

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

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OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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No. 3

## SCHOOL ENROLLMENT EXCEEDS PREDICTIONS

A total of 2,861 pupils have enrolled this September in Grosse Pointe's public schools, an increase of 513 over the enrollment of 2,348 a year ago. Of the 513 increase, 255 are elementary pupils, 258 junior and senior high school students. The enrollment predicted for this September by Dr. S. M. Brownell, superintendent, for purposes of calculating anticipated building requirements up to 1940, was 2,850, indicating that public school enrollment is slightly higher than estimated.

Enrollment by schools is as follows:

	Sept. 1928	Sept. 1929
High School.....	874	1,132
Defer School.....	608	743
Cadioux School.....	326	367
Trombly School.....	263	270
Kerby School.....	161	185
Mason School.....		140
Vernier School.....	116	24
Total.....	2,348	2,861

The Mason School in Lochmoor opened last February with an enrollment of 102. To relieve crowded conditions in the Defer and Trombly Schools this fall, elementary districts were changed slightly so that the Defer School is now caring for students residing between St. Paul and Jefferson Avenues who formerly attended the Trombly, while the Cadioux School is caring for some students residing in Grosse Pointe Park who are located within convenient distance from the Cadioux. When the new Cadioux School is built at Kercheval and Cadioux, the Defer School will be further relieved. The Board of Education has decided tentatively to ask approval in 1930 of a bond issue for the new Cadioux School so that it may be built and ready for use in September, 1931.

The new Cadioux School was scheduled for completion by 1932 on the school board's 10-year building program. The decision to build it a year sooner was formed on September 16th, when the Board abandoned plans for

a 700-pupil unit of the Gabriel Richard School and ordered the architect to revise original plans so that a first unit of 480-pupil capacity may be submitted for bids around November 1st, with completion scheduled for next September. It is estimated that a 480-pupil school can be built and equipped within the \$360,000 bond issue approved by the voters. Rather than ask voters for an additional bond issue to finance a 700-pupil unit, the Board decided to build a smaller unit of the Richard School now, and then to catch up with its construction requirements by building a larger first unit of the new Cadioux School a year sooner than formerly planned. Thus, it is expected there will be no delay in keeping pace with anticipated growth in the district.

For preparing supplemental plans and specifications on the Richard School, Robert O. Derrick, Inc., the architect, is to receive not more than \$2,800. By hiring the same architect to supervise construction of future additions to the first unit at a fee of 1½ or 2 per cent, the Board expects to keep the architectural costs on the finally completed school within the five per cent figure, inclusive of the payment at this time of the additional \$2,800.

The Board of Education on September 16th also decided to start work immediately on an addition to the Trombly School. Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, architects, were designated to supervise construction of the new unit at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.

## FATHER RICHARD HONORED IN NAME OF NEW SCHOOL

The man who first sponsored a fount of knowledge for residents of Grosse Pointe Township is to be honored in the naming of the elementary school to be built by the Board of Education this year on the site north of Kercheval Avenue, directly across the street from the high school athletic field. The man was Father Gabriel Richard, one of the foremost promoters of education

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 3)

## 120-FOOT ROAD PLAN HITS SNAG IN FARMS

With work progressing rapidly on construction of a 120-foot drive to replace the present 18-foot Lake Shore Road through Grosse Pointe Shores, renewed interest is being manifested in efforts of Grosse Pointe Farms' officials and Wayne County road commissioners to agree upon arrangements for widening the 18-foot Lake Shore Road through the Farms from Weir Lane to Fisher Road. The project in the Shores is expected to be completed within a year.

The county road commissioners have announced a willingness to undertake construction in the Farms of a 120-foot landscaped drive, partly on the present narrow right-of-way and partly on filled-in land in Lake St. Clair, at county expense, if the village officials will obtain through a dedication or purchase a 120-foot right-of-way and turn it over to the county for the period of construction. The job in the Shores was handled in this fashion.

Farms' officials have expressed a willingness to co-operate in the same way that Shores' officials co-operated, declaring, however, that an investigation of all angles of the problem of widening the heavily-wooded strip immediately north of Fisher Road reveals that the acquisition here of a 120-foot right-of-way could not be accomplished without great expense to the village and inconvenience to property owners who have developed properties on both sides of the road. A personal examination of this section by county engineers has revealed, according to Leroy C. Smith, engineer-manager of the Board of Wayne County Road Commissioners, that all but five trees could be spared in carrying out the 120-foot road plan.

Farms' officials who have consulted property owners feel that the village would encounter great difficulty in obtaining more than a 60-foot right-of-way through this section. As the county officials are insisting on 120-foot right-of-way throughout, negotiations appear to be at a standstill.

## 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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### DEBT AND LONG-TERM PLANNING

Grosse Pointe's rapid growth in recent years—an average of 500 new homes annually—has made it necessary to go into debt to meet urgent municipal needs. We now owe more than 10¼ millions, a per capita debt of \$487.42.

In February, 1926, Civic News noted the great increase in bonded debt that is continuing unabated, and suggested that a definite financial program for future major improvements be worked out to assure taxpayers that future spending would be apportioned among the most necessary improvements. Such a program, it was pointed out, if adopted and successfully carried out, should result in logical community development along sound economical lines by giving support to important undertakings and at the same time avoiding unnecessary expenditures of public money.

#### School Board Leads

Last June the School Board took a step that was in line with this recommended program, when Dr. S. M. Brownell, superintendent, made a preliminary study of a 10-year school building program and submitted it to the Board of Education. Dr. Brownell's study revealed an anticipated expenditure of approximately \$4,000,000 for major school building projects by 1940. If the villages were to study their anticipated major capital cost needs for the next ten years, as the school board has, voters and officials would then have a bird's-eye view of all proposed expenditures and could weigh the merits and urgency of each project more intelligently.

*Proper municipal development is not a series of unrelated projects developed when demanded by necessity or political expediency, but rather one comprehensive project in which each individual part has a definite relation to the whole.*

A long-term construction program may be a safeguard against an unwise financial policy just as the annual operating budget is a guide in administrative work.

#### "Pay-As-You-Go" Idea

A by-product of long-term planning in Detroit was a recent recommendation by the mayor that the city continue its policy of gradually reducing the term of school bonds to result ultimately in placing school buildings in the tax budget; also that \$500,000 of the \$6,000,000 average annual capital cost appropriation for schools be raised annually by taxation rather than by bond issue. Advocates of the "pay-as-you-go" method claim that spending officials and taxpayers are more deliberate about acquiring unnecessary improvements when the cost has to be met immediately. They also point to a reduction of cost through avoidance of interest payments. Wayne County, for instance, has built \$50,000,000 worth of concrete roads on a pay-as-you-go basis of \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed valuation each year, saving the taxpayers an estimated \$36,000,000 that would have had to be paid in interest had the \$50,000,000 been borrowed.

The policy of economy in Federal finance is being accepted by many cities where voters are being educated to understand that the bond-issue method, with large sums paid in interest charges, ultimately makes the cost of improvements come high. Thoughtful officials are studying the problem of how much longer it is going to be sound economics for communities to pyramid bond issues for the next generation to pay. Chicago, Boston, Lansing and Youngstown are already on a pay-as-you-go basis for schools, and Cleveland will be in 1939.

#### LECTURE SERIES WILL OPEN ON OCTOBER 18th

The second annual program of lectures by celebrated speakers in the Grosse Pointe High School Auditorium has been arranged for the season of 1929-30. The first speaker will be Dr. Joseph Collins, who will talk on "Symptoms of Spiritual Starvation" on October 18th. Dr. Collins is a widely known neurologist and psychiatrist of New York City. He has written "Doctor Looks at Love and Life" and "Doctor Looks at Literature."

On December 9th, Clyde Eddy, director of education and recreation of the Bray Pictures Corp., producers of educational motion pictures, will make

a talk on "Shooting the Rapids of the Colorado River." Mr. Eddy and eight companions made movies while performing the difficult feat of shooting the rapids. Mr. Eddy, a graduate of the University of California, is noted for pictures taken during the war for the War College.

The Detroit Symphony String Quartette will be the attraction at the High School on January 10th. It consists of Ilya Schkolnick, first violin, concertmeister of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; William Graston King, second violin; Valbert P. Coffey, viola; and Georges Miquelle, cello.

On February 8th, patrons of the course will be treated to an evening with Thornton Wilder, famed author of the "Bridge of San Luis Rey." The enviable author of a classic at the age of thirty, Mr. Wilder has received many a compliment, including one from Prof. William Lyon Phelps, who called the "Bridge of San Luis Rey" a work of genius.

The fifth evening of the series, March 7th, is to be filled by Dr. George S. Counts, associate director of the international institute of Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. He is in Russia at present collecting material and making observations that will enable him to give Grosse Pointe a picture of Russia through a trained mind.

As last year, Dr. Hugh Stalker, 553 Neff Road, Lenox 4139, is chairman of the committee on arrangements. Any information on the course may be obtained from him. The season tickets this year, he announces, will be two dollars. The committee is at present engaged in obtaining 150 sustaining members at \$10 each, which includes a season ticket. Last year the sponsors of the course reported an income of \$1,852.50 and a balance at the end of the year of \$251.75, making it unnecessary to call upon guarantors. A ticket selling campaign has been announced for this year in which school boys and girls may engage for prizes consisting of free season tickets.

Appreciation was expressed by Grosse Pointe Farms' officials in September of the dedication of several hundred feet of property by Mr. Truman H. Newberry, Mrs. Henry Stevens and others, enabling the village to start work on the paving of Kercheval Avenue, a project which the village now anticipates completing between Fisher and Moross Roads by next July.

## PROCEDURE METHODS OF THE TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

### No. 1—Assessing

Grosse Pointe has more of the aspects of a city than a township in the high valuations and the rapid increase in recent years. This is an unusual condition for a rural area and indicates the magnitude of the work in assessing the property under the routine prescribed by the township law. The assessing procedure continues throughout most of the year. The schedule is substantially as follows:

April 1.—Beginning with this date, the assessment roll is written. All property previously assessed is copied from the old roll, and all new buildings or subdivisions added. The assessment roll, however, is to cover all property as of May 1st. Each page is totaled and the entire book checked to these totals.

June 1.—The Board of Review of the township meets to review the assessment of each piece of property and to hear any protests from taxpayers. The roll is certified as to the correctness of the totals. Upon approval by the Board, the assessment becomes legally binding upon the taxpayer.

July 7.—The assessment roll is sent to the County Tax Commissioner, who audits the totals to ascertain their correctness.

August 1.—The assessment roll is returned and a copy is made known as the Tax Roll, upon which the tax is spread. The budgets for the township, school and health districts, are known by this time, and these taxes are spread.

October 1.—The Board of Review of the County passes upon the assessments, and equalizes them throughout the county by adjustments in the tax rates. At this time, the Board of Supervisors passes upon the county budget, and the township is advised of the state, county and good roads tax rates.

December 10.—All rates are spread on the tax rolls, each tax is totaled and the whole checked, when the books are turned over to the township treasurer for collection of the tax.

The supervisor, who is the assessing officer, is not required to work on the tax rolls for the entire year. Much of the work of spreading the tax and checking must be done between October 1st and December 10th. From December 10th until March 1st, little if anything is done upon them. However, it is generally the custom for the supervisor's clerk to assist in the collection of the tax during this period, for which he receives extra compensation from the treasurer.

### Building Permit System

Most progressive assessors use land value maps to assist them in their work. These are maps of the city upon which are indicated the various unit values of land, using the front foot as a basis. No effort to compile such a map has been made in the township, although it would be of great assistance, especially for public information and in proving equality of assessments. One reason for opposition to the preparation of such a map is that the present practice in Grosse Pointe is to disregard the value of the land in assessing after an improvement is placed upon it.

The building permit is used as a basis for the assessment of improvements to land. The supervisor secures from each of the villages a record of all building permits issued since the last year's assessment. (Information obtained is often wrong, leading to tax-refunds and re-assessments.) The value shown on the permit is reduced by 25 per cent. by the supervisor's clerk, and the resulting figure represents the assessed valuation of the property. No consideration is given to the value of the land unless so located as to give it an exceptionally high value, such as water-front property. Thus, the total assessment is about 75 per cent. of the building permit, and perhaps 50 per cent. of the total value of the entire property. This is neither in accordance with the statutes or with good principles of assessing. A claim advanced in favor of this system is that re-assessment is not necessary at frequent intervals as property values advance, since they do not enter into the values used for taxing purposes.

### Assessing Cost, \$4,250

The assessment of property through building permits, in addition to favoring those using high value land, places entire dependence for equity of assessment upon the values as shown by the building permit. When a unit of government such as a township includes five different villages, each with its own building inspector, five different opinions of building value must be correlated to obtain accurate figures for assessment purposes. Tax refunds indicate that about one-tenth of one per cent. of the levy proves erroneous, principally due to wrong lot numbers.

The supervisor's office is located in the municipal building of Grosse Pointe Park, rent free. Current records are kept in a fireproof filing cabinet. Permanent records of the township are kept in a fireproof vault in the township hall on Maumee Avenue in Grosse Pointe Village. The assessment rolls are kept in ink, thus requiring a re-writing to copy for the tax roll. The tax is spread by the use of a tax table, conforming to good practice. The work of assessing is done by the supervisor and his clerk. The supervisor spends about half his time on this work, the balance to the poor fund and other activities. This would give a total for salaries for assessing of \$4,250. The books for the tax roll are supplied free by the state through the county.

*(The next article will explain tax collection.)*

*(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2)*

early in the Nineteenth Century, whose death on September 13, 1832, was mourned as a calamity to Detroit by Catholics and Protestants alike.

The earliest of Grosse Pointe's students of the three R's are likewise to be honored, in the architecture of the Richard School, which is to be predominantly French.

The first school which children of the early settlers in Grosse Pointe attended was established by Father Richard near Water Works Park in the Grand Marais. Father Richard, who came to Detroit in 1798 to be priest at St. Anne's and who subsequently founded two schools for boys and two separate schools for girls, was noted also as Detroit's first "food administrator," as the man who brought the first printing press to Detroit and published the town's first newspaper and first school books, as the first Roman Catholic priest to serve as a delegate to Congress and as a faithful shepherd who was stricken while nursing the sick and comforting the dying during the cholera plague which was brought to Detroit by soldiers of the steamer Henry Clay en route to the Black Hawk War in western Wisconsin.

### Held Six Professorships

Father Richard's interest in education led to his appointment to six professorships and the vice-presidency at the "Catholepistemiad" or University of Michigania whose cor-

*(Concluded on Page 4, Col. 1)*

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 3)

nerstone was laid on Sept. 24, 1817, on a lot on the west side of Bates Street between Congress and Larned. The university's site was purchased with an \$80 appropriation of the Governor and Judges, who also voted \$300 for a building.

**NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB**

Boys and girls from three years up who hanker for recreational interests to fill their spare time, will be interested in the fall program of activities at the Neighborhood Club, 17145 Waterloo Avenue. The following weekly schedule is now adhered to:

**Monday**

- 9:30-11:30—Pre-School Class (3-5 year)—Assembly room.
- 12:00-1:00—Gymnasium Class, business men—Gymnasium.
- 3:45-5:45 — Music Appreciation and Theory—Assembly rooms.
- 4:00-5:30—Toy Band (boys and girls, 5-9 years)—Scout room.
- 4:00-5:30 — Handcraft, children 3-10 years—Games room.
- 4:00-5:30 — Basketball, Intermediate boys—Gymnasium.
- 5:30-6:30—Boxing, men—Gymnasium.
- 6:30-11:00—Basketball League Games—Gymnasium.

**Tuesday**

- 9:30-11:30—Pre-School Class, 3-5 years—Assembly room.
- 4:00-5:30—Handcraft, girls, 10-14 years—Tower room.
- 4:00-5:30—Organized Play, 5-11 years—Games room.
- 4:00-7:00—Music Lessons (piano)—Assembly room.
- 3:30-5:30 — Basketball (rental) — Gymnasium.
- 7:30-8:30—Chauffeurs, Gym. Class—Gymnasium.
- 7:30-8:30—Boy Scouts, Troop 79—Scout room.

8:30-9:30—Boy Scouts, Troop 79—Gymnasium.

**Wednesday**

- 9:30-11:30—Pre-School Class, 3-5 years—Assembly room.
- 12:00-1:00—Gymnasium Class, business men—Gymnasium.
- 4:00-5:30—Toy Band (boys and girls, 5-9 years)—Scout room.
- 4:00-6:00—Music Lessons (piano)—Assembly room.
- 5:30-6:30—Boxing, men—Gymnasium.
- 6:30-7:30—N. A. C. (Intermediate boys)—Gymnasium.
- 8:00-10:00—Gymnasium Class (men)—Gymnasium.
- 8:00-10:00—Chauffeurs Club—Assembly room.

**Thursday**

- 10:30-12:00—Board of Trustees—Board room.
- 2:00-4:30 — Handcraft, women — Board room.
- 4:00-6:00—Music Lessons (piano)—Assembly room.
- 4:00-6:00—Music Lessons (violin)—Scout room.
- 4:00-5:00—Woodwork, boys—Room A.
- 4:00-5:30 — Gymnasium, girls — Gymnasium.
- 7:00-9:00 — Camp Fire Girls — Scout room.
- 8:00-10:00—Gardeners' Meeting (1st Thursday)—Assembly room.
- 7:30-11:00—Moving Picture Show—Gymnasium.

**Friday**

- 3:30-5:30—Camp Fire Group No. 2—Scout room.
- 5:30-6:30 — Intermediate Boys — Gymnasium.
- 4:00-6:00—Music Lessons (piano)—Assembly room.
- 7:30-8:30—Women's Gymnasium Class—Gymnasium.
- 8:30-9:30—Business Girls' Gym Class—Gymnasium.
- 8:00-10:00—Dramatics, adults—Assembly room.

**Saturday**

- 10:00-12:00—Junior Boys' Gym. Class—Gymnasium.
- 10:00-6:00—Dancing Classes—Assembly room.

- 1:00-2:00—Intermediate Boys' Basketball League—Gymnasium.
- 2:00-3:00—Blue Birds—Gymnasium.
- 2:00-4:00—Blue Birds—Scout room.
- 7:30-11:00—Public Dances and Parties—Gymnasium.

**50,000 ATTENDANCE AT 4 RECREATION CENTERS**

A total of 27,049 children and adults attended the summer playgrounds conducted by the Board of Education in Grosse Pointe during the ten weeks from June 24 to September 1. Attendance this year was: Defer, 13,360; Trombly, 9,049; High School, 4,640. Average daily attendance this year as compared with a year ago:

	1928	1929
Defer .....	35	198
Trombly .....	30	129
High School .....		66

Baseball and tennis proved major factors this summer in increasing attendance at the Neighborhood Club playgrounds to 23,585, an increase of 15,770 over the attendance of 7,815 during July and August in 1928. The fall rummage sale of the Neighborhood Club is scheduled for October 17th.

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'Homme-dieu, Treasurer, 3000 Union Trust Building, Detroit, Michigan.

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**Citizens Association**

OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

51 West Warren Ave.  
Detroit, Mich.

*Municipal research is a method, not a panacea. It aims, not to make over either the man in office or the men who vote, but to give men as they are better methods of working for the public as it is; better methods of watching and judging what their public servants do.*  
—George B. Hopkins.

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