

East Village

Magazine

August 2017

*Photograph by
Edwin D. Custer*

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Commentary

Murder a hard dose of reality in East Village

By Paul Rozycki

Some years ago, one of our favorite programs was “Murder, She Wrote,” where mystery writer Jessica Fletcher solved the latest murder in the small New England fishing village of Cabot Cove. At the time, my reaction was like that for all of Flint’s crime problems, Cabot Cove must have had the highest crime rate in the world. Her little village produced at least one murder a week for a very small population. It just didn’t seem the place where you would expect such crimes.

That may have been an unlikely TV plot line, but for a long time the East Village/East Court neighborhood seemed like its own version of an innocent Cabot Cove. Yes, of course, Flint had a high crime rate, but most of that was on the north end or the east side, or elsewhere. We may have felt insulated from all those robberies, break-ins, and murders that happened “somewhere else.”

A few weeks ago the murder of Al Ballard on Cumberland Street changed all that.

He lived only a block and a half away from me. Though I didn’t know him, he was friends with neighbors across the street and was an active member of another friend’s church, who spoke with him just days before the shooting. All who knew Ballard praised his energy and willingness to work with others as he tackled many new challenges in retirement. By every measure, his loss was a genuine tragedy both to those who knew him, and the whole neighborhood. Thankfully, the suspects were caught and are facing a long list of charges.

That wasn’t the first murder in the neighborhood. There was one on Meade Street a few years ago, and a few years before that there was a shooting within earshot on Dort Highway.

How does one react to a murder a block away from your home? What kind of response makes sense? Panic? Resignation? Anger? Fear? A commitment to make a difference?

The response to the crime

On the positive side, it was inspiring to see how many people offered their support to the Ballard family. Many in the neighborhood brought food to the memorial service and others gave their support to the family in their time of need. The list of those who responded on Facebook was impressive. The response of so many said a lot about our neighborhood and our concern for each other.

But the death was also a harsh dose of reality. While the crime statistics for our neighborhood

are still lower than most other areas of Flint, we can no longer assume that Flint’s crime problem is always happening “somewhere else.” It’s here and we need to deal with it.

Certainly the tragic murder of Al Ballard led to a larger than usual attendance at the recent College Cultural Neighborhood Watch meeting at Mott Community College.

That meeting produced some good advice, some worries, some warnings, some frustration, and some words of reassurance for those who were inclined toward panic at the recent turn of events. It also offered an opportunity to get involved and make our neighborhood as safe as possible.

The CCNA Neighborhood Watch

One way to make a difference is to serve as a member of the College and Cultural Neighborhood Watch team. Currently there are about 25 to 30 individuals who take the time to patrol the neighborhood and report any suspicious activity to the local police. According to Matt Schlinker, the program has resulted in many arrests over the years and he feels that just the presence of the Neighborhood Watch has prevented criminal activity.

In the last year their actions have resulted in five arrests by Flint police. Those involved in the watch don’t act as police officers. They simply observe and communicate with police agencies when they see something suspicious. The goal is to remain low-key and non-intimidating. Those who see suspicious activity are directed to call 911 and then the Mott police at 762-0222. Participants can patrol on their own time and schedule.

For those who would like to learn more about the Neighborhood Watch and for more information on how to get involved, contact either Mike Herriman or Matt Schlinker. Herriman can be reached at 232-6751 and Schlinker can be contacted at matthewschlinker@gmail.com. The College and Cultural Neighborhood Association website also includes background and information on the Neighborhood Watch, as well as many other features of our neighborhood association (www.ccnaf Flint.org). It’s worth checking out.

Practical advice to crime prevention

In addition to encouraging community members to volunteer for the Neighborhood Watch, Mike Herriman and several police officers attending the meeting offered a list

(Continued on Page 11.)

Cover: Summer reverie



Photograph by Edwin D. Custer

Photo of the Month: Waterline pipe replacement in full swing on Copeman Boulevard

Pipe replacement crews dig in: “This is personal”

By Harold C. Ford

On a hot, humid day on Copeman Boulevard, beyond the cacophony of politics, lawsuits, economics, and science that is the Flint Water Crisis, you’ll find a gritty band of workers laboring to resolve a tragedy.

Some are guided, in part, by a sense of altruism. Some of them were discovered by *East Village Magazine* staff during our recent visit to the construction sites, accompanied by an out-of-town film crew attempting to document a series of Flint stories.

And among those workers we encountered that day is Joe Parks.

Joe Parks is a Flint man. Born at St. Joseph Hospital, raised on Nebraska Street on the east side, and graduated from Flint Powers Catholic High School, he now finds himself at the core of the massive effort to replace an estimated total of 20,000 lead and galvanized service lines that carry tainted water to Flint homes in the next three years.

Parks is field manager for Flint-based Goyette Mechanical, one of a half-dozen companies and two labor unions awarded contracts by the Flint City Council in March of 2017 to repair Flint’s water infrastructure. The seven contracts total more than \$35 million for replacement of 6,000 pipes and related work prior to the end of calendar year 2017.

“It’s a very special project,” Parks said of the campaign to replace Flint’s fouled pipes. “Any

time we’re brought in for a project, we’re resolving somebody’s problem,” he said. “We get the opportunity to help every single time we go to work in the morning. There is a little extra icing on the cake as far as this one is concerned.”

Specifically, Goyette is responsible for the replacement work in four of 10 demarcated zones within the city — Zones 2, 3, 6, and 8. Each zone has a foreman; they report to Parks.

During an on-site visit by *East Village Magazine* staff on Copeman Boulevard located in Zone 2 on Flint’s west side, the very special nature of this assignment for Parks and his workmates he represents became clear.

“We all understand the reason that we’re here,” he said above the din of clanging shovels and rickety heavy equipment. “This is a personal thing for us. We’ve got guys out here that are interested in more than coming to work in the morning and leaving at the end of the day. The majority of us here are Flint products.”

Parks has been employed by Goyette since 1998; he started as a truck driver. He worked seasonally during his high school and college years. Then he came on board as an assistant project manager and worked his way up to project manager.

“We’re here for a reason,” Parks said. “We’re really excited and we’re really proud

to be a part of the team.”

Goyette’s team members also include sub-contracted excavators from Roes Contracting Company that work closely with Goyette’s crews. Roes, headquartered in Kawkawlin, has five office locations in Michigan and several in other states. Roes has foremen in each of the construction zones with two field superintendents who oversee those zones.

The task:

The goal of government officials and construction crews is to complete a total of 6,000 line replacements in the city by November. “We (Goyette) are going to do 2,100 of these,” said Parks. “We typically do 20 in a day.” He said four crews, one in each of the four zones contracted to Goyette, complete five replacement projects in a day, sometimes less, sometimes more.

“We’re responsible for any piping from the main that is generally in the street ... to the meter in the home that is not copper,” explained Parks. “If there is any material besides copper — generally it’s either lead or galvanized piping — we’re abandoning that and installing new copper piping, brass valves and fittings, and hooking up to a new meter or the existing meter.”

There is no cookie-cutter construction

(Continued on Page 5.)

... Pipe

(Continued from Page 4.)

formula for the line replacements. “Every one of these projects are a little bit different,” Parks explained.

No X-ray vision:

Accurate information about the water infrastructure dramatically hastens the work for Goyette and other companies. Accurate information has been provided primarily in the following ways:

- **Data organization:** As the water crisis unfolded, officials discovered they didn’t know where the lead service lines were. Information about the lines was scribbled onto 45,000 3-by-5 index cards stored in haphazard fashion at Flint’s city hall. Researchers from the University of Michigan-Flint organized the index card data into an imperfect but more easily understood digital data base. Nonetheless, data was still missing for 11,000 of Flint’s 56,000 parcels of land. Researchers then scanned 240 parcel maps from the city’s water department that contained information about service lines into a computer to provide a more complete picture for construction crews.

“There’s a lot of people on the ‘front end’ that are doing a lot of good work trying to make sure that they’re spending their resources in a manner so that we’re not wasting our time or the city’s money,” said Parks. “The city does have a good record of the newer areas where they know that there’s copper in the ground (and doesn’t need to be replaced), he said. “We stay away from those areas,” he continued. “However, this stuff is underground and we don’t have X-ray vision.”

- **Canvassing:** Without accurate data, Parks explained that a canvassing crew goes door-to-door. If the resident is cooperative, they’ll enter the home and see the pipe-fits coming into the home through the basement walls. “We’ll have a pretty good idea what’s going out to the street,” said Parks. “We can see whether there’s galvanized or copper piping or lead piping coming into their home. Based on that, we have a pretty good idea what’s in front of us.” Parks told *EVM* that pipes are replaced only for occupied homes with “active” water accounts. Information is provided to owners of vacant properties so that they can make the choice to get their water accounts “active” and

qualify for pipe replacement.

“Ninety-nine percent of the time the residents are very accommodating,” said Parks. “It’s construction, so things don’t



Joe Parks

go exactly as planned all the time,” he continued. “For the most part, the residents are accepting of that. They’re letting us into their homes. The fact that we’re in there doing this work, disrupting their day, making a lot of noise, sometimes a little dirty, they’ve been welcoming.”

- **Suck it up:** Minus accurate data or successful canvassing, the Roese crew will deploy their hydro excavation trucks that use pressurized water and industrial-strength vacuums to suck up dirt at the location of the valve (where piped water exits the main line in the street and is routed into the service line leading to the residence). “Anything in the ground from the street to the meter that is not copper, we’re replacing with copper,” Parks said. “It is typical,” he added, “that copper will be found from the valve to the home, but lead or galvanized pipe will be found from the valve outward to the main.”

Data, canvassing, and dirt-sucking, however, do not guarantee that excavation decisions are successful. Parks estimated that one in 10 digs undertaken by Goyette and Roese crews are unnecessary and, thus, unsuccessful. That number is substantially less than the

failure rate reported by Flint Journal-MLive, which used the Freedom of Information Act to discover that “252 of 1,155 excavations — 22 percent — tied to the Flint water crisis have led to copper lines.”

Enough money:

Parks explained that construction may have been slowed by other factors but not by lack of funding. “Our schedule has not been impacted by funding,” he said. A court settlement approved by a federal judge in May 2017 ensures adequate funding for the replacement of Flint’s lead pipes through completion of the project in 2019. The citizen lawsuit was filed by the Concerned Pastors for Social Action, Melissa Mays, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan.

According to the NRDC website, one part of the agreement requires “The State to provide \$97 million to the City of Flint for replacement of lead and galvanized steel pipes at no cost to Flint residents; \$47 million will come directly from Michigan state funding sources; and \$50 million will come from federal and state funding directed to Flint by Congress.”

EVM staff writer Harold C. Ford can be reached at hcford1185@gmail.com.

Pipe replacement work crews deployed in the city, in addition to Goyette, are mostly Flint-centric and include:

- WT Stevens Construction, Inc., a Flint-based, “minority, woman-owned company” responsible for up to 2,700 water line replacements in Zones 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9;
- Waldorf And Sons, Inc, a company based in Mt. Morris responsible for up to 600 water line replacements in Zone 4;
- Lang Construction, Inc., a Flint-based company responsible for up to 600 water line replacements in Zone 10;
- Zito Construction, a company located in Grand Blanc responsible for pavement/right-of-way repair restoration services after water service line repair for Zones 2, 4, 8, and 10;
- Yeager Asphalt, a company with offices in Flint, Bay City, Saginaw, and Midland, responsible for pavement/right-of-way repair restoration services after water service line repair for Zone 1;
- Flint AFSCME Locals 1600 and 1799, responsible for pavement/right-of-way repair restoration services after water service line repair for Zones 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9.

Five water PODs closing as citizen distrust lingers

By Jan Worth-Nelson

Five of the city's nine water distribution sites, called "PODs," will be closed by the end of the summer — two Aug. 11 and three more Sept. 5. The announcement was made by Mayor Karen Weaver, flanked by state officials, at a city hall press conference July 26.

The closures reflect numbers suggesting the city's water is on the mend, with state officials reporting lead readings from recent testing well below federal "action levels."

However, the surprise news was that the four remaining PODs, one each in the city's north, south, east, and west sides, will remain open indefinitely.

Weaver said the agreement to keep some PODs open was reached after an

intense meeting with the governor and his team yesterday and after "fighting hard."

"Flint residents have spoken out," she said. "We've talked about not wanting the PODs to close, we don't want the bottled water and the filters to go away. The grassroots organizations and residents have joined forces to express their concern about the health and well-being of our community, and we're glad that they did," she added.

Pastor Wallace Hill of the Concerned Pastors for Social Action said he was happy about the decision to keep some PODs open, because despite the improving numbers, "The trust factor of our residents is not there, and we just don't want to pull the rug out."

The schedule for which PODs are closing when, and which will remain open are listed in full in the ad from the state below.

The state's top representative in Flint, senior advisor to Gov. Rick Snyder Richard Baird, a Flint native, voiced confidence about the city's water.

"Make no mistake about it, Flint's water quality has been restored," he said. Adding that the state's commitment to the city extends well beyond the water quality, he noted the state has spent over \$300 million in Flint, not counting the \$100 million from the federal government, for water quality improvement, service line replacement, health care services, food

(Continued on Page 7.)

Paid Advertisement from the MDEQ



Transition from bottled water to filtered water



POD hours of operation Monday through Saturday from Noon to 6 p.m.

CLOSING AUGUST 11

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, 3020 DuPont Street (Ward 2)

Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 4805 N. Saginaw Street (Ward 3)

Access and functional needs home deliveries will continue, and all other home deliveries will be discontinued.

CLOSING SEPTEMBER 5

Old Flint Farmers' Market, 420 E. Boulevard Drive (Ward 5)

Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church, 3502 Lapeer Road (Ward 7)

Lincoln Park United Methodist Church, 3410 Fenton Road (Ward 8)

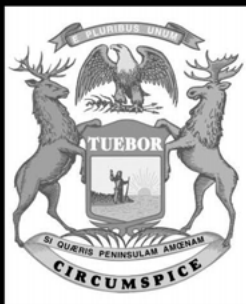
REMAINING OPEN

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 1610 W. Pierson Road (Ward 1)

Franklin Avenue Lot, 2804 N. Franklin Avenue (Ward 4)

West Court Street Church of God, 2920 W. Court Street (Ward 6)

Eastown Bowling Alley, 3001 S. Dort Highway (Ward 9)



For over a year Flint's water has been meeting federal standards. A partnership between Governor Rick Snyder, Mayor Karen Weaver, Concerned Pastors for Social Action and community leaders, will maintain four water sites indefinitely. While water quality has been restored, this allows residents time to prepare for the ultimate transition to filtered water. Filter use is encouraged while pipe replacement is under way. For more information, visit www.Michigan.gov/FlintWater.

... PODs

(Continued from Page 6.)

resources, educational resources and job training. “I’m drinking the water because I paid very close attention to all of the science and I know the water is good to drink. I also know that filters are smart to use because all of the construction that is going on,” he said.

The mayor’s assessment of the city’s path through the crisis was more measured. Asked by a Michigan Radio reporter if the crisis is over, she replied, “We have made so much progress, but we have a long way to go — we’re getting through it. This is a tipping point and we can see that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, but we have work to do.”

According to the terms of a lawsuit against the state settled last year, as the mayor explained, “If Flint’s water quality met federal testing requirements for two consecutive six-month monitoring periods (which it has) the state could gradually start closing the PODs, with all of the PODs scheduled to close this September.” The lawsuit was filed by Melissa Mays, the Concerned Pastors for Social Action, the ACLU, and the National Resources Defense Council.

Keith Creagh, director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and former interim director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, noted in the second — and most recent — six-month period, 90 percent of Flint’s water had lead tested at seven parts per billion (ppb), well below the federal “action level” of 15 ppb.

“However, just because you can close the PODs doesn’t mean that you should close the PODs, and the residents are not ready for these resources to go away,” Weaver said.

Calling the changes in the city “dramatic,” Creagh noted that in the equivalent January-June period of 2016 when the crisis was in full force, the city’s water measured 20 parts per billion.

He said random residential sampling around the city — including the worst hit by the crisis — has come in at 6 ppb, and added MDEQ officials will continue monitoring.

“Flint is one of the most monitored water systems in the country,” Creagh said, more than six times more in some categories than required by law.

“Even though by fact the Lead and Copper Rule (a regulatory safe drinking water element of the Environmental Protection Agency) does not require removal of the lead service lines,” Creagh said, “we are fully supportive of the mayor’s effort to modernize the city’s infrastructure to replace the service lines and ensure quality drinking water that meets or exceeds standards of the Lead and Copper

Rule and the Safe Drinking Water Act.”

Creagh advised residents they play “an important role: taking steps like flushing pipes to heal the systems.” He said the more residents use their water, “the more it will help the system improve.”

Captain Chris Kelenske, commander and

deputy state director of the Michigan State Police (MSP) Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, summarized statistics from the Flint water distribution system, which has been coordinated by the MSP.

He said since Jan. 2016, the PODs have distributed 6,228,267 cases of bottled water, 159,492 filters, 352,170 replacement cartridges, and 59,723 test kits. Though he said use of the PODs is a constantly changing number, according to the most recent numbers the sites have been distributing an average each day of 16,594 cases of water, 69 filters, 166 filter replacement cartridges, and 44 test kits.

Baird said the CORE team — 160 Flint residents hired to go door to door offering filters and checking to be sure they were installed properly and being used — had knocked on 320,000 doors and had 100,000 conversations. The CORE efforts will continue, according to George Krisztian of the MDEQ, though their duties may change somewhat.

Employees of the closed PODs will be “redeployed” in some cases and are being offered job training, Baird said, adding that a number of them have developed job skills already that have enabled them to get hired elsewhere.

Baird said the state has delivered 474,000 pounds of fresh food, replaced 1400 fixtures to schools, day care centers and adult care centers and in 2300 homes.

In addition, expanded health care coverage for pregnant women and children up to 21 affected by the water crisis has been afforded to 2,600 new Medicaid enrollees, 26,000 individual with current coverage enrolled for case-management.

Returning to the theme of the community’s distrust, Baird said, “It’s going to take some time. It’s going to take folks who understand that the water recovery is real — and those people will help persuade other people. Over time, it will evolve.”

EVM Editor Jan Worth-Nelson can be reached at janworth1118@gmail.com.



Photograph by Jan Worth-Nelson
7th Ward POD crew (l-r) Keona Garrett, Latonya Jones, Justin Donaton, Quintin Roberts, DeShon Warren, Wayne Lockwood

Pipes replaced so far in Flint: **2,692**

Source: July 31 press release from Kristin Moore, public relations director, City of Flint

Lead-tainted service lines at 1,794 homes have been replaced so far in Phase 4 of the city’s FAST Start program, which aims to replace pipes at 6,000 homes in 2017. That brings the total of residential pipe replacements so far to 2,692, with numbers changing every day.

The city aims to have all of Flint’s lead-tainted service lines — nearly 20,000 — replaced by 2020.

Although the water quality has been declared improved, residents still are urged to drink only filtered water and replace filters when needed.

To be eligible for service line replacements, Moore explained, residents must have an active water account. They also must have signed a consent card, being dropped off door-to-door, giving permission for the work to be done. In rental homes, both the owner and the tenant must sign consent cards. Moore urged residents to sign the consent cards as soon as possible, so crews working in their neighborhood can replace their service lines.

**COLLEGE CULTURAL
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**
www.ccnafint.org
**Neighborhood Watch meets Thurs.,
Aug. 17, 7-9 pm, in MCC’s RTC 1301**
**Members meet Thurs., Sept. 21, 2017
7-9 pm in MCC’s RTC Auditorium**

“Protect your eyes, but go outside!” What you need to know about the solar eclipse

By Jan Worth-Nelson

The sun’s greatest show on earth in 40 years will be Monday, Aug. 21, and Flint’s Longway Planetarium, the largest planetarium in Michigan, is ready.

Even though the first total solar eclipse in 40 years will reach only 82 percent totality in Flint, Planetarium Manager Buddy Stark reports there are many ways to experience it here.

Longway’s events on The Day run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., mostly free, and all ages welcome, including telescope observing, live streaming from the path of totality in the planetarium dome, a show called “Eclipse: The Sun Revealed” at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. (tickets \$6 adults, \$4 seniors and kids 2-11) outdoor hands-on activities, and food available for purchase.

The eclipse itself will start at about 1:30 p.m. and reach its peak at about 2:20. The time of greatest coverage will be about two minutes.

“Do go outside and see it for yourself,” Stark advises. “But be sure to wear eye protection.”

The planetarium has stocked thousands of eclipse glasses, available in the gift shop for one dollar each.

At the peak of the eclipse, assuming the



Flint astronomy buff Mary Coyne: ready!

weather cooperates, it will seem like dusk, Stark said. Sometimes millions of tiny eclipses can be visible in the shadow of leaves, he said, and birds have been known to hush their singing.

In the totality path, it will be dark enough to see stars, he said.

In ancient times people feared eclipses, which occur when the tilt of the earth’s orbit around the sun and the moon’s orbit around the earth are just right during a new moon phase for the moon to line up

exactly over that big golden orb.

Some ancient peoples thought the eclipse was a dragon eating the sun, and sometimes beat pots and pans to get the dragon to go away, Stark says.

The last total eclipse visible in the United States was before Stark was born — and as a planetarium manager, scientist and astronomy professional, he can’t wait for this one.

He’ll actually be in Southern Illinois on Aug. 21, lucky enough to have a viewing location where his parents live. He will have picked three locations, avidly watching the weather forecast to land himself in the one most likely to be clear.

Hotels along the path of totality have been booked solid for a year, and Stark said to expect heavy traffic to and from the totality path, which stretches from Oregon to South Carolina.

If you miss this one, there’s another total eclipse coming in 2024, Stark said. He’ll likely be chasing that one, too.

More information on the eclipse is available at <http://sloanlongway.org/longway-planetarium/>.

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Planetarium manager: Why Christians should believe in science

By Jan Worth-Nelson

Longway Planetarium manager Buddy Stark is a scientist with a bachelor’s degree in science education who routinely describes to students how evidence from dendritic tree rings to stalactites suggest the world is millions of years old.

He also is a Nazarene preacher’s son who still attends a Nazarene church, an evangelical Protestant denomination, where a literal take on the Bible tells believers the world is 6,000 years old.

In both his worlds, the gap between those two perspectives and the severe misconceptions of the latter view is for Stark a continuing source of exasperation and concern.

“People have this weird view that science and religion are opposed to one another,” says Stark, 28, in a recent interview in the planetarium on Kearsley he’s managed for two years.

“It drives me crazy that the people I align myself with” — he and his wife Hannah, 26, are in church every Sunday, he said, — “are building this reputation of burying their heads in the sand and being completely against science.

“I, in my field, struggle to tell my colleagues that I’m a Christian — because there’s so much baggage that comes with it. There’s a very close knit group among the planetarium folk.



Planetarium manager Buddy Stark

“The reality is,” Stark said, “There is nothing in the Christian faith that goes against science, but because of the evangelical movement and the Protestant movement, it’s been difficult.”

Stark says the insistence on scientifically unfounded beliefs in the evangelical movement is one reason young Christians are leaving the church.

He points to the travails of Galileo, who was convicted of heresy during the Inquisition and died under house arrest. The Italian astronomer’s crime was insisting from evidence

that the sun was the center of the universe, not the earth — a direct opposition to literal interpretations of the Bible.

“That was 400 years ago,” Stark laments, “and yet we’re doing the same thing. We haven’t learned our lesson. It’s as if, if you don’t believe one certain thing your whole faith collapses.”

Some of his denominational colleagues, weary of controversy, shrug their shoulders and say, “What does it matter? You have your opinion and I have mine.”

But if you take that point of view, you are effectively just ignoring evidence, and saying it’s acceptable to ignore evidence in general, Stark said.

“If that’s the point of view you take, you’re making it harder for young evangelical Christians, who have to choose one or another,” and that’s embarrassing for intelligent young people — not to mention scientists who are Christian, he said, when they know what the evidence shows.

“The only way for Christianity to move forward, in an evidence-based scientific world, is to accept that evidence and be okay with the fact that it doesn’t damage your faith. If you have to have all the answers, then you don’t have faith. What I care about as a scientist is what I can

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MUSIC at St. Paul's

Artistic Director G. Donald Kaye Presents

****FINAL SEASON****



SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Xiao Wang, Violin

Byrd Competition First Prize 2017

Hyekung Sia Lee, Piano

OCTOBER 15, 2017

Brenda Portman, Organ

"A favorite returns!"



NOVEMBER 19, 2017

Robert Poli, Piano

"Chopin comes alive!"

JANUARY 28, 2018

Erik Van Heyningan, Bass Baritone

"A Byrd Competitor" World Opera Stages, Michigan Opera Theater

Matthew Larson, Piano



FEBRUARY 25, 2018

Prof. Joel Schoenhals, Piano

Eastern Michigan University

"Remembering Joel Hastings"



MARCH 18, 2018

John B. Bohl, Organ

"Welcome home, John"



APRIL 29, 2018

Jeffrey Walker, Harpsichord

Renaissance and Baroque



JUNE 3, 2018

Baron Finwick, Piano

Byrd First Prize 2015 - *"Born to dazzle"*



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... Planetarium

(Continued from Page 8.)

measure, and those bounds are continually changing. I don't have to know everything."

Stark is working on a master's degree in science education from Western Michigan University and also writing a book exploring the conflicts between evangelical Christianity and science.

He came to Flint from the Dassault Systèmes Planetarium at the Michigan Science Center. He and his wife Hannah bought a home in the College Cultural neighborhood and he said they're delighted with their move to Flint. Hannah also works at the Cultural Center as administrative assistant to the director of the FIA's art school. After experiencing long commutes to their jobs in Detroit, he said they are happy they can now walk or bike to work.

EVM editor Jan Worth-Nelson can be reached at janworth1118@gmail.com.

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Editing Services. Eagle Eye Editing and Proofreading Services provides top-notch copy editing and proofreading for your writing needs by a published author and *East Village Magazine* copy editor and proofreader. Prices depend on the type of project and number of pages. Contact Danielle E. Ward at eagleeyeediting@danielleelyse.com.

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Apartment for Lease. Large (1200 sq. ft.) two-bedroom, apartment on Crapo St. just off Kearsley St. available early June. Enjoy concerts, dance, art galleries, theaters, planetarium, library, museum, horticultural gardens and art classes, preschool all across the street. Five-minute-or-less walk to UM-Flint, MSU, MCC, downtown, Cultural Center, Farmers' Market. Featuring all hardwood floors, range, refrigerator, microwave, sunroom, smokeless fireplace, laundry, storage, garage with auto-door and other off-street parking. Can be further furnished. \$695 per month includes water/sewer. References, credit check required. E-mail: ecuster@sbcglobal.net or write Apartment 16, 720 E. Second St. Flint, MI 48503.

THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE

"This Month" highlights a selection of interesting events available to our readers — beginning after our publication date of Aug. 10. It is not an exhaustive list, rather a sampling of opportunities in the city.

"The Adventures of Robin Hood"

A unique take on the original Robin Hood, this show is recommended for ages 8 and up.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Sunday, Aug. 13 & 20, 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18, 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.	Show Admission: \$14-\$18	The F.A. Bower Theatre 1220 E. Kearsley Street

Back to the Bricks

Back to the Bricks returns with five days packed with events. Beginning on Tuesday the 15th with a family-friendly gathering at the US-23 Drive-in on Fenton Rd., Mundy Twp. Gates open at 4 p.m., and rolling cruises along Saginaw St. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 5 to 9 p.m., and ending with car shows and concerts on Friday and Saturday.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Tuesday -- Saturday Aug. 15 -- 19	Celebration Admission: FREE	Downtown Flint

Tween/Teen Babysitters Academy

Must attend both days to receive CPR and First Aid certification. To register, call (810)249-2170

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Wednesday & Thursday AUG. 16 & 17, 2 TO 4:30 P.M.	Training Program Admission: FREE	Flint Public Library 1226 E. Kearsley Street

Darren Brown's Acoustic Lunch

Enjoy acoustic covers from artists like Journey, The Rolling Stones, Frank Sinatra, and more!

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Aug. 17, 18, 24, 25, & 31 Noon	Musical Program Admission: FREE	Potbelly Sandwich Shop 4148 Miller Road

Total Solar Eclipse celebration

Telescope observing, eclipse livestreaming in the dome, outdoor hands-on activities, food available for purchase, "The Sun Revealed" show at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. \$6 adults, \$4 seniors and kids 2 to 11.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Monday, Aug. 21 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Eclipse Celebration More info: http://sloanlongway.org/?event=the-eclipse-experience	Longway Planetarium, 1310 E. Kearsley Street

Crim Festival of Races

Enjoy another year of this annual race! For all of the information on how to register, parking, and more follow this link: <https://crim.org/races-events/crim/>

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Friday & Saturday, Aug. 25 & 26 Friday events 6:30 to 7:22 p.m. Saturday events 8 to 10:10 a.m.	Crim: start times for the races, start line, finish line 8:00am – 10 Mile Run & Walk (all waves) • 9:30am – 8K Run Starting mats will remain • 9:40am – 8K Walk open until 10:45 a.m. to allow • 10:00am – 5K Run for 10 Mile + 5K combo racers • 10:10am – 5K Walk to complete the 10 Mile leg.	Downtown Flint Starts next to the UM-Flint University Pavilion on Kearsley and finishes at Saginaw and Second St.

Blues on the Library Lawn

A free event emceed by Walt Love and featuring music from Maurice Davis, Grace Thomas, and more. Tent seating available, lawn chairs welcome.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Saturday, Aug. 26 6 to 10 p.m.	Music Program Admission: FREE	Flint Public Library 1226 E. Kearsley Street

Craig A. Combs Book Tour

Flint native Craig A. Combs will be doing a reading and book signing.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
MONDAY, AUG. 28 2 p.m.	Reading Admission: FREE	Totem Books 620 W. Court Street

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FLINT CARES



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... Murder

(Continued from Page 3.)

of common sense advice. Among the suggestions were, lock your doors and your car, keep your garage door closed, and turn on your outdoor lights and keep them on. Some offered suggestions about using security cameras around homes. Others suggested hiring a private security company to patrol the neighborhood. However, in the end, probably the most important suggestion was simply to get to know your neighbors and speak up when you see anything unusual taking place.

For those who were inclined to panic at the recent turn of events, several speakers reassured those at the meeting that there have been serious incidents in the area in years past

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Cell # _____
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**College / Cultural
Neighborhood Association**
www.ccnafint.org

.....
**TIP: USE YOUR CAR REMOTE BUTTON
TO BRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION!**

and the neighborhood recovered. Of course, the Ballard family will never be the same, and as a vital and engaged neighborhood, it has been heartening how so many neighbors reached out with the love and concern we would extend to any of our neighbors in crisis. That is our responsibility.

And as other speakers reminded us, while Flint has a high crime rate, there have been similar crime spikes in the out-county, up north, and in other areas not usually known to have those problems.

Flint's College and Cultural Neighborhood may or may not be a Midwest version of Cabot Cove, but a sensible reaction to tragedy and increased community commitment can go a long way to keeping us safe. We can't rely on Jessica Fletcher to solve our crime problem. It's up to us.

Political columnist Paul Rozycki can be reached at paul.rozycki@mcc.edu

Village Life

Surprise, surprise: my husband chose Flint over California

By Jan Worth-Nelson

If you see my husband Ted around town any time soon, be especially kind. He is going through a trauma. He's moving on, after four decades as a Californian, to become a full-time Flintoid.

He's giving up his cherished "AWRDMKR" California license plate – an artifact of the awards and trophy business he founded. He'll be trading it for ... something else – for sure NOT choosing the options that say "Pure Michigan." I would not let him. No Flintoid in his right mind would tout that extreme misnomer.

Admittedly, his transition has not been perfect. He's unimpressed by the Flint coney, he doesn't like Vernor's ("too sweet") and he is only now starting to see the deliciousness of the pastie. He despises Angelo's after an awful visit when a cockroach clambered across his plate.

A nondrinker, he eschews some of Flint's legendary watering holes, and tires of hearing my rapturous memories of the old days of Hat's Pub and other settings of

my rambunctious early Flint years.

Yet here he is, filling out forms and trying to time his ultimate visit to the Secretary of State's office for when the line is less than 50 sweaty, depressed, potential serial killers deep.

A bit of history, known to many of you already. For 17 years, since we reconnected as late-middle-agers who found surprise love in our 50s, we have been negotiating two worlds – mine as a longtime Flintoid, his as a longtime Californian.

Abandoning the "Free State"?

Who would have thought it would be Flint that tipped the balance away from what Ted fondly calls "The Free State" of California?

When we'd fly back here, at Minneapolis or Atlanta, we'd get to the Flint gate and say: yeah, these are the Flintoids – a stressed out, sad-eyed bunch, returning to their pit-bull and pick-up truck lives in the least glamorous city on the destination board.

But this year we finally gave up our apartment in San Pedro – a sweet place with a sweeping view of the L.A. harbor, a tiny two-bedroom refuge close to four beloved breakfast spots and his favorite walking site, Pt. Fermin Park, where we routinely counted fly-by pelicans, once getting up to more than 400.

Why? Why? Why?

Ted likes telling the story of one of his first visits to Flint. He was standing in line at Bishop Airport to rent a car, with a line behind him. The clerk asked, "So what brings you to Flint, Mr. Nelson?"

He replied, "For love." And he says all the people in line behind him clapped and cheered. How can you not love a bunch of people like that?

So I'm culpable in the matter. Our marriage has been the unexpected joyful culmination of my middle years, the answer to my tedious Midwestern laments of "why does it matter?" and "Is this all there is?" He seems to like me. And he seems to notice that the world can be a pretty enjoyable place.

And as it turns out, along the way, he has inexplicably fallen for this old town.

Together, we have bought two houses here, and as I've written about frequently, our current house is one of the loves of our lives – a place we bought for its great vibes and expansiveness, a place we could not remotely have afforded in L.A. Our home is deeply significant to us, a source of daily pleasure we love to share with others.

Further, and crucially, since Gary Custer died and I became editor of *East Village*

Magazine, Ted and I have established a new partnership – a creative one that engages both of us in the community in ever-enriching ways. (He does layout for the magazine, has helped with many legal matters, designs ads, helps me solve problems, and moderates my fits of griping and pique.)

But the biggest answer to Ted's WHY is that he loves our band of characters here, the spirit of our community, the warmth he has experienced time and time again, the unfailing neighborliness. He loves the crew at Steady Eddy's, the whole Farmers' Market, Noah at Olympic Diner, the hot shaves he gets at Zack Minock's barbershop, donuts and coffee from Tim Horton's, dinners at Cork.

He likes sitting in his upstairs office, keeping up with how his kids are doing with his business in L.A. while he watches life on the street – squirrels and woodpeckers squabbling, kids on bikes, Dan Scheid striding by in his collar and straw hat with Maggie, his dog; Mike Keeler and Sherry Hayden strolling along checking out the London plane tree they planted for us ten years ago; Connor Coyne tending yet another set of impatiens while his girls Mary and Ruby gambol; he makes fun of that guy who drives around and yells at people to mow their lawns; he warns me about Jehovah's Witnesses on the porch; he comes down to pay our lawn guy Kenny Burch who's as wiry and feisty a GM retiree as a Sitdown Striker – and on and on: our neighbors, people we have come to love.

In a recent community meeting at Woodside Church (this is another story) – where 18 of our neighbors talked about their experience of the water crisis – Ted concluded the meeting. This is what he said: "I'm 75, I should be too old to be moved by all of what you said. Dylan Thomas wrote a poem called 'Out of the Sighs' – a perfect poem for Flint. The last two lines of that poem go like this:

'For all there is to give, I offer:

Crumbs, barn and halter.'

"I would add one more line," Ted continued, "And the opportunity to walk among people of good heart and resolute will. And you are they. Thank you so much for who you are, and what you are, and what you give. I love you."

This is why Ted chose Flint.

EVM editor Jan Worth-Nelson can be reached at janworth1118@gmail.com.

LV: 8 (651 issues, 6,531 pages)

EAST OF EVERYWHERE

By Grayce Scholt

Like Cain, cast out by God
we wander everywhere
across cornfields burnt to stubs
trembling, stumbling
on
toward
Nod

And yet, they say, we built
in Enoch's name
a world?

Is there a West somewhere?
Another gate,
another lane
that leads us to a gentler
ground where Eden's lilies
bloom again,
where what
we wanted to believe
is found?

Grayce Scholt is a retired English professor from Mott Community College who wrote art reviews for the Flint Journal and has authored several poetry collections and memoirs. This is the title poem from her new collection East of Everywhere, drawn in part from work published in East Village Magazine. The book is available from Friesen Press, www.friesenpress.com and Amazon.