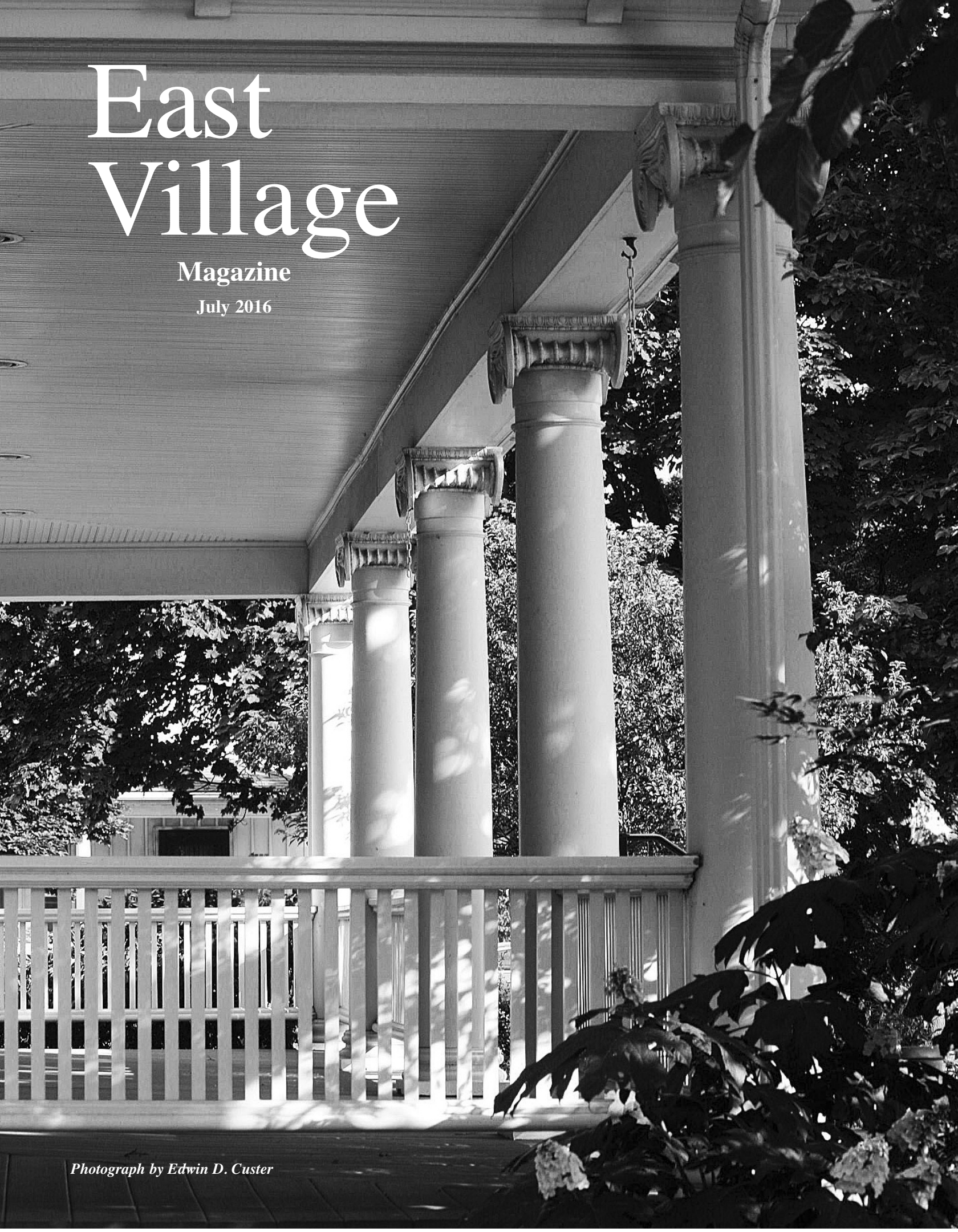


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Magazine

July 2016



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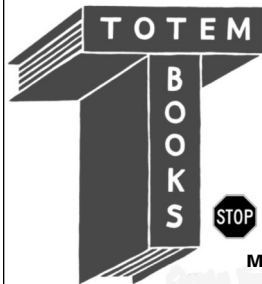
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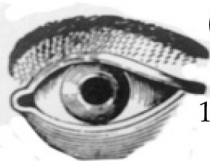
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Commentary

The August primary: Not as much fun as a barrel of monkeys, but probably more important

By Paul Rozycki

I planned on writing about the upcoming Republican national convention, the desperate attempts to block Donald Trump's nomination, Trump's latest outbursts and how it all promises to be more fun than a barrel of monkeys. However, I've since learned that the monkeys are deeply offended and resent the comparison to Trump. So out of deference to the apes, I'll turn my attention to our upcoming primary election in Genesee County. It may not be as entertaining as The Donald's antics, but at least it won't insult the monkeys.

Though less of a spectacle than a national convention, our Aug. 2 primary is one of the most important elections we face. Because Genesee County is so strongly Democratic most of those who win the Democratic primary are assured election in November. (We're not unusual. Most election districts in the nation are similarly solid for one party or the other.) Unfortunately, even though the August primary will decide most local elections, the turnout will almost certainly be very low — much lower than the November turnout.

In the August primary, voters will choose candidates for the U.S. House, the state House of Representatives, all county level offices, the Genesee County Board of Commissioners and many township officials. There will also be three county-wide millage proposals and several local millages or bond issues.

There are many offices where candidates face no opposition for either the nomination of their party or the final election in November. Here is a summary:

U.S. House of Representatives

Michigan elects 14 individuals to the 435-member U.S. House for two-year terms.

-5th District, (Genesee, Tuscola [part], Saginaw [part] Bay, Arenac and Iosco counties) Incumbent Democrat Dan Kildee will face Republican challenger Al Hardwick in November.

The State House of Representatives

There are 110 members in the state house. They serve two-year terms and are limited to three terms.

-34th District, (north Flint city, Burton) Democratic incumbent Sheldon Neeley will face Republican Page Brousseau in

the fall.

-48th District, (Montrose, Vienna, Thetford and Genesee townships) Democratic incumbent Pam Faris will face Republican Joseph Reno in the general election.

-49th District, (Mt. Morris, Flint townships, southwest part of Flint city) incumbent Democrat Phil Phelps will face the winner of the Republican primary — either Jeremy Baker of Mt. Morris or Patrick Duvendeck of Flushing.

-50th District, (southern Genesee County, Mundy, Grand Blanc townships, Burton) incumbent Charles Smiley is term-limited and there are contests for his seat in both parties. Democrats Tim Sneller and Raymond Freiburger are competing for their party's nomination, as are Republicans Michael Matheny and Jackie Seal.

-51st District, (western Genesee County, Gaines, Clayton, Flushing townships) Republican incumbent Joe Graves faces Katherine Houston and John Lauve for his party's nomination. Democrat Ryan Bladzick will oppose the winner in November.

County-wide officials

The Genesee County sheriff, clerk, treasurer, prosecutor, drain commissioner and surveyor are all elected for four-year terms in the presidential election year.

With only one exception there is no opposition for the top officials in Genesee County. Prosecutor David Leyton, Treasurer Deb Cherry, Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright, Clerk/Register of Deeds John Gleason and Surveyor Kim Carlson face no opposition for either the primary or the November general election.

Sheriff Robert Pickell is being challenged for the Democratic nomination by Dan Allen, who has run for the nomination before. Early indications are that Allen is putting on a spirited campaign. The winner will face Republican Matthew Krol of Linden in the general election.

County Board of Commissioners

Genesee County elects nine members to the County Board of Commissioners for two-year terms.

-1st District, (north Flint city, parts of Mt. Morris and Genesee townships) Democratic incumbent Bryant Nolden is

(Continued on Page 6.)

Cover: Last month – Capitol Theatre ••• This month – 2nd & East streets



Photograph by Edwin D. Custer

Photo of the Month – Glass artists Mark Vandenberg & Adam Thomas of JuiceBox Studio show their craft at FIA groundbreaking (Story p. 5).

Mott-Warsh collection unveiled at new downtown home

By Nic Custer

A collection of more than 600 art works from the African diaspora, from Jacob Lawrence to Dawoud Bey, has a new permanent home in downtown Flint.

A free gallery housing the Mott-Warsh art collection had its grand opening during June's Art Walk.

Works by just under 200 artists, including Lawrence, Kara Walker, Nick Cave, Susan Catlett, Kehinde Wiley, Alvin Loving and others were on display in the renovated single-story building at the corner of Saginaw and Court streets.

When the doors officially opened, Maryanne Mott, a daughter of C.S. and Ruth Mott, greeted visitors as they lined up to sign the guest book and view works selected from the collection.

She began the art collection 15 years ago with her late husband, Herman Warsh, a life-long educator and philanthropist. Mott grew up at Applewood, the Mott family estate, and now lives in California.

The couple have long maintained close connections with Flint, both through their participation in the Mott Foundation and their practice of sharing art with Mott's home community.

Stephanie James, curator and education coordinator of the new gallery, assembled the opening exhibition to highlight the collection. She said she wanted the Mott-Warsh Gallery's first show to be an introduction to many community members.

"I really wanted to show off the diversity of the collection, give people a sense of the depth and breadth of different media repre-

sented in the collection – different stylistic tendencies, realism and abstraction, young and old artists," James said.

She added that the ability to assemble such a diverse show from the collection is a great compliment to how open to varied artistic approaches Mott has been as a collector.

The gallery has an open main exhibition area with several small galleries in adjoining rooms. A small gallery near the Court Street entrance focuses on early and mid-20th century artists that laid the foundation for contemporary artists in their use of media, their styles, and how they broke down barriers in the art world.

There is a small video projection gallery and a room, which James said is planned to become a reading library with art books and artist biographies. The core artworks will remain on display for six to 12 months. Other areas in the gallery may rotate works bi-monthly.

James said the goal of the collection has been to increase local awareness of works by African American and African diaspora artists while educating viewers in art history, 20th century American history, African American history, artistic methods and styles.

The collection began in 2001 as a philanthropic response to art education cuts in public schools and a lack of art by people of color in many fine art museums nationwide. Mott and Warsh intended the collection to be available to the broadest possible audience and many of the works have been displayed around the Flint area.

Works loaned from the collection can be seen in 14 locations around the Flint area

including Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, University of Michigan-Flint, Flint Public Library, the Oak Street Senior Apartments, and Genesee County Health Department in Burton.

Most of the exhibits James curates around Flint venues are based on a theme like an ideology, artistic medium or style.

For many years, she said, Mott and Warsh were not interested in having a gallery, preferring to place art in community venues. But

(Continued on Page 6.)



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Major FIA expansion includes glass studios, metal casting

By Nic Custer

The Flint Institute of Arts begins construction this month on a major expansion of its art school and galleries. The project includes a \$5 million Contemporary Craft Wing and a \$3.5 million artist's makerspace with glass studios and a metal casting foundry.

FIA staff and local dignitaries and donors broke ground on the project at a ceremony June 30.

The 8,565 sq. ft. gallery wing will face the Longway Planetarium and contain three galleries and two donated collections, the Dr. Robert and Deanna Harris Burger contemporary ceramics collection and the Sherwin and Shirley Glass contemporary glass collection, which is on permanent loan from the Isabel Foundation.

It will have skylights, a freight elevator and an additional 5,900 sq. ft. lower level for storage and art handling. The exterior of the gallery wing will continue the brick and glass design of the C. S. Mott Wing.

On the opposite side of the building, the art school will build out its west courtyard, adding a 3,960 sq. ft. facility with a glass blowing studio, ceramics studio, a bronze and aluminum-casting foundry and collapsible stadium seating. A glass flame-working studio will also be added to an existing second floor space. A sculpture



Photograph by Edwin D. Custer

Power trio digging in for art: FIA Executive Director John Henry (center) flanked by father and son C.S. Mott Foundation heads, President Ridgway White (left) and CEO William White at FIA groundbreaking.

and mold making studio will be added to the first floor. The makerspace is both a demonstration area for museum visitors and a studio for classes and

guest artists.

Construction is expected to be completed by fall 2017. FIA will hire a full-time glassmaster to help run the new space.

The construction is funded in part by an \$8.5 million C.S. Mott Foundation grant. An additional \$1 million in equipment costs, including glass furnaces and gallery lighting, are still unfunded. FIA is seeking \$4 million in donations to support expanded operations of the glass studio.

William White, chief executive officer of the C. S. Mott Foundation, complimented the FIA staff and board of directors for their management of the museum. He said the Cultural Center is a unique, world-class destination centered around education, and the art school expansion will allow future generations of young people to learn how to make things and move the city forward.

The Burger ceramics collection is currently on display in the FIA and includes pieces as large as 10 feet tall.

FIA is the second largest art museum in Michigan and has the sixth largest art museum school in the country.

EVM Managing Editor Nic Custer can be reached at NicEastvillage@gmail.com.

"Aerosol artists" cleaning up Flint one mural at a time

By Lori Nelson Savage

A new program in Flint started by giving young people an opportunity to paint on buildings. But soon it became clear that Gallery on the Go is also delivering lessons in technique, self-confidence, respect and community pride.

Through it all, Gallery on the Go murals are brightening up many Flint buildings.

Sandra Branch, project director, said the Gallery on the Go mission is to "create art that inspires community action and activism."

"I gathered graffiti artists and street artists that were actually familiar with the blight, and I tried to transform them from cause to cure," Branch said.

So far, the "aerosol artists," as the program calls them, have created and placed paintings in five of Flint's seven wards.

"We started out fighting blight and then as we got into the community, the community neighborhood associations started reaching out to us to help them in their neighborhoods."

She said a core group of six artists attend community events in all areas of Flint to promote the organization. Gallery on the Go provides mentorship and teaches street artists to use their talent to fight blight instead of cause it.

The core crew are artists Royan Gonzalez, Zeb Molina, Mike Cobley, Kyle Buffs, Tony Yarsini and Scott Baker.

"We are looking for new artists all the time," Branch said.

Through mentorship, street and disenfranchised artists have an opportunity to work with more experienced artists, she added. The program introduces participants to the local arts community and

teaches them to collaborate with local businesses to create job opportunities in the arts.

Branch finds participants in the program by knowing the neighborhoods and those that live there. "I constantly recruit," she said. "I started identifying the street taggers a few years ago. Now they come to me." Street taggers are graffiti artists that leave an identifiable signature or mark. Some of the first paintings were mobile murals, helping to brighten and secure vacant homes owned by the Genesee County Land Bank. Old buildings are also used as mural canvases and they are springing up and brightening up Flint all over the city.

Artists come to the Gallery on the Go in several ways, Branch said. Some come because of an interest in community improvements, others because of a need

(Continued on Page 7.)

... Mott-Warsh

(Continued from Page 4.)

James said eventually Mott realized more needed to happen to make the art, especially the large-scale works, accessible to the public.

James said the downtown location is a win-win, and when the downtown property opened up, it was like “the planets coming into alignment.”

She said the gallery owners are pleased to be downtown and join the second Friday Art Walk. The main collection offices are also located in the neighboring Plaza One building.

“Art so often leads to revival, and we are excited to be a part of it in Flint. Hopefully it will be a catalyst for more,” James said. “I’d like to see even more galleries show up in some of the empty spaces.”

The Mott-Warsh Collection website offers educational material about artists, including images and biographies. She said staff are looking to grow the online artist directory with materials to encourage a broader audience.

As part of the education aspect, staff aim to develop relationships with local colleges and universities and encourage instructors to bring classes to the gallery.

James said future programming will include gallery talks, guest speakers and artists from the collection.

“The whole intent is to make this a welcoming spot to contemplate and learn about these works, a place for exchange,” she said. Outside the building a speech bubble sculpture by Hank Willis Thomas faces Court Street. James said the work is meant to evoke conversation and is also a bench.

The gallery is collaborating with Cranbrook Art Museum for August’s Art Walk to bring an inflatable thought bubble installation by Thomas, titled “In Search of the Truth (Truth Booth).” The piece will travel to three locations in Flint, including Hasselbring Senior Center, the Hispanic Tech Center, downtown as well as to metro Detroit.

More information is available at www.m-wc.org or at the gallery, 815 S. Saginaw St.

EVM Managing Editor Nic Custer can be reached at NicEastvillage@gmail.com.

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Neighborhood Watch meets Thurs.,
July 21, 7-9 pm, in MCC’s RTC 1301
Aug. 18, 7-9 pm, in MCC’s RTC 1301
Membership meetings resume in Sept.



... Monkeys

(Continued from Page 3.)

unopposed in both the primary and general election.

-2nd District, (north and central Flint city) Democratic incumbent Brenda Clack is being challenged by former Flint School Board member, David Davenport.

-3rd District, (east Flint city and Burton city, part of Genesee Township) County Board Chair Jamie Curtis is facing challenges for the Democratic nomination from Ellen Ellenburg, of Burton, and Deborah Groul, of Flint. The winner will face Republican James Miraglia, of Flint, in the fall.

-4th District, (south Flint city and Flint Township) Democrats Kim Courts and James Franklin III are challenging incumbent John Northrup for the nomination. No Republicans are running in the 4th District.

-5th District, (Grand Blanc city and township, Atlas Township) Democratic incumbent Mark Young is being challenged by Anoop Todd. No Republicans have filed for November.

-6th District, (Argentine, Fenton, south Mundy and Grand Blanc townships) Republican incumbent Tony Brown is being challenged for his party’s nomination by Drew Shapiro, president of the Fenton School Board. The winner will face Democrat Pete Ponzetti in the general election.

-7th District, (Flushing, Montrose, Vienna and Thetford townships) Democratic incumbent Mike Lynch faces a challenge from Martin Cousineau, who ran two years ago. No Republicans have filed in the district.

-8th District, (Mundy, Gaines, Clayton, parts of Flint, Vienna and Mt. Morris townships) Incumbent Ted Henry is being challenged for the Democratic nomination by Mike Coburn. The winner will take on Republican Bradley Anthony in the fall.

-9th District, (Forest, Richfield, Davison and Genesee [part] townships) Democratic incumbent, Pegge Adams initially faced two challengers for the nomination, in what could be a competitive race. However, ex-Flint councilman Joshua Freeman dropped out and Brian Norman is the lone challenger. The winner will face Republican David Martin in November.

Ballot Proposals

Genesee County voters will face three county-wide ballot proposals in August — a millage renewal for Mott Community College, a millage renewal for Genesee County Emergency Medical Services and a millage increase of .25 mills for the Genesee Intermediate School District.

There are also seven local issues on the ballot throughout the county for parks,

school and library millages and bond issues, mosquito abatement and changes to the Otter Lake charter.

In addition, Genesee County townships are electing supervisors, treasurers, clerks and trustees. Precinct delegates for both parties are also elected.

For as important as they are, primary elections are often confusing. Unlike the general election in November, primary voters must vote for candidates of only one party. In Michigan, unlike many states, voters don’t have to register as a Democrat or Republican, so the choice is made in private, in the voting booth.

Take the time to learn about your candidates. One good source is the League of Women Voters site <Vote411.org> where you can enter your address and find a personalized ballot, with information about the candidates in your area. Many groups also host candidate forums.

That complexity discourages many voters. It shouldn’t. For many offices it’s the primary election that is most important.

Even if the barrel of monkeys is a lot more fun.

Paul Rozycki is a retired professor of political science from Mott Community College. He has lived in Flint since 1969 and has been involved with and observed Flint politics for many years. He is author of Politics and Government in Michigan (with Jim Hanley) and A Clearer Image: The History of Mott Community College. He can be reached at paul.rozycki@mcc.edu.

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From carriages to tutus, Factory #2 eyed for new life as makerspace

By Stacie Scherman

Durant-Dort Factory #2, one of five downtown factories originally used for carriage making in early 20th century Flint, soon could be the home for making things again, this time on a very 21st century model.

That might include people repairing small machines, people repairing bicycles, and even people making custom ballet tutus.

Factory #2, at 129 N. Grand Traverse St. northeast of the Flint River, is the future site of a community workshop and co-op space, according to Red Ink Flint board member Mike Wright.

In June, Red Ink, a non-profit organization seeking to develop community engagement and economic revitalization through the arts and youth entrepreneurship, held an open house to gauge local interest and gather ideas about the use and layout of the space.

During the open house, attended by more than 100 people, Wright and others with Red Ink and Flint Area Reinvestment Office (FARO) gave informal tours of the first floor and information about the project.

Wright told visitors the current plan is to divide the first floor of the building into two sections. One side would be the community workshop, or “makerspace,” where community members would have access to a variety of tools and machines, including a section designated to woodworking.

The other side would be an entrepreneurial incubator space. “If you’re looking to start up a business but don’t have the funds to rent commercial space, you can start here and scale up,” said Wright.

The building is currently unoccupied and owned by Uptown Reinvestment Corporation. According to the proposals Red Ink would

move into the building, become the tenant and manage the makerspace project. Flint Area Reinvestment Office may manage the incubator side, but the details have not been worked out yet, Wright said.

Red Ink Director Joel Rash said Flint STEAMworks, another Red Ink program, would also be part of the makerspace. He said STEAMworks, which is currently operating above Flint Local 432, has outgrown the space and needs more room to add equipment. He added that the proximity of Factory #2 to the Flint bike trail network would especially benefit STEAMwork’s bike repair program.

Rash said Factory #2’s location would also help tie together Kettering University, UM-Flint, Grand Traverse and Carriage Town neighborhoods, Riverbank Park, and Chevy in the Hole.

“Activating this building will help advance the process of pushing downtown Flint’s recent success further into the surrounding neighborhoods, and providing more opportunities for all Flint residents,” he said.

Wright said he believes the space will bring together different segments of the community, including local artists, crafters, and retired factory workers.

“We have a whole wealth of knowledge in guys like my dad, who is a retired skilled tradesman who worked in Chevy in the Hole. I think they would like to be active in a space like this; there just hasn’t been an outlet for it. We have a lot of men and women like that in the community who have skills they can come and share,” Wright said.

Wright said that he envisions the makerspace as a complement to other community

spaces in Flint like UM-Flint’s Innovation Incubator, Flint Area Reinvestment Office’s Co+Work, Mott Community College’s Fab Lab and STEAMworks.

“We can all exist as this ecosystem of creative spaces,” Wright said.

Porcha Clemons, a dancer who attended the open house, said, “I actually can see a dance studio here. I’m looking for a location and I can see mirrors up with a dance floor, busting out some moves here.”

Clemons would also like to use the space for her custom tutu design business. She said she has been making custom tutus for about a year, and that the makerspace would give her more room to spread out her materials.

Also at the open house, Keith Scrimger, a machinist, said he will need a place to move his small machine shop when he sells his house. He said he likes the idea of relocating to the makerspace because of the opportunities to both learn from and teach others.

“When you have people around you, you get ideas. And I think it could be an educational thing too. It’d be really cool to be able to work with people,” Scrimger said.

Rash said membership rates will be determined by build-out costs and typical rates of similar makerspaces in other parts of Michigan, which are around \$50 to \$75 per month. He said the makerspace is still in the planning stages, and that there is not a timeline yet to begin work on the building.

Rash said the number of attendees at the open house “really showed the level of interest in a space like Factory #2.”

Staff writer Stacie Scherman can be reached at sscherma@umflint.edu.

... Aerosol

(Continued from Page 5.)

to serve community service. Some come from courts where their punishment is to paint, but she added, “It gives them a safe place to grow and practice their art in a legal venue.” Some participants sentenced to community service, are very talented artists, according to Branch. Branch sees it as not a punishment, but a redirection of undisciplined talent into community service.

Branch said she would like to see a street painting with aerosol cans lead

some of these artists to other types of painting – possibly airbrushing. Brian Ashley, an airbrushing instructor at Baker

skills could lead street artists to pursue college and a career.

According to Branch, some of the



Gallery on the Go mural at Flint Stool and Chair Co., 1517 N. Dort Hwy.

College, has expressed interest in helping street artists improve their painting skills, and Branch suggests learning specialized

artists in this program have been commissioned for paying jobs. She said Gallery on the Go not only has given the young men and women the opportunity to express themselves artistically, but has given them exposure. She said she thinks it’s an idea that could be repeated in other cities with blight problems.

Staff writer Lori Nelson Savage can be reached at lorinelsonsavage@gmail.com

Village Life

When you need to turn to art, how satisfying to find it here

By Jan Worth-Nelson

We can't think about water all the time. We can't worry about water all the time.

We can't be depressed about Trump all the time. We can't be sad about Orlando all the time. We can't be angry about gun violence all the time. We can't mourn the extinctions of blameless creatures all the time. We can't be afraid of the Zika virus or saltwater leaching into Miami all the time.

It's just too much.

Sometimes we have to turn to the bracing curatives of art. Sometimes we have to turn to the consolations of music.

You'll notice something about this issue of *East Village Magazine*: almost everything in it is about art. And when it comes to art and music in the city, what a time of celebration we are enjoying in the midst of our woes.

A new gallery has opened up at the corner of Court and Saginaw streets, the thrilling Mott-Warsh collection of works from African-American artists and the African diaspora.

A signature sculpture outside, a giant "thought bubble," is also a bench, inviting passers-by to stop and chat, taking a selfie perhaps knowing that inside is a stirring history of long-neglected and under-appreciated work. (You can sit on that bench,

curator Stephanie James wants people to know.)

Ground has been broken on the expansion of the Flint Institute of Arts, and the skylight bright rooms to come will host glass blowers and metal casting.

A "makerspace" in an old building on Grand Traverse, which a hundred years ago was a factory of the Durant-Dort Carriage Company, is about to be rehabbed for 21st century entrepreneurs.

And the walls of blighted buildings in five of the city's seven wards are being transformed by a partnership between young and experienced muralists in the "Gallery on the Go" project.

These are not the death rattles of a dying city. These are markers of a city's bloom, a city's resilience. These are signs of a city still capable of being provoked and enraptured, still captivating itself with beauty, still surprising itself with energy that feels like love.

The weekend of the Orlando shootings, a concert violinist with Flint roots, William Harvey, was staying with us as he passed through Michigan on part of his 50-state "Cultures in Harmony" tour.

That Saturday, we drove him by his first childhood home, which he hadn't seen since 1987. When we pulled up in front of 1910 Montclair, he jumped out and exclaimed, "Oh my God, that's the house. That's the house where I got my first violin."

He has never forgotten the moment when his life as a musician took off in an upright colonial on a quiet, green College-Cultural Center block. We had breakfast at Steady Eddy's, and then he played for a dozen of us, neighbors and friends, in my living room.

In the decades since his childhood in Flint, Harvey has had many adventures, including founding and conducting the Afghan Youth Orchestra and performing as concertmaster in an orchestra in San Juan, Argentina. His Afghanistan experience especially marked him. In a country fraught with bloodshed and extremism, music was a powerful and sometimes perilous counteraction.

That mattered when we got up on Sunday morning to the terrible news about Orlando. Harvey did what he does best. He picked up his violin. In another room, I let the music flow into my heart. If music that gorgeous exists in the world, I told myself, there still is hope.

And the musician got his start in Flint, a place so often associated with decimation and struggle. As one of our neighbors said, with hopeful pride, he is one of our children.

During a pause, I called Harvey into my writing room. I'd been crying.

"I feel so lucky to have that music in my own house, in Flint right now," I said. "Tell

me something I can put in my article about all this."

He was in a hurry. He wanted to play more music. But he understood. Violin still in hand, his thoughts coalesced.

"No one who truly listens to music can deny the dignity and worth of every human being," he said.

"The logic behind that is that if we respond to something that communicates without words, we have to consider that someone else will respond to it as well. I view music as a radical affirmation of the humanity we all share."

We can cherish the radical affirmation of our shared humanity here in Flint.

For example, Fridays in June there was chamber music for free at the Flint Institute of Music: brass quintets and cellos and even tambourines – and cookies afterward. Tuesday night there's free jazz at Soggy Bottom – and they're packing the house every week. There's music at St. Paul's Episcopal, and the Kearsley Park players and the Flint Youth Theatre are at it again.

So, brother and sister Flintoids, it seems that we are soothing our hearts and savoring reminders of how humans can create some pretty grand counterarguments against brutality and ruin.

Not to mention fun: three cheers for the lightness of being and a couple of good cocktails at a downtown bar.

As you may have heard, this month marks the 40th anniversary of *East Village Magazine*. In 1976, as the nation celebrated 200 years of raucous, inglorious, and occasionally noble history, Gary Custer and his little band of volunteers first published this magazine out of an old house on Avon Street. Ten years later they moved to a nondescript storefront on Second.

Custer, a much-beloved Flint original, a man of unassailable journalistic ethics with a passion for neighborhoods, never stopped believing in the city and in the necessity to tell the city's stories.

When he died last year, the little crew who decided to carry on have never let his values be far from our thoughts. Custer never made a penny from his Don Quixote endeavors. Despite his curmudgeonly bluster he loved *East Village Magazine* and the city that birthed it. He would have despaired at the water crisis. But we also think he would have believed wholeheartedly in the signs of life that are the arts in Flint today. It is in this spirit that we dedicate this issue to him and to the unlikely, plucky project he brought to life.

Jan Worth-Nelson is the editor of *East Village Magazine*. She can be reached at janworth1118@gmail.com.

MAKING SOUP By Grayce Scholt

As I am chopping chicken
from the local Kroger store,
I think of how my mother
fed and killed and gutted
our fat rooster she'd admired.

They say that in Zimbabwe,
worms, fat mopane worms,
are plucked and gutted,
dried and put in snacks
as crunchy as potato chips.
They're much admired too.

I like to think this rooster
(free-range, guaranteed)
might have strutted,
crowed at dawn
and waked the sun,
and sensed somehow
that he too was admired
in spite of being doomed.

Grayce Scholt is a retired English professor from Mott College who wrote art reviews for the Flint Journal. Her book of poetry, Bang! Go All the Porch Swings, is available online from Amazon. A personal narrative of the poet's life in Europe in the early 1950s, Vienna, Only You, is available at gscholt09@comcast.net. The author's new book of poems, Night Song, is available from Friesen Press (www.friesenpress.com) and Amazon.