTION

On December 10th, the township treasurer began the collection of \$1,302,849.49 for state, county, good roads, schools, township and health purposes. As customary, all who paid taxes last year will be mailed a statement and may pay their taxes by mail without penalty until January 10th. After January 10th and up to March 1st a three per cent penalty is added.

For those who desire to pay in person, the treasurer has issued notice of office hours as follows:

Lochmoor Savings Bank, Tuesday, December 11th and Wednesday, January 2nd.

Municipal Building, Grosse Pointe Shores, Saturday, December 15th and Friday, January 4th.

Municipal Building, Grosse Pointe Farms, Thursday, December 13th and Thursday, January 3rd.

Township Hall, Grosse Pointe Village, Monday, December 17th, Saturday, January 5th.

The treasurer will also maintain office hours daily from December 10th to January 10th in the Municipal Building, Grosse Pointe Park, from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M.

Those who do not receive tax statements through the mail are requested to mail their application for such statements to the treasurer, Chas. A. Paye.

Of the 1928-9 winter tax dollar:

- \$.417 is for the public school system.
- \$.250 is for county government.
- \$.216 is for state government.
- \$.068 is for good roads (County).
- \$.034 is for township government.
- \$.015 is for health service.

Comparison of 1927-8 and 1928-9 taxes:

Purpose	Rate per	Rate per	Increase	Amount	Amount	Increase
	\$1,000	\$1,000				
	1927-8	1928-9	1928-9	1927-8	1928-9	1928-9
Township	\$.31	\$.35	\$0.04	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Schools	3.66	4.37	.71	416,000.00	546,503.29	130,503.29
Health .....	.20	.16	-.04	20,985.00	20,985.00	.....
State	2.82	2.26	-.56	320,469.83	279,445.62	-41,024.21
County	1.74	2.62	.88	198,290.13	324,116.73	125,826.60
Good Roads .....	.94	.72	-.22	106,640.22	88,798.85	-17,841.37
Totals	\$9.67	\$10.48	\$0.81	\$1,097,385.18	\$1,302,849.49	\$205,464.31

SEWER WORK PROGRESS

Work on the Black Marsh Ditch sewer in Grosse Pointe Park began on November 15th. The contract was awarded to Callahan & Gross on a bid of \$497,000. Under the arrangement between the Village of Grosse Pointe Park and the City of Detroit, the latter is to provide inspection service on the sewer. It is expected that the job will be completed by spring.

Grosse Pointe Village, which has had several plans for closing the Ditch under consideration, is expecting shortly to receive a recommendation and estimate of cost from its engineers.

A \$425,000 sewer system on which Grosse Pointe Farms began construction a year ago has been completed, with the exception of the sanitary interceptor in Lake Shore Road, and the system is expected to go into operation early in December. Until the Lake Shore Road sewer is built, only about half of the village's area containing approximately half of the village's population will be served by the partially completed system. All of the sewage is to be pumped to the Black Marsh Ditch where a pumping station and settling basin are now completed near Seven-Mile Road.

Negotiations

How soon work will begin on the Lake Shore interceptor is dependent on the outcome of negotiations under way between property owners and the village officials with regard to the location of a right-of-way for the project. Several lake-front property owners are endeavoring to effect an arrangement by which the village will turn over to owners the present 18-foot right-of-way of Lake Shore Road in return for the dedication to the village of a new right-of-way, partially on filled-in land

out in Lake St. Clair, to be provided by the property owners. Details of the plan have not as yet been completed but it is understood that the proposed new right-of-way would be less than half the width desired for this section of the Lake Shore Road by the Wayne County Road Commission.

The latter body is at present building a sea-wall in Grosse Pointe Shores between Weir Lane and Vernier Road, 70 feet out in Lake St. Clair, preparatory to widening and paving next year on a 120-foot right-of-way. Dedications to this 120-foot boulevard have been obtained by Grosse Pointe Shores in return for which the road commission is building the sea-wall and will lay two 27-foot strips of concrete through the Village, leaving a parkway between them. The road commission extended a similar offer to Grosse Pointe Farms but it has not been acted upon.

Lochmoor System

The Village of Lochmoor this month will place in operation its new sewer system, the pumping station and settling tank for which is located at the foot of Hollywood Avenue at the Black Marsh Ditch. A six-inch pump is expected to care for the normal dry water flow. It is anticipated that there will be an ordinary run-off of 150 gallons per minute. The six-inch pump capacity is 700 gallons per minute.

For emergencies in storms, two 24-inch pumps are available, one of which is intended as a stand-by pump. The total available capacity is 45,000 gallons per minute. The population of Lochmoor is at present estimated at 1,700. The sewer capacity, however, was determined by the street area in the village, which is approximately 48 acres.

At present only Mack Avenue, Vernier Road, and Lochmoor Boulevard are paved. Vernier pavement is scheduled to be widened from 20 to 40 feet in 1929 by the Wayne County Road Commission. Lochmoor's public works' activities during the past year included in addition to the \$300,000 public sewer system \$56,620 worth of lateral sewers, \$12,300 worth of lateral water mains and \$3,681 in sidewalks.

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.

James E. Morrison, Vice-President.

C. H. L'Honmedieu, Secy.-Treasurer.

Raymond K. Dykema. John F. Keys.

Lincoln A. Maire. L. W. Forrester.

A DOUBTFUL PROCEDURE

The condemnation of the 11-acre parcel at the foot of Trombly and Harcourt Avenues for a beach-park, ordered by the Commission of the Village of Grosse Pointe Park in September, is progressing rapidly and is expected to go to trial in Circuit Court the middle of December.

Section 20 of Chapter 18 of the village charter reads as follows:

"Three-fifths Vote Required to Borrow: Whenever any sum of money shall be required for any of the foregoing corporate purposes other than loans made in anticipation of the collection of taxes levied or to be levied for the current fiscal year, the sum may be raised by loan, if authorized by a three-fifths (3-5) vote of the electors voting by ballot upon the question at a regular or special Village Election."

No election has been held and no expenditure for a park site has been authorized. But the Commission is proceeding, nevertheless, to obligate the village to the extent of an estimated half million dollars under Section 3, Chapter 20, of the charter, which reads:

"When Village Attorney to Institute Proceedings: Whenever the Village Commission shall have declared a public improvement to be necessary in the Village, and shall have declared that they deem it necessary to take private property, . . . they may by resolution direct that such proceedings be commenced. . . ."

When the condemnation proceedings are concluded and the exact cost of the property is known, the Commission has announced that it intends to call an election to ask approval of the expenditure. Section 33, Chapter 20, of the charter directs that the Commission shall provide money for payment of a condemnation judgment within a year. Should the electors refuse to ratify the expenditure, this section, it seems, also provides a way to make them pay, anyway, from the following language:

"The Commission may provide the necessary amount by borrowing from any other money or fund in the Treas-

ury and repay the same from money raised to pay the compensation awarded by the jury, when collected, or otherwise as they may provide."

While the intent, apparently, of one

Special Election Called

Monday, January 14th, was set by the village commission of Grosse Pointe Park on December 7th for a special election on a proposal to issue \$750,000 in bonds for the purpose of purchasing and developing a village park on the 11-acre parcel at the foot of Trombly Road, which the Commission ordered condemned in September. The reason given for condemning in advance of authorization of funds was the desire to know exactly what the property would cost. Though the condemnation proceedings have not yet determined the exact cost, the Commission now has made an estimate of cost for which it will ask approval on January 14th.

section of the charter is to prevent unauthorized expenditures, the intent of other sections is apparently to defeat this principle by making the electors' approval unnecessary until an indefinite time after the money is spent. It would seem wise for the village officials to obtain the opinion of a competent bond attorney before proceeding with an action which a taxpayer's suit or a bond attorney's opinion might sooner or later reveal to be invalid.

A WORD TO NEW READERS OF CIVIC NEWS

Your name was added to the mailing list of Civic News, the official publication of the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township, because Civic News is sent free of charge to members and non-members of the Association.

The Association, during the five years of its existence, has been studying and reporting on public business of interest to residents and taxpayers in the township with the object of contributing facts to help formulate intelligent public opinion and to foster efficient and economical government.

This work is done through regular weekly meetings of an elective board of directors, whose services are given gratis. The Association's only expenses are the salary of an executive secretary to maintain contact with governmental affairs and the cost of publishing and mailing

"Civic News." These expenditures are met by voluntary contributions of members, ranging from \$1 to \$35 annually. Every resident is eligible to membership. If you desire to be a member and to contribute your share towards development of sound public opinion, send your subscription to C. H. L'Honmedieu, treasurer, 612 Union Trust Building, Detroit.

LECTURE COURSE

An audience of more than 400 greeted George Finlay Simmons at the opening of the Grosse Pointe Lectures in the auditorium of the High School on November 30th. The speaker's enthralling, two-hour recital of his adventures as commander of the three-masted schooner, "Blossom" during an eventful, two-year cruise of the South Atlantic for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, sent his listeners away as thrilled as though they themselves had dined in Napoleon's quarters in St. Helena, sailed over cobalt seas with waterspouts threatening and visited the graveyard of Mother Carey's chickens. Capt. Simmons' talk on "Sinbads of Science" was accompanied by still and motion pictures.

The second lecture in the series of five is to be given by Albert Edward Wiggam, distinguished publicist, author and scientist, on Friday, December 14th, at 8:30 p. m. The third speaker will be Roy Chapman Andrews, discoverer of the dinosaur eggs. He will talk on January 23rd.

HEAVY VOTE

The presidential election on November 6th resulted in a larger vote in Grosse Pointe Township than has ever been recorded before. Herbert Hoover, president-elect, received 3,978 votes; Gov. Alfred E. Smith, 2,516 votes; total 6,494.

The vote by precincts was as follows:

Precinct	Hoover	Smith	Total
1. (Village)	911	501	1,412
2. (Park)	2,292	1,422	3,714
3. (Farms)	489	419	908
4. (Shores)	156	66	222
5. (Lochmoor)	130	108	238

Totals 3,978 2,516 6,494

In the School Board election last June, 758 votes were cast. In the March election of township officials, 2,184 votes were cast this year. In the School Board election of 1927 there were 2,395 votes cast.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

Article No. 7

The clerk of the township is elected annually and is eligible for re-election. He keeps duplicate books of accounts of the treasurer and is also charged with certain duties in elections, such as providing ballot boxes, etc. Duties formerly connected with the office, such as issuing licenses, filing mortgages, etc., have been assumed by the villages.

The clerk is the only township officer paid on a fee basis due to no provision in the statutes for placing him on a salary. The law provides that \$5 a day may be paid for each day or portion of a day spent in township work, with extra pay for work on the election board. The total amount received is about \$1,700 a year.

The exact time necessary for the proper conduct of the work is very difficult to determine. The only exact time that can be set is the attendance at the township board meetings twice a month and attendance at the various elections. A per diem basis of compensation is economically wrong, as the work can be prolonged in a perfectly legal manner. An instance is that, although the present township board passes on the invoices received, and at the same meeting prepares the warrant and check, this could be done at a subsequent time. The minutes of the board meetings are typed by a stenographer who is allowed \$50 a year for the service, paid from the general fund.

(The next article will explain the treasurer's duties.)

SCHOOL SITE CHOICE

STILL "UP IN THE AIR"

At the public hearing on junior high school site locations on November 19th, the Board of Education passed a resolution authorizing appointment of Trustees Charles A. Parcels and Fred Sutter on a committee to arrange for a survey of the district's needs by an educational authority from outside of Grosse Pointe Township.

This action followed a lengthy discussion participated in by various residents, most of whom frankly admitted selfish interests in opposing one site or the other. Those, however, who took the broad view of placing the children's interests above those of individual property owners, declared that they would not object to any spot the Board picked if the Board would follow the recommendation of its superintendent or some outside educational authority.

This view was summed up by Mr. D. M. Ferry, Jr., who said:

"I would not be here opposing the Board's two-junior-high-school program, if the Board were entering upon that program on the recommendation of its superintendent or some other educational expert. Your superintendent specifically states in his report that *three* should be the minimum number of junior high schools for our district."

At the next regular meeting of the Board of Education, December 3rd, a letter was received from Trustee Julius L. Berns asking reconsideration of the motion for an outsider's survey. Reconsideration was then moved by Trustee Berns, supported by Trustee Sutter, and carried with the aid of President P. Hudson Bradley. Reconsideration was opposed by Trustees Charles A. Parcels and Charles A. Poupard, who also voted "Yes" on the motion that was again put calling for a survey, but which lost by a 3 to 2 vote. After further discussion, it was finally agreed that Mr. Charles L. Spain, of the Detroit Board of Education, should be invited to meet with the Grosse Pointe trustees and the superintendent for a tour of the Grosse Pointe district and an informal study of its junior high school needs.

At the informal meeting with Mr. Spain, the latter asked for time in which to make further study and prepare a written report. The report is expected some time this month.

WATER SUPPLY

Dr. B. H. Warren, health officer, reports gratifying results through the change from Grosse Pointe Farms unfiltered water to Detroit water in the Grosse Pointe High School swimming pool in November. The health officer had ordered the pool closed this Fall because of inability to keep it clean, due to the turbidity of a dead-end, Grosse Pointe Farms' supply. The pool is now in regular use again.

Commenting on the unfiltered water supply which Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores are receiving, Dr. Warren recalled his recommendation several years ago that all the Grosse Pointe villages get together on the construction of a filtration plant that would insure the whole district an independent and much better water supply than could possibly be obtained through Detroit.

"It was estimated at that time," said Dr. Warren, "that a filtration plant

could be built for a quarter of a million dollars that would care for the water supply of 15,000 to 20,000 people. Additional units could be provided whenever necessary. Few people realize that water is perhaps the first and greatest essential of a community. The source of Grosse Pointe's water supply in Lake St. Clair is not subject to the same conditions as the Detroit source at the foot of the lake. I hope that the Grosse Pointe district will not let this opportunity to arrange for independent water supply slip away."

ARCHITECT'S REPORT

The Board of Education, on December 3rd, received a written report from George J. Haas, architect on the Stevens T. Mason School in Lochmoor, advising that work on the school is 16 days behind and that he will be unable to turn over the building to the Board on January 1st. He warned the Board that it might not be able to start classes in the school at the opening of the second semester in February, as planned, if the sewage system, being installed by the Village of Lochmoor, is not in operation by that time. (Mason L. Brown & Son, engineers for Lochmoor, report that the new sewage plant will go into operation in December.)

THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB

Plans for the usual Christmas party of the Neighborhood Club have this year been changed so that each group will hold its own holiday celebration and there will be no general party.

A Grosse Pointe basketball league for intermediate boys is being formed. The Grosse Pointe Athletic Club is preparing two basketball teams, the V. V. club, a Class A girls' team.

The Neighborhood Club has been given three boxing dates by the A. A. U., January 2nd, February 6th and March 4th. As soon as the weather permits, a skating rink is to be provided on the Club's new grounds in place of the one formerly located at Maumee and St. Clair.

The Grosse Pointe Dramatic Club, coached by Mrs. Willard Worcester, was to give its first presentation, "The Flower Shop," on December 11th.

The Neighborhood Club each Thursday night presents a moving picture program. For December 20th, "Drums of the Desert" will be the feature, "Crazy to Fly" the comedy; December 27th the feature is to be "The Last Outlaw" and the comedy "A Loony Mariner." Admission is 15c for chil-

dren, 25c for adults. The show lasts from 7 to 9 p. m.

The Boy Scouts' troupe, which donated \$10.00 from its treasury to the Detroit Community Fund during the recent campaign, now has 40 members, 8 more than a full enrollment. Miss Helen Butler, graduate of Ohio State University and formerly of the department of recreation of Detroit, is now in charge of the girls' activities at the Neighborhood Club, her predecessor having graduated to the Campfire Headquarters.

SCHOOL BOARD STUDIES "3RD-CLASS" PROPOSAL

At its next meeting, December 17th, the Board of Education is planning to discuss the advantages of a change from a rural agricultural school district to a school district of the third class. An opinion on what significant changes would occur was submitted to the Board at its December 3rd meeting by the Board's attorney, William G. Fitzpatrick. Principal result of a change would be election of a seven-man board, instead of five, with greater discretionary powers than at present in the choice of school sites, in the furnishing of transportation to distant pupils, and in the appointment of a business manager to relieve the superintendent of office routine.

At present, the Board's selection of school sites is subject to review by the state superintendent at any time upon petition of 10 taxpayers. The Board last August voted to discontinue furnishing transportation to high school students. On December 3rd, an opin-

ion from the attorney held this action illegal and the Board voted to continue its former policy of furnishing transportation to all pupils living more than a mile from the various school buildings.

Should the Board decide to call a vote on the proposed change to a third-class district, the attorney advised that it be done before the next annual meeting in June so that the change, if ordered by the voters, might go into effect then with an election of a seven-man board. The trustee's term in a third-class district is four years. The term, at present, is three years.

(Editor's Note.—No agricultural course has ever been given in the schools. It might be of great benefit to the children, as well as adults, if a suburban community such as Grosse Pointe, which derives much of its value from landscaping and horticultural development, were to offer agricultural training.)

LIBRARY SURVEY

A survey is now being conducted to determine the library needs of Grosse Pointe Township. It is being supervised by Adam Strohm, Detroit librarian, at the request of the library committee appointed this fall by the Board of Education. Grosse Pointe's present library service is provided through the Wayne County Library System, a branch of which is located on Waterloo and St. Clair, adjacent to the Neighborhood Club.

In November this branch circulated 2,920 of its 3,564 volumes, 1,441 books to adults and 1,479 to juveniles. Dur-

ing the month, 100 new registrations were received, 48 adults and 52 children. An attendance of 90 was reported at the story-hour.

During November a new sub-station was opened in the Goodrich Confectionery Store in Lochmoor with 200 books. Plans are nearing completion for the opening of another sub-station in the basement of the Village Hall in Grosse Pointe Park early in December. The first sub-station was opened in the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building. A hospital library service consisting of a rolling shelf of books is being planned by the Grosse Pointe branch.

SEEK TO CLOSE STREET

The public golf course opened last Spring in Lochmoor lead recently to a suit in the Circuit Court in which two-thirds of the property owners in the Lochmoor Boulevard district sought to obtain an order requiring the village officials to close Fairway Drive, a street which the golf course is using for its entrance. The petition of the property owners was denied and an appeal is now being taken to the state supreme court. Lochmoor Village contended that the street will be necessary in the future for the installation of sewer and water mains and the use of fire apparatus. The village argued against closing the street, pointing out that a continuation of Fairway Drive is provided in the subdivision south of the golf course and declaring that eventually the street would undoubtedly be cut through the golf grounds.

Return Postage Guaranteed

Citizens Association

OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

51 West Warren Ave.

Detroit, Mich.

Constant criticism of government proves that the public has a higher standard of governmental accomplishment than prevails in any other sphere of human activity.

Sec. 435½ P. L. & R.

U. S. POSTAGE
PAID

Detroit, Michigan
Permit No. 335