

East Village

Magazine

July 3, 1976



Editorial

Let's get to important things

By Gary Custer

It is customary for a new publication to justify its existence by running a long list of idealistic goals in its premier issue.

We'll pass up that tradition.

To use precious space to expound on idealistic journalism concepts is a luxury we can't afford. Instead, we suggest that you read the East Village Magazine and form your own ideas about what we can do.

Let's get to important things — your community and what you as an individual can do to improve life in the East Village.

You choose to live here for some very good reasons.

Our neighborhood contains most of Flint's cultural treasures. It is the home of our public education system. On its borders are the centers of government, banking and commerce. Tree-shaded streets create a pleasant environment in which to live. The diversity of the life styles of its people give our neighborhood an inherent energy not found in most communities.

In short, East Village has evolved into a community which planners strive for but rarely achieve.

Yet, despite all of the work done to preserve this extraordinary community, our neighborhood is threatened by an unbelievable array of forces bent on destroying the things we find so precious.

In the name of progress, efficiency, or some other anti-human justification our neighborhood is being slowly dismembered. The Board of Education tells us that we have to give up our elementary school "for the greater good." Bureaucrats justified an expressway that is tearing our community apart with a similar phrase. Our postal service is abominable because we are being used as a training area for novice mail carriers — again probably for "the greater good."

The list goes on and on.

We can't help but remember a line from a once-popular song by Joni Mitchell: "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot".

Irreverent perhaps but not that far from the truth.

So what can be done? Should we remain passive, allowing outside forces to use us as part of every plan "for the greater good"? Should we wring our hands and bemoan each indignity heaped on us by outsiders without an effort in our own defense?

We don't think so.

We will do everything within our power to bring you fair, relevant and factual information about your neighborhood. It is up to you to join your neighbors in determining what is fair and proper for your community and then fighting to get it.

Involvement can take many forms.

At the most basic level you have a right and an obligation to express your opinions. We urge you to do so. This publication will provide several opportunities. In addition to the traditional letter-to-the-editor forum each issue we will provide a ballot for you to rate the people and services you pay for with your taxes.

Fill it out and return it.

We will tabulate the results and publish them in the next issue to give you, and many of those people who affect your life with their decisions, an idea of how well they are doing.

You also have a right and an obligation to work for those things contributing to improvement of the community and against those at odds with what you believe is in your own best interest as a resident.

Every community project in East Village needs enthusiastic people to help it survive — including this publication. In the next few weeks you will discover many ways in which you can help. Please don't wait for someone to ask, you are needed now.

After all, you are doing nothing more nor less than defending your home.

Meeting set

There will be a neighborhood meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Walker School. The agenda will include the election of an East Village council and a board of directors for the East Village Magazine and the establishment of action teams to deal with threats to our community.

Because of the magnitude of the threats to our community, it is important that every East Villager attend.

Opinion

Editor:

I don't think they should close Walker School. If the Board of Education needs more room, let them move and we'll take their building.

If they close Walker, all the kids will move away and more kids won't move in. Besides there are a lot of kids in the neighborhood that will soon be old enough to go to school and they will have to go somewhere else.

Another thing. Walker is used after school for a lot of good things. Kids can play on the playground toys after school. If they can't, a lot of kids might get hurt crossing busy streets to get to other playgrounds.

Also, a lot of groups meet at Walker and they are important because they are trying to improve our neighborhood.

They should send some of the kids from Pierce, which is an old school, to Walker and that would save our school and make Pierce less crowded.

This neighborhood is the best place to live in but kids can't live here if there is no school.

If they keep taking houses and schools away from this neighborhood, we are not going to have a neighborhood.

Terese Redding
Age 8
620 E. Third St.

The East Village Magazine needs people to type, proofread, write, sell and design ads, distribute, etc. Call 232-0472.

East Village Magazine

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July 3, 1976

The East Village Magazine is a publication by, for and about the people of our community. It was made possible by a grant to the Walker School District from the C. S. Mott Foundation's Project USE program but does not reflect the viewpoints, opinions or policies of either the Board of Education or the Mott Foundation.

We welcome all material from the Community but all submissions become the property of the publication and if published will be edited to conform to the editorial style and policies of the publication. All inquiries about the publication should be mailed to East Village Magazine, 501 Avon St., Flint, Michigan 48503.

Publication is every other Saturday.

Distribution is free-of-charge to all residents of the East Village and \$10.00 a year to those outside the neighborhood. Advertising rates are two cents a character or space for unclassified ads and \$6.00 per column inch of display space plus any half-tone screening charges.

Editor

Contributing Staff

Trudie Redding, Janet Homer, Terry Bankert, Kevin Nagy, Andy Moxam, Pat Hardin, Bob Sayers, Penny McMullen, Sara Theiss, Edwin Custer, Mike Schulz, Joe Foust, Sue Niemi, Casey Caughlin, Tom Blackburn, Gillian Swart, as well as the hundred or so neighbors who provided information and encouragement.

Gary P. Custer



Walker Open School ends *'I thought it was nice the way it was'*

By Janet Homer

The East Village has nearly become a community without a school. This fall, according to school administrators, Walker School will have only special programs.

Each day a different group of about 125 children in the city-wide Academically Talented Program will attend school at Walker, according to Arnold Birmingham, Oak School principal on special assignment to the system's Project Information Office.

A program planned for exceptional children will be phased in at Walker also. The Gifted Program, to include about 100 children, will eventually be in session full time at Walker, said Birmingham.

Children from East Village who have been attending Walker have several options for the fall.

They may attend elementary schools contiguous to the area — Pierce, Homedale or Washington — or, if eligible, one of the specialty schools, such as the new non-graded, self-contained, teacher cycle school at Coolidge, said Birmingham.

These options may depend on the child's racial status, he added.

There are about 35 school-age children in the Walker area.

The open elementary school, which was located at Walker, will be relocated at Emerson, where it will become part of a new K-12 open school.

The move from Walker, according to Birmingham, is chiefly to consolidate the Open

School Program. He added that this consolidation was strongly lobbied for by parents of children in the Open School Program.

Wherever children end up going to in the fall, transportation from a pick-up point in the neighborhood will be provided free if the child must travel more than one-and-a-half miles, according to Birmingham.

Transportation has been one of the chief concerns of area parents who must decide where to send their children in the fall.

Parents who wish their children to continue in the Open School Program have also voiced concern over the inevitable change in the character of the open elementary school.

"After a small, closely-knit school like Walker," says Jack Minore, 518 Avon, "Emerson will be overwhelming."

Loss of easy access to the Cultural Center is another objection Walker School parents raise.

"The time my children would have spent there will now be spent in buses or car pools," says Trudie Redding, 620 E. Third St.

David Beavers, associate director of the office of elementary community education, points to the Jefferson Open School in the north end as being successful without a cultural center handy.

The fleet of buses the city must have for its desegregation program will increase opportunities for local field trips for all Flint school children, he added.

The strongest neighborhood fear is that Walker will cease to be a school. Minore

fears that with no organized parent group, Walker will become part of the administrative complex in a year or two.

Birmingham replies that there are no plans to continue Walker as anything but a school. Especially, Beavers added, now that the millage has passed.

With Oak School becoming a community center, there will no longer be any elementary school in the urban renewal area on either side of downtown.

Urban renewal has probably been the most successful in the Central Park area, said Minore. He feels that without a community elementary school to act as a magnet for families with young children, property values and neighborhood stability will drop.

"It is a case of two government units at odds with each other," he said.

"This area is an ideal one for an elementary school, with the cultural center and with what they're trying to do downtown," said Bessie Brown, 612 Crapo St.

She feels that the character of the neighborhood will become even more transient and difficult to organize than it is now.

It is the choice of the school system to offer a greater variety of alternatives in education, according to Birmingham. He added that the system tries to have all of its buildings serve both specific programs and the community in general.

Current Walker School Community Director Mike Schulz will be reassigned to another school, although another community director may be assigned to Walker in the fall.

"If the need is there and the community wants it, services will be provided," said Beavers.

He does not foresee any change in neighborhood interaction with Walker, pointing out that Walker was already attended by children from all over Flint.

"Declining enrollment has caught up with Flint," said Beavers.

That and the necessity to comply with state and federal mandates, such as desegregation, has caused the Board of Education to examine many new ways of doing things, he explained.

Most area parents still voice the opinion of John Ogden, 709 Pierson St., who says "I thought it was nice the way it was."

He feels that the move is unfair to parents who worked to organize and run Walker Open School.

Parent involvement increases the value of education in the eyes of the child, says Ogden, and he worries that parent involvement will decrease when the Open School moves and expands.

Carroll Locke, 603 Pierson St., is completely sold on the open school concept and would like his daughter, Starla, to continue in the Open School Program, although he doesn't like the idea of sending her to Emerson.

"Starla doesn't like it, I don't like it—but I don't see what we can do about it."

*Trees are nice — help plant one.
Call 232-0472.*

At Second and Thomson Streets Church bids for parking lot

By **Trudie Redding**

The East Village soon may have another parking lot.

The northwest corner of Second and Thomson Streets is the site of a proposed parking annex for the Riverside Tabernacle Assembly of God Church, 429 East St.

According to Joe Figa, planning supervisor for the Department of Community Development (DCD), Riverside Tabernacle submitted the highest bid for the two lots. This parcel was among several HUD properties recently offered for sale by the city of Flint.

"If the proposed use conforms to urban renewal plans, we can't deny the sale," said Figa, "because parking is an allowable use."

DCD is concerned about the effect on the neighborhood of a parking lot at a highly visible location in this residential area. A detailed list of requirements was sent to the Rev. Ivar A. Frick, Jr., pastor of the church.

These requirements include a minimum setback of 20 feet from the property line on Second and Thomson Streets, construction of a wall or fencing with adequate shrubbery, provisions for proper drainage and lighting and an entrance to be determined by Traffic Engineering.

A site plan must be reviewed by DCD before final release of the property from the city inventory.

Approval for the sale of the property is not final yet because DCD has not received a written agreement to comply with the requirements from Riverside Tabernacle.

Mr. Frick stated, "They have made demands on us that are unjustifiable. We would need to hire a full-time gardener. There is no way we can comply."

"If we wanted to push the sale, we could. But we're just letting it ride right now."

In 1972 controversy arose over the 100,000 square feet of paved parking area for the church then under construction. Adjacent property owners complained of water draining onto their property because of improper grading and drains. The code violations were corrected but disagreement remains over appropriate landscaping and buffering for the adjoining residential properties.

Several residents are concerned about the proposed new parking area. Andrew Moxam, 519 S. Avon St., stated, "The state of the present parking lot and the lack of landscaping may be an indication of how the new lot will look."

The Rev. Frick feels that it is unfair to impose standards on the church property which he feels are not demanded of other property owners.

"When we see the residents upgrading their real estate," Frick said, "we'll do what we can."



Another concern of the community is the development of more tax-exempt property. "I think they have enough property now in the tax-free area," explains J. H. Donnelly, 518 Thomson St. The rear of Donnelly's property adjoins the parking area and the

proposed lot would border his property on the south.

"As far as the church is concerned," said Frick, "we are doing everything we can to compliment and upgrade the area and we will continue to do so."

Trees planted in Village

By **Janet Homer**

Twenty-one trees were planted this spring in East Village with Project USE money and more plantings are planned for this fall.

Several new trees appeared on East, Seventh, and Eighth Streets, and other places around the neighborhood.

A grant to plant 100 trees was approved by the Mott Foundation in early April.

Members of the Walker School Community Council proposed the grant, pointing out the aesthetic and ecological values the trees would bring to the neighborhood.

The four-year-old trees cost about \$15 each and are planted, wrapped, and staked, free of charge, by the Flint Department of Parks and Recreation.

Trees are planted on right-of-ways, that strip of land between the sidewalk and the

street.

Residents can request plantings but special consideration is given to areas where trees are sparse, including around vacant lots. The council wants property owners to contribute six dollars toward the cost of any tree planted on their property. This money will be used for additional plantings.

Donations for additional plantings are also appreciated, according to Mike Schulz.

Response from the community has been limited, says Schulz, possibly due to the long-range nature of the project.

Questions about plantings or donations can be directed to Schulz at Walker, 232-0472, or you can write to the Walker Community School Tree Fund, 817 E. Kearsley St., Flint, Mich. 48503.

Activities planned for seniors

"The Convertible Girl," a play featuring Harvey Korman of the Carol Burnett Show, will be the first attraction in a summer program of events, sponsored by Walker School and funded through a Project USE grant.

The program enables community residents to attend cultural and recreational events at about half what it would cost an individual.

Playgoers will meet at 7:15, July 13, at

Kearsley Manor, 814 E. Kearsley, for refreshments and then walk to Whiting Auditorium. Deadline for the \$3.00 reservation fee is July 8. Announcements of other events in the series will appear in East Village Magazine.

For reservations and other information call Mike Schulz at 232-0472.

East Village life styles

Piece of Heaven isn't illegal

By Janet Homer

Yes, those were horses you saw on Avon Street.

At first there were a lot of double-takes but the neighborhood has gradually gotten used to two of what are perhaps our most unusual residents. There is a teller at a drive-in Michigan National Bank who may not have recovered yet, though.

The horses are in the care of the Arthur Donelsons of 431 S. Avon Street. They are kept in a corral next to the Donelson home at the north end of Avon, in the heart of the city. The Donelsons ride them around town, either saddled or drawing a cart or buggy.

There are two horses — Raaszu, a six-year-old registered Arabian, and El Alazan, an eight-year-old Criollo. Both are geldings and relatively small horses. They're not fence-jumpers by any stretch of the imagination, the Donelsons' son, Dale, assures us.

The first question most people ask when they see the horses in town is "Is it legal?" The answer to that is, "Well, it's not illegal."

Under the city code there are some general prohibitions against cruelty to animals and some ordinances about dogs and fowl. But, as Arthur Donelson explains, old ordinances covering horses and other farm-type animals were omitted when the code was adopted.

The Donelsons became interested in the problems of keeping a horse in town four years ago when they brought in a large, white, half-Arabian horse at Thanksgiving "for a visit." The reaction of police officers, Donelson recalls, was a flat "You can't keep horses in Flint." Since then Donelsons have discovered they can — and they do.

Most people still assume it must be illegal and occasionally the Donelsons have had run-ins with the police. One evening Dale was riding El Alazan in Kearsley Park and found himself in the company of two squad cars and a helicopter. His father, hearing of his situation, came riding up in the cart with Raaszu. A misunderstanding about the legality of having horses in town followed. The next day Donelson obtained copies of the relevant city ordinances — which proved the Donelsons to be in the right — and took them to police headquarters. This information was distributed to all patrolmen.

As a result of this incident, police interference has been reduced but as recently as June 10, two patrol cars drove by where Donelson was grazing Raaszu on the front lawn and a young patrolman started to ask him about the legality of it all. Donelson invited them to pull in and he would explain the law to them but they declined.

Instances like this have caused Donelson to become a little annoyed with city government.

"I don't ask 'Is there a law against keeping horses in the city?' anymore," he says. "I

ask for a copy of the ordinance prohibiting keeping horses in the city."

He keeps copies of the relevant ordinances handy, too, and regards the building permit to build stalls, tacked on the stable, as a "trophy."

Donelson says he's thinking of getting some chickens and renting a cow. His wife says he's kidding but she refers to "our farm," which has been named "The Piece of Heaven."

El Alazan and Raaszu share their stable with Chip, a noisy cockateel (a small Australian parrot). Donelsons are careful that none of their livestock offend. Refuse from the stable is picked up regularly by a commercial sanitation service.

Donelsons keep the horses mostly for the sheer love of it, but they are also interested in training horses. Dale has studied the dressage style with Chuck Grant, a horse trainer.

Because the horses are highly trained, with a large vocabulary of commands, Donelsons are disinclined to let just anybody ride them. One wrong jerk on the reins and the horse and saddle might suddenly be five feet to the

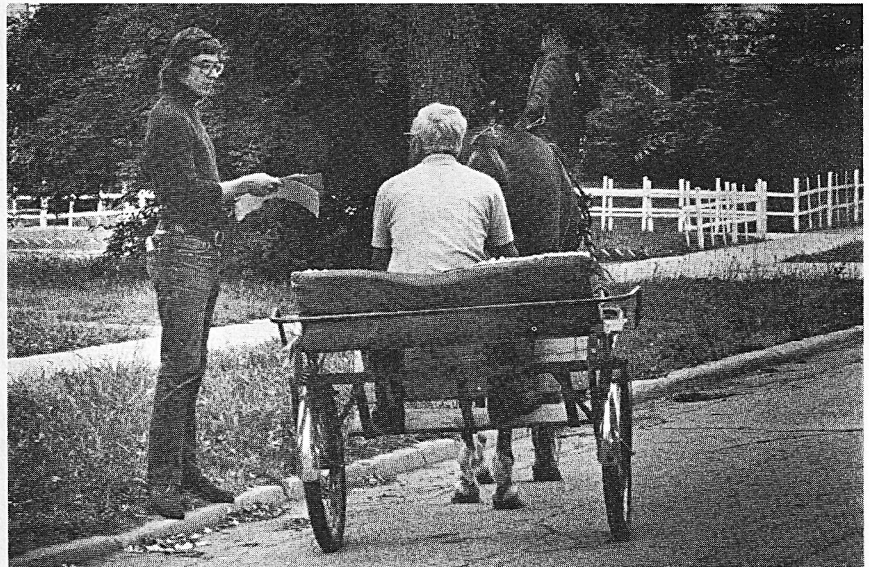
left of the seat of any untrained rider, explained Dale.

Dale is a student at Mott Community Junior College and is studying veterinary medicine. He plans to specialize in equine surgery.

The only real concern the Donelsons have about the horses is that city-bred children, unfamiliar with the realities any farmer's kids are likely to know, won't take sufficient care around the horses, particularly if they come around the corral when the Donelsons aren't home.

The worst danger, according to Donelson, is getting your feet stepped on, but, all the same, he wishes city ordinances permitted him to build a more child-proof fence. He asks parents to keep their children away from the corral unless they are with an adult.

Donelson, a piano tuner, spends a couple months each winter on a ranch in Mexico for health reasons. He learned how to ride and take care of horses "to keep up with the cowboys." It was in Mexico he bought El Alazan, a one-time race-horse.



Delegates to be chosen

Several East Villagers are running for Democratic Party precinct delegate in the August 3 primary election.

The filing deadline for the Democratic candidates was May 25. Judith E. Warner, 224 E. Court St. has filed in Precinct 13.

Those who have filed in Precinct 14 include: Robert Craig, 620 E. Second St.; Arletta Johnson Minore, 518 S. Avon St.; Jack D. Minore, 518 S. Avon St.; Andrew H. Moxam, 519 S. Avon St.; and Sue Ann

Schon, 721 Thomson St.

In Precinct 50, Charles R. Holley, 381 E. Eighth St. and Patricia A. Sillers, 937 E. Seventh St. have filed.

In the Republican election of precinct delegates, held May 18, Dennis H. Haugen, 506 Crapo St., was elected the Republican delegate from Precinct 14.

Any registered voter of the precinct may still enter and possibly win the race by waging a write-in campaign.



Ask a friend For a little help

By Trudie Redding

At one time or another we all have problems with individuals or institutions. The television set we buy doesn't work, repair bills are higher than the estimate, our tenant or landlord is unreasonable, city services are not there when they should be, or governmental red tape seems unconquerable. The list is endless.

In this column we will deal with ways to solve these types of problems. Each week we will run questions from readers who are having difficulty solving particular problems and suggest a possible course of action — generally, who to contact and how to get their attention.

Some of the areas we plan to concentrate on are:

- Consumer Protection. Problems with merchants or merchandise, contracts for services, fly-by-night operations, licensing requirements and consumer legislation.
- Landlord-Tenant Problems. Rights and requirements outlined by law, deposits, damages, evictions, repairs and refunds.
- Service Agencies. What help is available and how to find it.
- People Paid To Help You. Who and what are neighborhood service representatives, who are our elected officials and where to reach them, and who to go to when no one else can help.

- Government. Where to go, who to see, how to get things done, what services are available and what you can do to solve a problem or file a complaint.

Many problems in these areas are relatively easy to solve if you know how to go about it. Often, it takes only a phone call to the right person. We will try to provide that key to the problems.

Unfortunately, there are problems without simple solutions. In those cases a solution to the problem may rest on your awareness of your rights and your active involvement in correcting flaws in the systems. But, personal involvement is both your responsibility and right.

If you have a problem you feel we could help solve, write it down as simply and concisely as possible. Those with the widest interest will be used in this column. No names will be printed, but you must include your name, address and phone number.

Send your questions to: Trudie Redding, 620 E. Third St., Flint, Mich. 48503.

Thanks Mott Foundation

Thank you Mott Foundation. We appreciate the help you gave us in producing this free and independent voice of the East Village people.

We will do everything within our power to resist all pressures from any individual or group who would have us put any purpose ahead of serving the people of the East Village.

By your actions you have shown that participatory democracy might still have a chance of working.

Thanks for the chance.

—The Staff

The view from the school window

Being community school director of Walker School has been a unique experience.

Working with the Walker staff, kids, and parents in two different programs, Open School and the Academically Talented Program, and with the Walker community has given me a variety of experiences which has enriched my life.

Because I was working in a new building with two unique programs, at first I spent more time learning about and working with the teachers, children and parents than I did with the Walker community.

One of my main objectives this second year was to work with the community—getting to know the people and the problems, and attempting to help solve the problems through community participation and education.

Project USE gave me this opportunity.

Because we have relatively few students from the immediate community and because children attend Walker from throughout the city, the school's advisory council was composed mainly of residents from areas other than the Walker School District, and concerned itself with school-related problems rather than community problems.

Project USE gave the people of the community a chance to meet and discuss ways to benefit the community.

Through this process I have met many residents who are concerned enough about the East Village to give time, effort, and money to help maintain and improve their community. One of the many unique features of the community is the diversity of the people who are willing to become involved in helping each other.

The future of Walker School and its staff is uncertain. There may not be a

director at the school next year, or one may be assigned to two or more schools in the area.

Whatever happens I will continue to work with the programs we have started as long as necessary to help insure their success.

I have enjoyed working at Walker School and with the unique people in the community. A new community spirit is being formed and I hope it continues to grow.

Important meeting for all Villagers, 7 p.m. Wednesday at Walker School.



By
Mike Schulz

Cars are fine but —

Editor:

No one can deny the importance of the automobile to Flint. But must pedestrians and esthetics always place second and third?

As a driver I find right-turn-on-red signals a convenience but as a pedestrian the combination of one-way streets and right-turn privileges often leave me stranded on downtown corners through two or three light changes. Either that, or racing madly across the street assuring myself the pedestrian has the right-of-way. Which brings me to my second complaint.

The lights in downtown are set for traffic-flow with little regard for those walking across the streets and none at all for handicapped persons.

As a fairly able-bodied, forty-three-year-old, I find a brisk trot gets me across before the signal changes, providing I start the moment the light is green.

What is the point of barrier-free curbs when lights are timed for track stars and auto traffic?

Winter brings other hazards.

Many businesses are guilty of plowing out parking areas and piling the snow across sidewalks. By the time the city crews add to

it from the street-side it requires the skill of a mountain climber to walk from one place to another. This leaves no alternative but walking on icy streets.

Risking your life as a pedestrian is as nerve-shattering as driving to avoid the pedestrians.

After pedestrian safety and convenience comes esthetics.

Surely there are people capable of designing parking areas that serve the purpose but are pleasing to the eye. There must be alternatives to acres of blacktop and poorly engineered and ugly parking ramps. These become especially offensive when they abut or are in residential areas.

I can conceive of no greater insult to a residential area than streets widened to front porches and huge stretches of unrelieved blacktop among well-cared-for homes.

In a city that has and is spending millions of dollars for planning there should be room for "people planning" too. There is no reason why the "people place" has to be confined to the banks of the river.

Is there?

Bessie Brown
612 Crapo St.

Want Ads

Apartment for rent- Avon St. Small one bedroom, furnished, all bills paid. 234-4224.

Happy birthday Kathy. To journeying Betty, best wishes on your Australian trip. To my dear Sharon, keep your good spirits strong, you'll be loved all the more. Tom.

Going somewhere? Shopping? Swimming? Or just want to get away from all the hassles? I will stay with your children in your home or mine. Experienced. References furnished on request. Call Sara - 232-4822.

A belated (as usual) but sincere wish for a happy Mother's Day, Father's Day and wedding anniversary to Lloyd and Nola from Gary and Ed.

For sale- 1974 Porsche 914, AM/FM radio, 29,000 miles. Call 238-2281 days, 767-8868 evenings.

East Villagers- attend one of the most important meetings ever held in your neighborhood, 7 p.m. Wednesday at Walker School.

Pachinko machines, a whiskey barrel, original macrame or any item you need and don't have time to find — I will shop and/or gift wrap for you. Nominal fee. References available. Call Sara 232-4822.

Studio apartment on Avon for rent. Call 767-1856 or 235-2268.

Two bedroom apartment, all bills paid, immediate occupancy, \$150.00, 517 Avon. Also house with four bedrooms, two-and-one-half baths. Occupancy Aug. 1, 519 Avon. Call 235-8106.

Thanks Mott Foundation and in particular the people of the Project USE program for your assistance in making the East Village Magazine a reality. Your help has been invaluable. The Staff.

People with investigative talents needed to uncover facts and figures on community problems for publication and community action teams. Must have ability to slash through red tape. Call Mike Schulz at 232-0472.

Food Co-op is looking for people with organizational abilities. Call CE 2-0472.

Wanted: Enthusiastic people to make the East Village a better place to live by working with their neighbors on one of the numerous community projects. Call CE 2-0472.

Walking fun in the village

By Janet Homer

July is a good month for entertainment in the East Village. There are several shows and events within walking distance which are free or inexpensive.

Bicentennial attractions fill much of the bill. The Common Heritage Festival runs through Monday. A new Continental Army will be encamped in Kearsley Park, authentic in every detail, up to and including maneuvers.

July 4 affords us a traditional parade to be held downtown at 6 p.m. Then back to Kearsley Park for a Motor City Concert Band performance, followed by a fireworks display.

Sloan Museum contributes to the Bicentennial spirit by recreating Flint's first Buick. It will start its test run next Friday, just as the original did in 1904.

"The American Indian and the American Flag" show continues at the Flint Institute of Art (FIA) until Aug. 1. This is a display of Native American art of the 1800's which incorporates patriotic symbols. "Bicen-

ennial Prints" will be shown at FIA until Sept. 5, as well as a photography exhibit, July 9-25.

Silent movies will be shown July 12, 19 and 26. For more information drop by or call FIA, 234-1695.

Next door at Longway Planetarium the summer sky show is "Project Viking." The planetarium's hours are Fridays, 7-8:30; Saturdays and Sundays, 12-5. Across the street, Whiting Auditorium is booked for July with Star Theater productions. "My Fat Friend" runs today and tomorrow; "Musical Jubilee," 6-11; "The Convertible Girl," 13-18; "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," 20-25; and "Damn Yankees," 27-Aug. 1.

Bingo addicts should check out the IMA Annex Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays of this month.

Downtown Flint's sidewalk sales are scheduled for July 29-31.

Finally, if none of these things are to your taste, try the Bicentennial Commission's River Raft Race on July 31, which starts near the Farmer's Market. Potential Huck Finns should contact the commission at 767-1776.

Speak out - return the opinion ballot in this issue. If someone has already used it, call 232-0472.

The Co-op needs you. Call 232-0472.

Low cost loans offered

By Trudie Redding

East Village property owners may soon be able to get loans to improve their property at a three per cent interest rate. All property owners within the Central Park urban renewal area are included in this program.

The Department of Community Development (DCD) is urging all property owners who want to apply for funds to rehabilitate their property to contact rehabilitation loan officer John Martin immediately.

A homeowner or mortgagee may be able to receive as much as \$17,400 for improvements

to a single family dwelling. Landlords are also eligible.

These federal funds are offered to correct code violations or conditions which could become code violations.

In general, funds are available to improve health, sanitation and safety conditions. However, up to 40 per cent of the amount to be spent on code violations may be used for home improvements.

These loans are repayable over 20 years. There are no income limitations on who may apply, however, an applicant "must be

financially able to make the payments," according to Martin.

Martin indicated that a wide variety of improvements and repairs could be completed with this loan money. However, DCD is operating under severe time limitations and urges all interested persons to contact their office at 766-7212 for more details.

Co-op growing

By Janet Homer

The Central Park Food Co-op continues to grow despite an uncertain future.

Whether or not Walker School remains open will directly affect the co-op's future, according to co-op worker, Chris Zorn. The Flint Board of Education has not announced whether Walker will re-open this fall. (See story page 3.)

The Co-op has been using Walker for meetings, storage and distribution since it started last January with a Project USE grant to the Walker School area from the Mott Foundation.

Project USE funds for the co-op ended May 31.

The co-op offers staples such as flours, grains, cheeses and dried milk (no meat or produce), at prices slightly above cost to members. Foodstuffs are bought from the Ann Arbor People's Warehouse operated by the Michigan Federation of Food Co-ops, to which the Central Park Food Co-op belongs.

Since orders for the co-op are increasing, it seriously needs volunteers for all kinds of office tasks and distribution work.

"Although there is no major threat to the co-op now, its long-range survival depends on the number of people who know enough about how the operation works to help improve it," explains Kevin Nagy, co-op coordinator.

Orders are filled once a month.

For more information about the co-op, contact Kevin at 234-4224, Mike Schulz (Walker School, community director) at 232-0427, or Chris or Claudette Zorn at 239-6837.

Help offered

Tuesday is the last day people can register to vote in the August 3 primary. The election will choose the party nominees for the November general election. Several East Villagers will be helping their neighbors to register. Randy Doyka, 624 E. Third St., will take phone requests at 767-6708 from those who would like a deputy registrar to come to their home. The registrar will bring the necessary forms and help the caller to complete them.

Villager raps Council

Editor:

As a citizen of Flint I am perplexed and disheartened by the recent suggestions of the Flint City Council. In proposing a 41 per cent budget cut of the office of the ombudsman, Flint citizens are being denied access to services of the only department whose sole purpose is to receive and investigate complaints at City Hall.

In light of the widespread loss of confidence in government in general, the importance of review of public servants and agencies becomes all the more compelling. It is at the local level that people most directly experience the impact of edicts from higher officials and departments, and it is at this

level too that citizens can most easily participate and affect change.

In its actions the City Council has suggested a budget cut 40 times that recommended by its own consultant, and four times that recommended by the mayor. The fact that the City Council suggested to cut its own budget by seven-tenths of one per cent, but that of the authorized appeal process of the citizens of Flint by 41 per cent is noteworthy.

It is believed that the motives of the council in this matter are ill-defined at best and that the proposed budget cuts warrant serious reconsideration.

Doris Suci
924 Eddy St.

