

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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No. 2

ANNUAL BUDGET REVIEW

1929-1930

Grosse Pointe's total bill for community services during the present fiscal year (exclusive of state, county and good roads levies) is in round numbers \$2,500,000—the equivalent of six per cent interest on more than \$40,000,000. This bill means an expenditure of \$115.50 for every person in the township for all general community purposes, including public schools. (Detroit's per capita this year is \$107.41).

Through the friendly co-operation of administrative officers, Civic News has collected the information on which this annual budget review is based. Below is a summary of proposed expenditures:

COMMUNITY SERVICE BUDGETS

	1928-9	1929-30
Grosse Pointe Park..	\$ 455,002.99	\$545,646.38
Grosse Pointe Village	450,657.97	450,848.80
Grosse Pointe Farms	385,305.00	430,129.00
Grosse Pointe Shores	68,382.72	105,596.38
Lochmoor	64,072.09	77,665.05
Total	\$1,424,320.77	\$1,600,885.11
School District	\$ 696,856.20	\$ 764,578.00
Township Board	43,000.00	65,000.00*
Health Board	20,985.00	
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,131,659.28	\$2,439,463.11
Population Estimate	17,244	21,120
(School census multiplied by four)		
Per capita expenditure	\$123.81	\$115.50

*For the purpose of the above total estimate of \$2,439,463.11, the proposed health and township expenditures, not yet known for 1929-30, were estimated at \$85,000.

The budget procedure of all governmental units, except the township board and the Village of Lochmoor, is now much improved over previous years. Lochmoor this year has a full-time clerk and is installing a new system. Grosse Pointe Farms' new system went into effect this fiscal year. While the village and school budgets are more complete than those of many other communities and school districts, there is still room for further improvements that may be introduced gradually.

The budgets this year reveal that the outstanding indebtedness against all property in Grosse Pointe Township for all purposes totals \$10,294,340.19,

a per capita indebtedness of \$487.42. How this debt has grown since 1920 is shown in the following table:

BONDED DEBT

	1920	1925	1929
Park	\$138,000	\$1,201,000	\$2,255,349.19
Village	471,426	798,926	1,019,665.00
Farms	313,000	526,000	870,000.00
Shores	118,000	143,000	432,000.00
Lochmoor ..			390,000.00
Township ...			147,326.00
School Dist..		1,127,000	3,712,000.00
TOTAL			\$10,294,340.19

Outstanding township bonds total \$215,000, but \$67,674 of this total has been assumed by Detroit through annexation.

Bonds authorized but unsold and therefore not included above: Village, \$376,000; Farms, \$612,000; Shores, \$50,000; School District, \$480,000.

Debt redemption and interest charges form a considerable portion of the budget of each governmental unit except the township board and health board. The latter is run on a pay-as-you-go basis and has no debts. The township board, whose remaining functions are to collect "winter" taxes, to distribute poor relief and to conduct justice courts and elections, no longer has any occasion for issuing bonds. Its financial report in March showed \$120,481.15 in its sinking fund and \$147,326 obligations in outstanding highway and bridge bonds all of which mature between now and August, 1935. The percentage of the 1929-30 budget required for debt charges is shown below:

	Budget	Debt Charges	Per Cent
Park	\$545,646.38	\$167,161.38	30.65
Village ...	450,848.30	90,792.57	20.05
Farms ...	430,129.00	110,805.00	25.69
Shores ...	105,596.38	39,023.00	36.97
Lochmoor :	77,665.05	23,519.70	30.27
School Dist.	764,578.00	259,060.00	33.90

Debt charges must be paid entirely from taxes so that the actual portion of the taxpayer's dollar that goes to retire bonded indebtedness is higher than the percentages shown above. For instance, \$43.70 out of each \$100 of school taxes this year will go to the interest and sinking funds; and \$36.67 of every \$100 paid into the Grosse Pointe Park treasury this year will be required for debt redemption and interest.

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

RICHARD SCHOOL DELAY

Plans of the Board of Education for construction and equipment of the proposed 700-pupil Gabriel Richard elementary school at Kercheval and McMillan Avenues within a \$360,000 bond issue authorized by the voters in June, 1928, were upset when bids were opened on August 5th. A survey of the bids indicated that minimum construction costs would total about \$425,000, with complete cost estimated at near \$525,000. All bids were rejected.

Robert O. Derrick, Inc., the architect, was paid \$3,350 on April 22, 1929, when plans for the school were approved. This sum represented 20 per cent of the five per cent fee of \$16,750 on what the architect at that time estimated would be a \$335,000 structure.

At a special meeting of the board on August 9th, Mr. Derrick reported that Detroit school officials advised him that school building costs have been found to be 25 per cent greater this year. The architect said he was informed by builders that the latter have decided to discontinue bidding of the last few years which has customarily been reported as being so low that losses to builders were frequent. Cost figures on recent Grosse Pointe school construction submitted by Dr. S. M. Brownell, revealed that per pupil and cubic foot costs of the Richard school are as follows:

(Concluded on Page 4, Col. 1)

SCHOOLS OPEN SEPT. 4th

Public schools in Grosse Pointe will open with full-day sessions on September 4th. The day previous is to be devoted to a meeting of the teaching staff. Twenty new teachers have been added to the personnel, eleven representing replacements and nine to care for anticipated increase in enrollment. The school census this June revealed 5,280 children of school age in the district, an increase of 969 or 22.5 per cent over the census of 4,311 in 1928. Multiplying 5,280 by four gives an estimated 21,120 total population for Grosse Pointe compared with 17,244 a year ago.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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

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HOW CAN TAXES BE REDUCED?

Tax-paying time is here again for the five villages in Grosse Pointe Township's ten square miles. Five governments with five separate village commissions and councils, five separate police and fire departments, water departments, public works departments, five clerks, five assessors, have struggled with five budgets and five assessment rolls and have turned over to five treasurers the task of collecting the expected cost of government for the present fiscal year.

A growing number of citizens is asking the question: "Why can't the villages eliminate the tremendous waste of time, energy and money involved in the maintenance of five government administrations where one could undoubtedly handle the job in a more businesslike fashion and could be more easily supervised by the voters?"

It is startling to know that municipal taxes in Michigan have increased 230 per cent in the last ten years, school taxes 219 per cent, taxes for all purposes 192 per cent. Obviously, it is not government that is causing this increase but the demands made upon government for increased services and new services. The central purchasing power of governments make them best fitted to provide many public services more economically than an individual could procure them for himself.

Grosse Pointe governments serve the public with many new facilities that industrialization makes possible, but many of these services are performed with territorial units, administrative organization, operation methods and financial procedure better suited to the rural civilization of the seventeenth century than to industrial civilization of the twentieth century.

The tax dollar could easily produce more in Grosse Pointe if taxpayers

really willed it to. The police, fire, health, education, transit, water and sewerage problems of Grosse Pointe Township are not the problems of several governments but of one community and one government. Fortunately, this fact was recognized several years ago with respect to health and education. How much longer will it be before business-like consolidation of other public services is effected?

Most citizens now maintain that government should be administered in a business-like way. But how can the citizen enforce his demands when responsibility is so divided and elections are so frequent a drain on his time and patience as at present? One reason it is difficult to get voters to the polls is because of the unnecessarily large number of elected officials and the number and frequency of elections.

That progress and economies can be effected in public affairs by consolidation of services is strikingly attested by the experience of the Board of Education since the consolidation of school districts in 1922. Nearly four million dollars have been expended for sites and new schools in the last seven years; and the number, quality and pay of the teaching staff has steadily risen. The tax rate for schools in Grosse Pointe is, nevertheless, the lowest in Michigan, and only one-fifth of the total tax bill for all community purposes is spent on schools compared with an average of 39 per cent in Michigan cities.

The school superintendent functions as a general manager for the Board of Education. The chief advantage of a general manager for administration work is the concentration of authority and responsibility in one trained executive, subject to control of an elected body. To gain greater efficiency and to lower operating costs, the Citizens' Association recommends for taxpayers' consideration some form of consolidation of public services now administered by five municipalities—such as fire, police, highway, public works, law, and engineering departments and clerical and assessment routine—under one management.

The closing weeks of the playground season conducted by the Board of Education during the summer at the Defer, Trombly and High School grounds drew an average weekly attendance of 3,000 children and adults. Total attendance for the eight weeks is expected to approximate 20,000.

THEATER PROJECT

Ground has been broken at Kercheval Avenue and McKinley Road in Grosse Pointe Farms for a 600-seat Punch and Judy theater and neighborhood store building for the Grosse Pointe Theater Company, to be opened in December. The structure, designed by Robert O. Derrick, Inc., will submerge all visible signs of a theater, having been modeled after buildings erected in English villages in the eighteenth century. A group of prominent residents, including Messrs. Wendell W. Anderson, Lawrence D. Buhl, Roy D. Chapin, Robert O. Derrick, J. B. Ford, Jr., Arthur Gardner, M. J. Kavanagh, Phelps Newberry, Wesson Seyburn and Charles Wright, Jr., is sponsoring the project to provide a distinctive community shopping center to be in keeping with residential surroundings.

YACHT CLUB OPENED

The new half-million-dollar home of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club on Lake St. Clair at the foot of Vernier Road in Grosse Pointe Shores was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on the Fourth of July, including a sailing regatta and swimming and diving competition.

Grosse Pointe Shores' voters on August 27th approved a \$50,000 bond issue to complete the water front park, adjacent to the yacht club, on which a total of \$214,000 has been spent to date.

NEW VILLAGE ATTORNEY

Elroy O. Jones of Colonial Road, attorney-at-law of the firm of Dykema, Jones & Wheat, has been appointed attorney of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores by President Fred A. Behr. Mr. Jones succeeds Mr. William M. Mertz, who has been attorney for the village since its incorporation 18 years ago. Two new trustees were elected to the village council on May 21st, Messrs. Charles F. Becker and Oscar Webber. Trustee Ford Ballantyne was re-elected as were President Behr and Clerk William C. Roney, without opposition. A \$75,000 bond issue, approved by the voters for defraying the village's share of the cost of obtaining right-of-way on Lake Shore Road for the widening now under way by the Wayne County Road Commission, was sold to the Bank of Detroit at 5 per cent interest with a premium of \$416, a net rate of 4.91.

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2)

GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Grosse Pointe Farms' new budget lists expenditures in greater detail than heretofore, under four headings, "administrative, construction, public safety and highway," as follows:

Administrative--	
Park Expense	\$ 5,500.00
Park Improvement	2,500.00
Hall Expense	2,600.00
Hall Grounds Expense	100.00
Teas, Salary	900.00
Deputy Treas. Salary	200.00
Treasurer's Expense	50.00
Clerk Salary	600.00
Accountants	3,600.00
Clerical Help	3,000.00
Office Supplies	250.00
Postage	150.00
Election Supplies	50.00
Election Boards	260.00
Clerk's Expense	45.00
Premium on Bond	300.00
Audit Sewer	400.00
Printing	85.00
Contingent	6,000.00
Assessor Salary	800.00
Assessor Clerk Hire	200.00
Attorney Retainer	1,800.00
Engineer's Salary	4,000.00
Asst. Eng's Salary	10,300.00
Engineer's Supplies	500.00
Engineer's Equipment	500.00
Engineer's Garage Rent	84.00
Engineer's Misc.	100.00
Engineer's Rep. to Auto	150.00
Bldg. Inspector's Salary	3,600.00
Bldg. Inspector's Expense	300.00
Pier Expense Main	7,000.00
Pier Expense Imp.	6,000.00
Sewer Pump. Sta. Exp.	21,000.00
Janitor's Supplies	150.00
Insurance	250.00
Zoning Ordinance	600.00
Construction--	
McMillan & Char'x Open.	6,000.00
McMillan Widening	3,000.00
Gr. Pte. Blvd. Pav.	
Extension	2,500.00
Moran Rd. Repair	6,000.00
McMillan Rd. Sewer	
Extension	8,000.00
Kercheval Ave. Open.	15,000.00
Street Lighting	35,000.00
Landscaping	4,000.00
Water Dept. Deficit	7,000.00
Interest on Bonds	64,805.00
Redemption of Bond	46,000.00
	\$281,220.00
Public Safety--	
Police--	
Salaries	\$48,000.00
Autos	2,000.00
Oil and Gas	1,000.00
Auto Repairs	300.00
Prisoners' Meals	35.00
Prisoners' Expense	100.00
Materials and Sup.	560.00
Equipment	300.00
Light and Heat	800.00
Telephone	20.00
Insurance	900.00
Justice Fees	650.00
Miscellaneous	200.00
	\$ 49,865.00
Fire--	
Salaries	\$35,000.00
Oil and Gas	300.00
Auto Repairs	100.00
Chemical and Sup.	700.00
Light and Heat	1,200.00
Telephone	35.00
Miscellaneous	200.00
Laundry	700.00
Electrician Salary	300.00
Electrician Supplies	1,000.00
Insurance	600.00
	\$ 40,135.00
Highway--	
Salaries and Labor	\$30,000.00
Material and Sup.	4,000.00
Repairs to Roads	5,000.00
Repairs to Sewers	2,000.00
Repairs to Sidewalks	1,000.00
Cleaning Sewers	2,000.00
Light and Heat	200.00

Garbage Collectors' Salaries	2,300.00
Garbage Collectors' Supplies	800.00
Garbage Disposal	900.00
Automotive Equipment	4,000.00
Oil and Gas	1,500.00
Repairs to Autos	500.00
Equipment	1,500.00
Repairs to Equipment	500.00
Insurance	200.00
Cleaning Snow	2,500.00
	\$ 58,000.00

TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$430,129.00
Estimated Revenue--	
Delinquent Taxes	\$12,000.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	650.00
Police Dept. Revenue	1,000.00
Court Fines	3,000.00
Permits	3,000.00
Gas Tax Refund	
Miscellaneous	200.00
Interest on Daily Balance	9,000.00
Land Contract Rec.	150.00
	\$ 29,000.00
Total to be Raised by Taxes	\$401,129.00

GROSSE POINTE SHORES

Grosse Pointe Shores reports its expenditure estimates as follows:

	1929-1930	Expended
	Budget Items	1928-1929
Police Department	\$ 30,230.00	\$23,660.00
Fire Department	6,150.00	4,790.00
Highways and Sewers	10,560.00	8,420.00
Buildings, Grounds & Harbor	4,960.00	3,490.00
Administration	9,075.00	9,342.00
Sinking Fund	16,933.00	9,233.33
Bond & Interest	22,090.00	16,765.00
Insurance, Election Expense, Etc.	4,350.00	3,800.00
Water Department		100.00
	\$104,348.00	\$70,600.33

LOCHMOOR

Lochmoor lists its expenditure items in the following fashion:

	1928-9	1929-30
CLERK	\$ 750.00	\$ 2,500.00
Office supplies and equipment	250.00	
Clerk hire	100.00	250.00
TREASURER	400.00	1,000.00
Office supplies and equipment	200.00	200.00
Clerk hire	100.00	
ASSESSOR	400.00	800.00
Office supplies and equipment	100.00	400.00
Clerk hire	100.00	
BOARD OF REVIEW	32.00	32.00
POLICE SALARIES	6,180.00	8,500.00
Office supplies	200.00	
Gas and oil	300.00	
Motorcycles		500.00
Miscellaneous	800.00	
Repairs	150.00	
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES AND EXPENSES	200.00	150.00
ENGINEER	300.00	1,000.00
ATTORNEY	1,500.00	1,500.00
RENT	150.00	150.00
LIGHT	6,500.00	7,000.00
HEAT	125.00	125.00
TELEPHONE	150.00	225.00
PRINTING & ADV.	700.00	500.00
INTEREST ON \$300,000 SEWER Bonds	11,050.00	12,750.00
INTEREST ON \$90,000 WATER Bonds	3,825.00	3,825.00
HIGHWAY FUND	5,000.00	10,000.00
SINKING FUND		
\$90,000 G. O. Bonds	1,604.70	1,604.70
\$300,000 G. O. Bonds	4,800.00	5,840.00
CONTINGENCIES	5,000.00	5,000.00
STREET OPENING	10,000.00	
FIRE, OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE	2,000.00	1,500.00
PREMIUM ON TREASURER'S BOND	500.00	260.00

SEWER PUMPING	
Operator salary	1,000.00
Oil, dope, waste, etc. ..	200.00
Operating expense, elec. .	2,400.00
SEWER FUND	
DEFICIT	9,000.00
Total	\$64,072.00
	\$77,665.05

GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE

The Grosse Pointe Village budget summarizes its proposed expenditures as follows:

	1928-9	1929-30
Notes Payable	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Due to other funds	792.11	402.67
Park	9,115.00	10,840.00
Administration	53,086.50	61,450.00
Police	48,140.00	62,629.54
Fire	40,800.00	51,715.18
Public Works	4,740.00	5,619.82
Disposal	15,225.00	12,101.00
Highway & Repair Dept	51,912.00	58,910.00
Signal	10,200.00	10,456.00
Yards & Building	6,340.00	6,755.00
Water	39,890.00	41,815.82
Bond Interest	46,946.93	57,701.19
Bond Retirement & Sinking Fund		
Deposits	35,554.38	33,091.38
Payment on Principal of land contract	3,915.50	3,860.00
Miscellaneous engineer'g	500.00	500.00
Sidewalks	2,500.00	3,000.00
Recreation	3,000.00	3,000.00
Docks and harbor		2,000.00
St. Paul Imp. for Club, storm and sanitary ..		1,000.00
Trees	2,500.00	
Village portion Kercheval Pl. paving	2,500.00	
Fire Hall excess over bond issue	2,500.00	
Total expenditures	\$450,657.07	\$450,848.30
Estimated revenue other than taxes	53,502.69	51,255.11
To be raised by general tax	\$397,155.28	\$399,593.19

GROSSE POINTE PARK

The Grosse Pointe Park budget set-up is as follows:

	1928-9	1929-30
General Administration	\$ 64,981.25	\$ 53,535.00
Police Department	86,870.00	93,880.00
Fire Department	46,900.00	87,640.00
Water Department	18,450.00	18,150.00
Public Works Dept.	59,475.00	52,980.00
Health Department	23,500.00	26,500.00
GENERAL FUND		
TOTAL	\$340,666.25	\$375,485.00
INTEREST FUND	68,018.21	119,563.20
SINKING FUND	30,587.08	47,598.18
CONTING'T FUND	16,636.45	5,000.00
Grand Total	\$455,902.99	\$545,646.38

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The summary of all accounts in the 1929-1930 budget:

	1928-9	Spent	1929-30
	Estimate	1928-9	Estimate
General			
Control	\$ 40,050.00	\$ 38,529.24	\$ 51,313.00
Operation	88,833.50	84,837.32	93,715.00
Maintenance	10,625.00	9,762.93	8,575.00
Fixed			
Charges ..	19,350.00	14,869.51	5,000.00
Instruction ..	234,681.00	224,988.95	287,830.00
Capital			
Outlay ..	11,275.00	10,421.45	14,800.00
Auxiliary			
Activities ..	16,000.00	9,477.40	39,785.00
Debt			
Service ..	225,991.70	191,475.45	259,000.00
Delinquent Tax Fund.	50,000.00		
Estimated TOTAL	\$696,856.20	\$584,312.25	\$764,578.00
Receipts ..	\$150,352.91	\$106,880.86	\$172,308.91
From General Tax	\$546,505.29		\$592,269.09

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)

ard School at the lowest bids received would be lower than unit costs of the Trombly, High and Mason jobs.

The root of the Board's dilemma probably took form more than a year ago when the Board hurriedly decided on an estimate for the Richard School bond proposal without awaiting an accurate survey of needs, President Fred Sutter concluded. It was apparent in May, 1928, without a study that the new school's first unit would need to be somewhat larger than the Trombly unit which cost \$293,054.14 and provided working capacity for 320 pupils. The survey completed this spring revealed the urgent need of a 700-pupil unit of the proposed Richard School.

The Board is considering reducing the size of the school to keep costs within the \$360,000 bond issue or calling a special election on an additional \$170,000 bond proposal.

Grosse Pointe Township

**New Residences Erected, 1924 to 1928,
As Shown by Building Permits
Issued**

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
Grosse Pointe Park	479	369	279	201	184
Grosse Pointe Village	78	140	162	121	169
Grosse Pointe Farms	40	42	49	70	95
Grosse Pointe Shores	1	4	3	3	5
Lochmoor				25	25
	598	555	493	420	478

(Note: Figures indicate numbers of homes provided. That is, a four-family apartment was counted as four, etc.)

KERCHEVAL OPENING

Pending acquisition of all right-of-way needed for the opening of Kercheval Avenue through Grosse Pointe Farms from Fisher Road to Moross Road, the village council has decided to proceed at once with construction of pavement on portions of the avenue. A contract has been let for paving 2,500 feet from the Lothrop property line, between Lothrop and Cloverly Roads, to a point about midway between Kerby and Moross Roads. As soon as negotiations for the remainder of the right-of-way have been completed, officials announce that the paving will be extended.

FARMS' WATER SITUATION

Village officials of Grosse Pointe Farms are endeavoring to arrange a satisfactory agreement with Highland Park under which the latter city, which now supplies the Farms with unfiltered water from its pumping station at Moross and Lake Shore Roads, will release the Farms from the remaining five years of a 10-year contract. If a fair agreement can be reached, the Farms proposes to make arrangements with the Detroit Water Board to supply filtered water from Detroit.

Grosse Pointe Shores, which also was receiving unfiltered water, is now enjoying Detroit water, having recently completed a connection with the 20-inch Lochmoor water main in Vernier Road.

More than two hundred new members enrolled this summer in the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township.

CIVIC NEWS

PROVIDES INFORMATION to more than 4,800 taxpayers and residents of Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Shores and Lochmoor with the object of promoting governmental efficiency within the township of Grosse Pointe. Unless the position of the **CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION** is specifically set forth, all items in this bulletin of information are to be considered simply as news statements. Space being limited, it is necessary to condense and even to forego publication of much information. Civic News will be glad to receive letters and telephone calls on any matter of public concern. Call Columbia 1600, or write to "Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township, 51 W. Warren Avenue, Detroit."

The important thing in making substantial progress toward governmental economy is adequate information. Taxpayers can be dominant factors in reducing their own burdens only when they have the facts and then act accordingly.

The Citizens' Association is a non-partisan observer of government affairs. The members of the Board of Directors, who serve without pay, hold weekly discussions which interested citizens are welcome to participate in at any time. The Association is not committed to any particular program of municipal reform. It is not an agency for prosecution of wrongdoers or for the advancement or defeat of anyone's political ambitions. Its objective is to be an aid to officials and citizens in understanding the problems of government and in finding out what are the best ways of carrying on the community's business.

Membership in the Citizens' Association is \$1.00 per year. As dollar memberships do not meet the Association's expenses (it costs 10 cents per copy to prepare, print and distribute Civic News) larger payments are invited. Check below the amount of your remittance and send to Charles H. L'Hon-medieu, Treasurer, 3000 Union Trust Building, Detroit, Michigan.

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Governments, whatever their other virtues, which fail to provide adequate budget methods, will neither reach the maximum of efficiency nor prove to be altogether responsible to the people.

—A. R. Hatton.

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