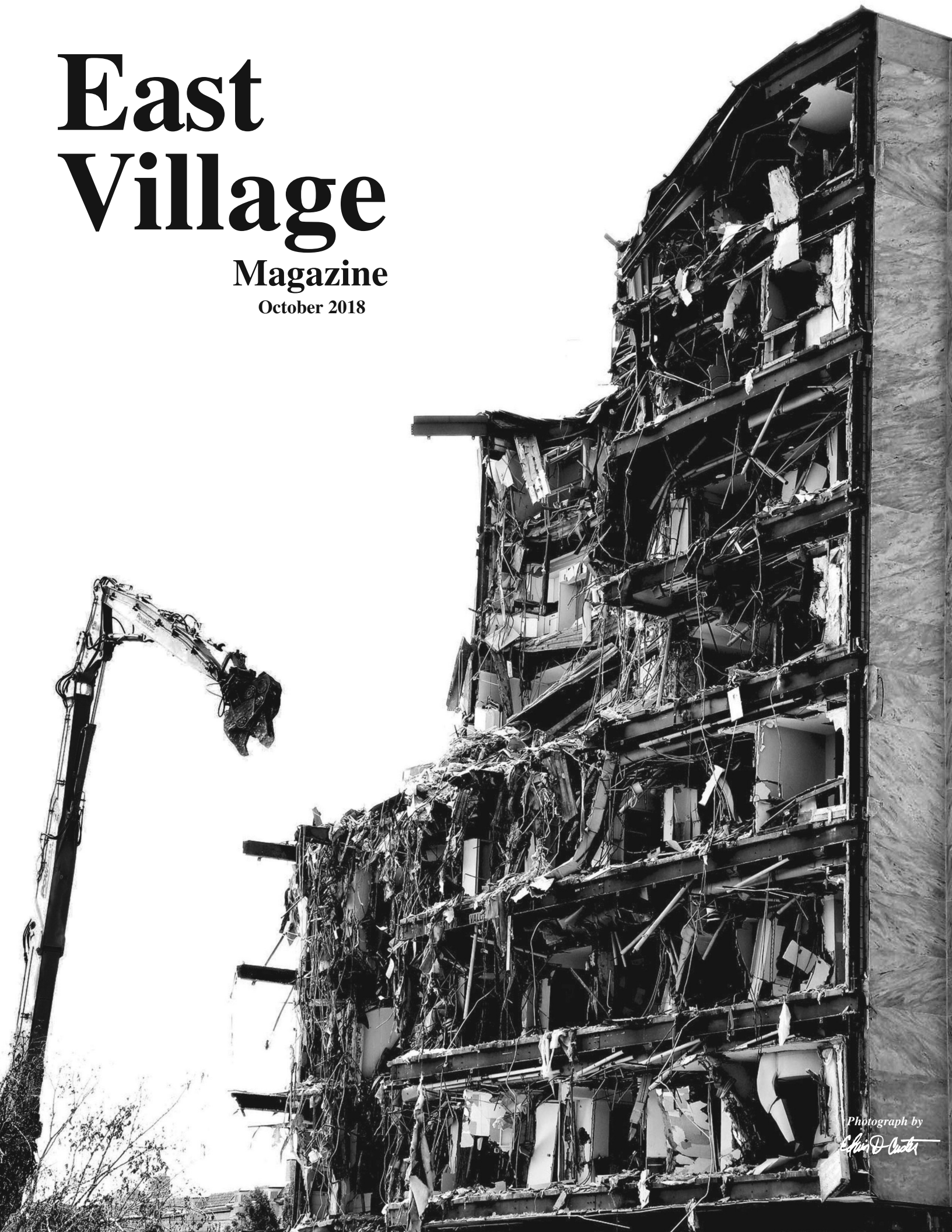


East Village

Magazine

October 2018



Photograph by
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East Village Magazine

Vol. LVI No. 10 October 2018

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Layout by Ted Nelson. Printing by Riegler Press Inc., 1282 N. Gale Rd., Davison, Mich. 48423.

East Village Magazine is a program of the Village Information Center Inc., a nonprofit corporation. We welcome material from readers, 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*, Village Information Center, 720 E. Second St., Flint, Mich. 48503. Distribution is the first Thursday of each month. Display advertising rates are \$34 a column-inch plus any other costs. Unclassified ads are \$2.50 a printed line or part of a printed line. Rates subject to change without notice. The deadline for advertising is 10 days before each publication date.

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Commentary

2018: Not your typical midterm election

By Paul Rozycki

This year's midterm election could be like most other midterms . . . except when it's not. And it looks like it's not going to be like most midterm elections.

The usual midterm election

Here's what usually happens in most midterm elections. First, the turnout is lower than during a presidential election year. While we usually get about 60 percent of potential voters turning out in a presidential year, in a midterm we normally only get about 40 percent. Second, the president's party normally takes a beating. In the last 75 years the party in the White House has gained seats in the U.S. House only twice during a midterm election. Third, because the president isn't on the ticket, the "all politics is local" maxim kicks in, and most races are decided by local issues and personalities.

Why this year could be different

That's what usually happens, and it might be what happens this year, but this year looks different for a number of reasons.

If this year's recent primary elections are any indication, voter turnout is remarkable. In nearly all the special elections held so far, the voter turnout has been much larger than expected. Democrats have shown the largest increase, but Republican turnout is up as well. While there are a number of reasons for this, two stand out -- Donald Trump and the #MeToo movement.

Response to Trump

It's no surprise that the response to Trump's election has been intense and divisive. Those voters who realized that by staying home in 2016, they helped elect Trump, have shown a new commitment to voting in a year when they typically don't. Democratic turnout has shown a large increase in most of the special elections this year.

In response, Trump's supporters, who feel their candidate is being unfairly treated by the media and the public, are also

energized and feel the need to defend their candidate. As part of the campaign to energize the Trump base, his supporters have raised the threat that if Democrats have a "blue wave" in November, Trump could face impeachment.

So even though Trump isn't on the ballot, in a time of an "All-Trump-all-the-time" news cycle, this is still a Trump election, both for those who loath him and those who love him. Republicans, who embraced Trump to win their primary elections, face a dilemma in the general election. While the Republican base still strongly supports Trump, that base is shrinking, and many moderate Republicans and independents are pulling away from him. More than most midterm elections, this year's has major national implications.

The response to Trump has been an even stronger motivator for Democratic voters. One local Democratic activist described the Trump effect as "the gift that keeps on giving" because of the way he drives Democrats to the polls and energizes them.

This year there is a good chance the Democrats could win a majority in the U.S. House. They only need to gain 24 seats to do so. While there is a possibility they could win a majority in the U.S. Senate, the numbers are much more challenging. The Democrats need to gain only two more seats, but, of the 35 Senate seats up this year, 26 of them are held by Democrats. So they would need to keep every seat they now have, and pick up two more, and 10 of those Democratic seats are in states Trump won in 2016. It's possible, but it's certainly a more difficult task than winning the U.S. House.

The #MeToo Movement

The second difference in this year's election is the impact of the #MeToo Movement. In response to the Harvey Weinstein scandal, and the long list of celebrities and executives who have been

(Continued on Page 6.)

Cover: "Demolition is progress": the old YWCA is no more



Photo of the Month: Derby Girls coming at you! From left, Jess Duncan (Duncan Go-Nuts); Susan Doty (H2 Whoa); Alex McCarley (AI Funk You Up); Roni VanCleve (VanCleaver); Ashley MacDermaid (Ash Tray); Michele Entrekin (Blue Velvet)

Flint Ethics Accountability Board making slow moves to implement charter, no ombudsperson yet

By Meghan Christian

The City of Flint Ethics and Accountability Board (EAB) has made some progress getting organized since it first convened in August, but the body has yet to appoint an ombudsperson, one of the conditions outlined in the new city charter. During their last meeting Sept. 25, members provided updates on tasks they have been working on and discussed how to proceed to hire the City's ombudsperson.

The EAB is a requirement of the charter adopted by voters in August 2017 by a 2-1 vote and which was to have taken effect in January. The charter calls for 11 members, comprised of one member from each ward and two members appointed by the mayor. Terms on the board are staggered, meaning each of the 11 members serve a different number of years, to ensure that there is always someone on the board with experience.

The board's main functions include appointing an ombudsperson and hearing resident concerns. The board is empowered to hold public servants accountable per the ethical standards outlined in the charter.

This power manifests in various ways, outlined in the charter, from calling hearings to subpoena powers, should it be necessary.

Not outlined in the charter, however, are the bylaws which will govern the EAB, certain aspects of the EAB's budget, and the specifics on how the EAB should go about hiring an ombudsperson. Fourth Ward appointee Nicholas D'Aigle, an attorney by profession, was assigned to work on the board's bylaws and Ninth Ward appointee Eric Roebuck, a student at UM-Flint, reported on the budget so far.

Bylaws

D'Aigle gave an overview of the work he's done so far on the bylaws, referencing the Detroit Ethics Board as a model. Mayoral appointee and member-at-large Loyce Driskell raised a concern that the EAB's bylaws would look too similar to Detroit's and not reflect the unique issues faced by Flint. "It's nice to know what they're doing, but that's Detroit and this is Flint," Driskell said.

"We did say we were going to tailor

that information to fit Flint," Third Ward appointee Linda Boose said.

"My whole intent with that was to get a framework together to get 11 sets of eyes on," D'Aigle said, assuring his colleagues that they would get an opportunity to look over the bylaws and then edit together.

Budget

According to Eighth Ward appointee and Interim Chair John Daly, the EAB has more than one hurdle in terms of their budget. From a discussion he had with Chief Financial Officer Hughey Newsome, Daly reported that the EAB must first establish a line of activity in the budget.

"Even if someone was willing to give us money, there's no place to put it in the budget, there's no line in the budget that would be there," Daly said. He then discussed the \$250,000 line item in the City's budget that was reserved for the Office of the Ombudsperson. According to Daly, Newsome says that money is reserved for the Ombudsperson, but Daly believes that

(Continued on Page 5.)

... Ethics

(Continued from Page 4.)

it “is to be reserved for expenses related to the ombudsperson.”

The EAB also touched on what kinds of things they thought were necessary for them to function. These included: an office space for them to work and meet that was removed from City Hall, at least one part-time clerical employee, equipment necessary for that person to work, general office supplies, and board member training.

“As far as very basic numbers, it’s coming out to about \$150,000,” Roebuck said. “It very quickly added up,” he added.

“We’ll have to do some exploration... How the city budgets and covers those, I don’t know,” Daly said. “Before we can really seriously get into a discussion about a budget, we’ve got to get the activity for the Ethics and Accountability Board established. Then the other things is ... the City has got to come up with a reasonable plan on how this money gets spent, who has the authority to spend this money,” he added.

First Ward Councilperson and Finance Chair for Flint City Council Eric Mays addressed the EAB and referenced these as reasons why he had been against the formation of the board so soon. However, he did offer his help.

“As finance chair, if y’all want an agenda on the next finance committee meeting, where we can pass a resolution to do all things necessary to set up that account, that’s easy...and we’ll put it on the agenda when

you want it on the agenda,” Mays said.

Hiring an Ombudsperson

While all members of the EAB could agree that hiring an ombudsperson soon is absolutely vital, how to go about the process took more discussion. Some members, including mayoral appointee and member-at-large Art Evans and Boose, thought that it would be alright to use the job site already in place by the city’s HR department, especially because it would save money. “I just wonder if that money could be better spent,” Evans said.

However others, including Roebuck, thought that an outside recruiting agency might be a better option. “We’re talking about someone who is going to be making a lot of money and dealing with serious issues, I want the right person,” Roebuck said. “Spending the right amount of money to get the right person is sometimes worth it,” he added.

Ultimately, the EAB decided to start by using the city’s pre-existing site and then moving to an outside source should the first search not provide what the EAB considers a fit candidate.

Residents are welcome to attend EAB meetings, which offer an opportunity to speak. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 9 in the front City Council Committee Room located on the third floor of City Hall.

EVM Managing Editor Meghan Christian can be reached at meghan.christian22@gmail.com.

WHY I VOTE



FaLessia Booker

I vote because I feel that it is an important duty of mine as a citizen, and I try not to miss any opportunities to exercise my civic duty. Even in primary elections and local votes, there is an opportunity for everyone’s voice to be heard. Most of the time it takes less than an hour and the results affect us for years. Everyone, please take the time to vote! Our future depends on it!

Lead tainted pipes replaced so far in Flint: 7,233+

Source: press release from Candice Mushatt, City of Flint public information officer.

The total includes 1,005 homes completed this year, in Phase 5 of the project.

Crews from the five area contractors doing the replacements have identified copper service lines at a total of 5,193 homes, which did not need to be replaced. A total of 15,031 pipes have been excavated altogether.

The city aims to have all of Flint’s lead-tainted service lines replaced by 2020.

VOTE

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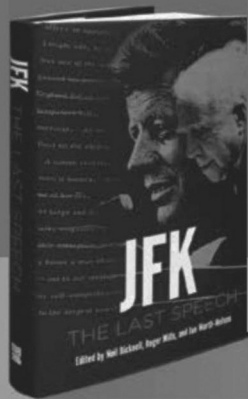
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— ALICE M. RIVLIN, Senior fellow in Economic Studies and the Center for Health Policy at the Brookings Institute

“At a time when political morality, civility, and fidelity to a common destiny are brutally trampled, day by day, this volume on JFK’s call for the cultivation of civic virtue is welcome nourishment for our democracy.”

— HEDRICK SMITH, Author of *Who Stole the American Dream?*

“This book sounds a much-needed non-partisan call for public service and civic engagement.” — JAMES HARDING, Major General, USA (ret)

Co-edited by Flint’s *East Village Magazine* editor Jan Worth-Nelson and featuring an essay by Ted Nelson

... Midterm

(Continued from Page 3.)

shown the door after facing accusations of sexual harassment, women have entered the political fray in record breaking numbers. Both as candidates and as voters, women have generally been more Democratic than men, and early indications are that they will be voting in greater numbers than usual. This year at least 229 women are running for the U.S. House and Senate, and 167 of them are Democrats. At least 12 women are running for governor and nine of them are Democrats. This year, for the first time in history, Michigan Democrats have nominated women for governor, secretary of state, attorney general, and the U.S. Senate. The Republicans have chosen a woman as Bill Schuette's running mate. The current debate over the appointment of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, and the accusations against him, only intensified the power of the issue of sexual harassment and the #MeToo Movement.

The end of the straight ticket vote

There is one more significant difference in Michigan this year that may surprise many voters. For 127 years Michigan voters have had the opportunity to vote a straight ticket — by marking a single box they could vote for all the Democratic candidates or all the Republican candidates. A recent court ruling has ended that practice. So this year voters will have to mark their choice for each and every office on the ballot — and there are a lot of them. At the very least it will make voting more time consuming, and may result in longer lines at the voting booth. Statewide, about half of all voters have cast straight ticket ballot in past years. In Genesee County it's slightly higher — about 55 percent. In Wayne County it's about 60 percent. Overall, the Democrats benefit from the straight ticket vote more than Republicans, but it varies with the area. In western Michigan, Republicans are the beneficiaries of the straight ticket, and in south-east Michigan Democrats have the advantage.

The arguments for and against the straight ticket generally run along party

lines. Democrats have favored it and Republicans have opposed it. Both are working for their own partisan advantage.

Those favoring the straight ticket argue that the party label is a good measure of what a candidate stands for — a kind of “brand loyalty.” This is probably more accurate today than in the past. Today if you are a conservative, traditional values, small government voter, you are more likely to find the Republican Party to your liking. Similarly, if you are a liberal who favors a more active government, favors diversity, and is open to non-traditional social values, you are more likely to prefer the Democratic Party. That wasn't always the case, but today, in our divisive politics, conservatives and liberals tend to separate by party, with little overlap.

Ending straight-ticket voting will most likely slow down the voting process as voters pick through a long list of candidates — from governor to the State Board of Education. That delay may well discourage voters. In November, because the change is so recent, this may be a major issue for voters, and could result in both delays and spoiled ballots.

Those who favor ending the straight ticket option argue that voters should take the time to learn about all the individuals running for office — from governor, to the Wayne State Board of Governors, to individual county commissioners.

Effects of straight-ticket voting

Ending the straight-ticket vote will have its greatest impact on the “down ticket” offices that don't get much attention, such as the governing boards for the University of Michigan, Michigan State, and Wayne State Universities. Those offices don't get much attention during the campaign, and the candidates win or lose based on how well their party does in a given year.

On the other hand, if voters have to go through the entire ballot they might be less likely to skip over the non-partisan contests such as local school boards, community college boards, and city council races. They might also be more inclined to vote on the proposals that are not part of a partisan ballot.

While it won't be an option this year, one of this year's ballot proposals will attempt to restore the straight-ticket ballot in the future. (See the summary of all the proposals in this issue of *EVM*.)

More than any midterm election in recent memory this one is critically important for a wide range of issues. Voters can inform themselves in several ways.

First, the League of Woman Voters website, Vote.411.org, is an excellent way to learn about the candidates, issues and proposals on your ballot before you go to the polls.

Second, there will be many forums

(Continued on Page 10.)

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NOVEMBER



This issue of *East Village Magazine* is a call to community, and a call to citizenship. Our role as Americans is to participate, to be informed, to be involved in our democracy. If we forget or neglect this shared duty, the loss could be incalculable, no matter our political beliefs, our gender, our race, our age, our religion. This November is a perfect example of the need to strive, together, for a more perfect union. Why should we vote? We asked many people and shared their answers here. Please peruse and enjoy, and mark your calendar for a day that matters: Tuesday, Nov. 6.

—The Editors



WHY I VOTE



Jamie Foster

If you want change you need to vote. If you don't vote, you have no reason to complain.

WHY I VOTE



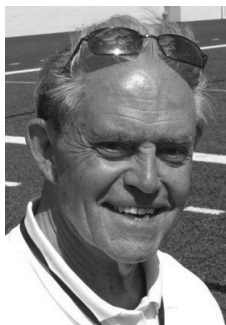
Bobby Coon

"For the strength of the country. If you don't vote, you have no say in anything. If you don't vote, you have no voice."

WHAT:



WHY I VOTE



Duncan Beagle

There are so many issues nowadays (for example) Should marijuana be legal? It's going to be on the ballot in November. Young people have to understand that these issues affect their everyday living. I think there will be a high turnout in November. People have to understand that in a democracy, that's what it's all about. I get people all the time who don't want to show up for jury duty. That's part of your responsibility. It's the same thing with voting. I hate to see when there's a primary, an off-year election, and people just stay home. Look at other countries in the world and look at all the problems they have ... and sometimes we take our type of government for granted.

WHY I VOTE



Calvin Sims

your voices be heard, by voting.

To make some type of change, we can't sit around any more and complain. We've got to get up, put our feet on the ground and do things if we want to see change. Whatever that change is, that's up to them, but at least put your feet on the ground and let

WHEN:

TUESDAY
Nov. 6
2018

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Tuesday, Oct. 9

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Tuesday, Oct. 9

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Saturday, Nov. 3

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Tuesday, Nov. 6

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- rockthevote.org
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An important component of *VOTE411.org* is the polling place locator, which enables users to type in their address and retrieve the poll location for the voting precinct in which that address is located. The League has found that this is among the most sought-after information in the immediate days leading up to, and on, Election Day.

WHY I VOTE

I do vote and I vote to express my American right to give my opinion ... how I feel it may work better one way or the other and to also think of the better decision for the future of the country and for the people in my family, my future family.



Eric Teachworth

WHO:

**CANDIDATES
&
ISSUES**



Vote411.org also provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:



- Absentee ballot information
- Ballot initiative information with pro/con statements for statewide initiatives.
- Candidate-provided bio and responses to questions
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- General information such as scheduled forums or links to forum videos.
- ID requirements
- Polling locations specific to voter addresses
- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms

HOW:



You can also register to vote at *VOTE411.org*, or verify your registration status there.

**Registration
Deadline:
TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 9**



**STUDY THE CANDIDATES
& ISSUES
ENCOURAGE YOUR
FELLOW CITIZENS
TO VOTE**



VOTE

**Tuesday, November 6, 2018
(7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)**

*Thank you for being a
good citizen!*

Literary Festival stars water crisis writers

By Jan Worth-Nelson

The second annual Flint Literary Festival Oct. 26-27 at the Flint Public Library will feature the first joint appearance of journalist Anna Clark and Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, along with other readings, panel discussions and a book fair.

Clark is author of *The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy*. Hanna-Attisha, a Hurley Hospital pediatrician, professor and public health advocate, wrote the water crisis memoir *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance and Hope in an American City*.

Clark and Hanna-Attisha's books, both published in 2018, have been widely nationally reviewed, often together, both critically acclaimed. The authors will read from their work and talk about their writing and publication process at the festival's culminating event on Saturday evening, Oct. 27.

Also on the program agenda are fiction writer Stephanie Carpenter, a former

UM-Flint professor whose short-story collection *Missing Persons* won the 2017 Press 53 Prize in Short Fiction.

Two poets, Flint natives Sarah Carson, award-winning author of *Before Onstar and Buick City*, and Jonah Mixon-Webster, author of *Stereo(TYPE)* from Ahsahta Press, will appear Friday night, Oct. 26.

Both evening readings will be at 6 p.m., followed by receptions and book signings.

In addition, an after-hours open mic night will be held at Totem Books, 620 W. Court St.

Full schedule details are being finalized and will be available soon at the festival website, flintliteraryfestival.org, and on the festival's Facebook page.

The Flint Literary Festival is a partnership between the Flint Public Library, Gothic Funk Press, *East Village Magazine* and the UM - Flint English Department.

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

... Midterm

(Continued from Page 6.)

where voters will have the opportunity to meet the candidates and learn about the proposals on the ballot. On October 21, *East Village Magazine*, the League of Women Voters, and the Flint Institute of Arts will be hosting a "Rally the Vote" event at the FIA to inform and encourage voters. Look for event details in this month's "This Month in the Village" and on the EVM Facebook page.

And finally, look elsewhere in this issue of the EVM to see a quick overview of some of the key races and issues on the ballot.

But the bottom line is, get out and vote! It matters more than ever.

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

VOTE



Are We So Different?

SPEAKER SERIES

October

Date: Tuesday, October 23, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Location: UM-Flint's Harding Mott University Center, Happenings Room, 400 Mill St. Flint, MI 48503

"Whitewashing": Racial Disenfranchisement in Higher Education
Panel Discussion

Dr. Ernest Emenyonu, Professor of African Studies, UM-Flint

Dr. David J. Luke, Director, Intercultural Center, UM-Flint

Thomn Bell, Director, Center for Educator Preparation, UM-Flint

Date: Monday, October 29, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village, 4119 Saginaw St. Flint, MI 48505

Anthropology: Culture, Race and Health: Unequal Health Outcomes and the Bio-Cultural

Dr. Jennifer Alvey, Associate Professor of Anthropology, UM-Flint

Dr. Daniel Birchok, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, UM-Flint

November

Date: Monday, November 5, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village, 4119 Saginaw St. Flint, MI 48505

Systemic Racism in Local History and Public Policy
Panel Discussion

Dr. Thomas Henthorn, Associate Professor of History, UM-Flint

Dr. Jami Anderson, Professor of Philosophy, UM-Flint

Katherine Stanley, Staff Attorney, Legal Services of Eastern Michigan

Date: Monday, November 12, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: The New Standard Academy, 2040 W Carpenter Rd. Flint, MI 48505

"Pushed Out":

A Review of Systemic Racism and Children in Schools

Kyona McGhee, Region 6 Offender Success Coordinator

All events are free of charge. Food will be provided at all events.



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ccnaflint@sbcglobal.net
Neighborhood Watch meets Thurs., Oct. 18, 7-9 pm, MCC's RTC Auditorium
Members meet Thurs., Nov. 15, 2018 7-9 pm in MCC's RTC Auditorium


Renew
Genesee Health Plan
HEALTH CARE SERVICES MILLAGE


VOTE YES for the Genesee Health Plan's "Health Care Services Millage" Renewal on Tuesday, Nov. 6!

GENESEE COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL
 Shall there be a renewal of the previously approved authorization of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners to levy a tax of 0.9980 mill (\$0.998 per \$1,000.00 of taxable property valuation) upon the taxable valuation of the property within Genesee County, as finally equalized, for each of the seven (7) years from 2020 through 2026, inclusive, for the purpose of providing, through the Genesee County Health Department, a health care services delivery system, such as the Genesee Health Plan, for uninsured low-income residents of Genesee County.

Genesee Health Plan (GHP) provides basic health care coverage for thousands of Genesee County hard-working adults, families and seniors.

GHP covers preventive health care services including **doctor visits, mammograms, cancer screenings, outpatient mental health services, prescription drugs, labs and X-rays.**



GHP also provides dental care coverage for seniors, as many seniors don't have dental care coverage.

What every taxpayer should know about this renewal:

- 100% of the money raised from the millage is spent on direct health care services for patients.

- To ensure taxpayer funds are spent wisely and transparently, all millage dollars are publicly disclosed and reported, and go through an independent financial audit every year.
- If the millage is renewed, our tax rates will stay the same as they are today.

Endorsed by the Flint and Genesee Chamber of Commerce, Genesee District Dental Society and many more.

friendsofgeneseehealthplan.org



Paid for with regulated funds by the Friends of the Genesee Health Plan, P.O. Box 320345, Flint, MI 48532

What to expect on your ballot in November

By Paul Rozycki

This year's midterm elections will present voters with a long list of offices, candidates, and proposals. Here is a brief summary of the key races, candidates, and proposals that you'll be seeing in November. For more detail on all of these, and a preview of your own personal ballot, check out the League of Women Voters website Vote411.com.

The Governor

Running to replace term-limited Republican Rick Snyder and his Lt. Gov. Brian Calley are: Democrats Gretchen Whitmer and her running mate, Garlin Gilchrist; Republicans Bill Schuette and his running mate, Lisa Posthumus Lyons; Libertarian Bill Gelineau; U.S. Taxpayers Party Todd Schleiger; Green Party Jennifer Kurland; and Natural Law Party Keith Butkovich.

The Secretary of State

Running to replace Republican Ruth Johnson for secretary of state are Democrat Jocelyn Benson and Republican Mary Treder Lang.

The Attorney General

Running to replace Attorney General Bill Schuette, who is running for governor, are Democrat Dana Nessel and Republican Tom Leonard.

The U.S. Senate

Incumbent Democrat Debbie Stabenow is being challenged by Republican John James. Stabenow is running for her fourth six-year term in the U.S. Senate.

U.S. House of Representatives

Incumbent Democrat Dan Kildee is facing Republican Travis Wines for the 5th District U.S. House seat. Kildee is running for his fourth two-year term in the U.S. House. He was elected when his uncle, Dale Kildee, who served for more than three decades in Congress, retired in 2012.

State Senate

In the 38-member state Senate, two are chosen from Genesee County.

Members of the state Senate serve four-year terms and are limited to two terms.

The 27th District covers much of Genesee County including the city of Flint. Incumbent Democrat Jim Ananich is facing Republican Donna Kekisis for a four year term.

The 32nd District covers a slice of western Genesee County and most of Saginaw County. Republican incumbent Ken Horn is being challenged by Democrat Phil Phelps, who is term-limited as a state representative.

The 14th District includes the southern parts of Genesee County and the northwest parts of Oakland County. Republican term-limited Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, is facing Democrat Renee Watson.

The State House of Representatives

In the 110-member state House of Representatives, five members are chosen from Genesee County. State House members are elected to two-year terms, and can serve no more than three terms.

The 34th District represents the northern parts of Flint and incumbent Democrat Sheldon Neeley is being challenged by Republican Henry Swift.

In the 48th District, which includes northern parts of the county, Democrat Sheryl Kennedy is facing Republican Al Hardwick, to replace term-limited Democrat Pam Faris.

The 49th District, representing parts of western Genesee County and the southwest area of Flint, has Democrat John Cherry facing Republican Patrick Duvendeck.

The Burton area is represented by the 50th District and incumbent Democrat Tim Sneller is facing Republican Trace Fisher.

In southern Genesee County, Democrat David Lossing is facing Republican Mike Mueller to replace term-limited Republican Joe Graves for the 51st District.

The County Board of Commissioners

Of the nine members of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners, four are chosen within the city of Flint.

In the 1st District, in the northern part of the city, Democrat Bryant Nolden is unopposed.

In the 2nd District, in central and north Flint, Democrat Brenda Clack is opposed by Green Party candidate Gina Luster.

In the 3rd District, in eastern Flint and Burton, Democrat incumbent Ellen Ellenburg is facing Republican Gerald Cross.

In the 4th District, in western parts of Flint city and Flint Township, Democrat Kim Courts is unopposed.

Judicial Elections

Voters will also elect members to the state Supreme Court, the Appeals Court, and the Circuit Courts in Genesee County. In Genesee County, four candidates are running to replace retiring Circuit Court Judges Judith Fullerton and Geoffrey Neithercut. They are Elizabeth Kelly, Brian Pickell, Chris Christensen, and Richard McNally.

University Boards and State Board of Education

In addition to these candidates, voters will elect members to the governing boards of the University of Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State Universities, and the State Board of Education.

City Council Elections

Voters in many cities and villages in the county (Cities of Montrose, Mt. Morris, Davison, Linden, and Swartz Creek; Villages of Gaines, Goodrich, Lennon, Otisville, and Otter Lake) will also be electing council members or mayors.

School Board Elections

Voters in most area school districts and Mott Community College will also be electing board members.

The Statewide Proposals

There will be three major proposals on the statewide ballot in November.

Proposal 1 would legalize recreational marijuana use in the state. It would allow those over 21 to use and grow limited

(Continued on Page 13.)

... Ballot

(Continued from Page 12.)

quantities of marijuana for their own use. It would also create a state licensing system for the marijuana business and would allow up to a 10 percent tax on sales of marijuana, which would be dedicated to various activities in the communities where the businesses are located.

Those who favor the proposal argue that it decriminalizes what is already a very common practice and allows law enforcement to focus on more important issues. They also say that it would result in greater tax revenue with legal marijuana and could lead to new businesses in the state. A major supporter is the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana like Alcohol.

Opponents fear that it would lead to greater drug use, more impaired driving, and workplace accidents if marijuana became more widespread. A major opponent is the Committee to Keep Pot out of our Neighborhoods and Schools.

Some studies in the nine states, (and Washington D.C.), that have legalized marijuana show that neither the biggest hopes of supporters, nor the greatest fears of opponents have taken place.

Proposal 2 would create a non-partisan board to draw new legislative districts at the beginning of each decade. The proposal would create a 13-member non-partisan board to draw election district lines, require public disclosure of the process, and prevent office holders and those involved in politics from playing a role in the process. The Michigan proposal is modeled after a similar one in California. It is supported by Voters not Politicians (www.votersnotpoliticians.com).

Advocates for the proposal say that it would end partisan gerrymandering in Michigan and assure that those elected more accurately reflected the real views of the voters.

Opponents argue that the process is too complex, would change too much of the state Constitution, and would give too much power to the secretary of state, who would play a major role in implementing the process. The opposition is led by the Committee to Protect Voters Rights and Citizens Protecting

Michigan's Constitution.

Proposal 3 is designed to open up the voting process and encourage more people to become involved in voting. It would return the straight-party voting option, automatically register citizens at the secretary of state's office when applying for a license, unless the citizen declines, provide any registered voter the right to use an absentee ballot for any reason, provide for Election Day registration, and provide for an auditing process for election results.

Supporters of the proposal include the League of Women Voters, the ACLU, and the Michigan League for Public Policy, and a number of political leaders. They argue that making voting easier is a key to expanding democracy and getting more people involved in the political process. It is being supported by Promote the Vote (www.promotethevote.com).

Opponents argue that many of the things in proposal three are already being done, and that making voting easier might bring uninformed voters to the polls.

What's not on the ballot?

Two other proposals seemed likely to be on the ballot, having collected the required number of signatures. One would have required a higher minimum wage in Michigan, gradually increasing pay over the next several years, and the second would have required employers to grant paid sick leave to their employees, under certain conditions. However, to block those from going on the ballot, the state legislature passed legislation dealing with the same topics. Unlike a proposal passed by the voters, a law passed by the legislature can be amended by a simple majority vote of the lawmakers. Many expect that both of the would-be proposals will face major changes in the lame duck session after the election.

Local proposals

Genesee County voters will have the choice of renewing a .99 mill tax levy for the next seven years to provide health care for uninsured residents. The funds would fund the Genesee County Health Plan, which provides health care services, through the Genesee County Health Department, for low-income uninsured


Genesee County residents.

In addition to the county-wide health proposal, the cities of Davison, Fenton, Grand Blanc, Linden, and Montrose all have local proposals on their ballots, as will the Kearsley, Montrose, and Swartz Creek school districts.

Clearly there is a lot on the ballot this November. It's worth your while to take the time to learn what's there. And it's most important that you vote!


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

WHY I VOTE



I vote because it's my right and I get out and see the people. I always vote.

Quinee McNeal



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
MUSIC IN THE HEART
OF THE CITY
October & November Concerts

- **Sunday, Oct. 28, 4:00 pm**
Tyler Kivel & Nicholas Schmelter, piano/organ
- **Saturday, Nov. 10, 4:00 pm**
Choirs of St. Pauls & Mott Community College
- **Sunday, Nov. 25, 4:00 pm**
Joshua Scheid, tenor

Admission:
\$10 Adults, \$5 Students,
or Membership Pass

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
711 South Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502
810-234-8637

THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE

“This Month” highlights a selection of interesting events available to our readers – beginning after our publication date of October 4. It is not an exhaustive list, rather a sampling of opportunities in the city. To submit events for our November issue, email your event to Managing Editor Meghan Christian at meghan.christian22@gmail.com by October 23.

Small Worlds

Oct. 1 - Oct. 7
Noon to 5 p.m.
Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St.
810-234-1695
Admission: \$7
Exhibition of 19th century glass paperweights. Highlights variety of styles, techniques, and more.

Free Day

Every day in October
All-Day Event
Flint Children’s Museum, 1602 W. University
810-767-5437
Admission: Free
Gain free entrance to both Sproutsides and the museum. Sponsored by the Genesee County Department of Health and Human Services.

New Identity

Oct. 4 - Oct. 6
Thursday and Friday: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Buckham Gallery, 134 ½ W. 2nd St.
810-239-6233
Admission: Free
Latest exhibits: “New Identity”: featuring six artists: Corinne Nuzum, Ryan Gregory, Brian O’Leary, Carolyn Damstra, Kate Costea, and Jacqueline Diesing.

11th Annual Beer Tasting Event: Art on Tap

Oct. 5
6 - 10 p.m.
Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St.
810-234-1695
Admission: \$40-55
Sample a variety of craft beers, bourbons, and BBQ. Live band. Teacher demonstrations. Funds raised go toward materials and bus transportation for elementary and secondary students in their programs.

First Friday Open Mic

Oct. 5
7 p.m.
Buckham Gallery, 134 ½ W. 2nd St.
810-239-6233
Admission: Free
Music, poetry, prose readings, dance, and more. Support local artists. Performers can sign in at the door. Complimentary coffee.

Pure Pro Wrestling

Oct. 6
6 p.m.
Flint Iceland Arena, 1160 Elms Rd.
810-845-3962
Admission: \$6-25
Evolve Heavyweight champion Shane Strickland and TNA alum D. Ray 3000 headline along with many others.

Midterm Election Ballot Issues with the Flint-Area League of Women Voters

Oct. 9
6 p.m.
The New McCree Theater,
2040 W. Carpenter Rd.
810-845-1767
Admission: Free
Learn about issues on Midterm election ballot – be an informed voter come November.

Community Resource Day

Oct. 11
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
McLaren Flint, 401 S. Ballenger Hwy.
810-342-2375
Admission: Free
Learn about available resources for patients, especially during difficult economic times.

Mary Shelley

Oct. 12 and 13, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 14, 2 p.m.
Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St.
810-234-1695
Admission: \$4-6
Friends of Modern Art film series—film follows Frankenstein author Mary Shelley, played by Elle Fanning.

Scholarship Workshop

Oct. 13
Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Charity United Methodist Church, 4601 Clio Rd.
810-235-1523
Admission: Free
Workshop open to all Genesee County 11th and 12th grade students. Get help finding and applying for scholarships. Hosted by Higher Education Committee, Charity United Methodist Church.

“Demolition Means Progress” Community Book Read and Discussion

Oct. 13, Chapters 3-5
Oct. 27, Chapters 6-8
10 a.m. - Noon
Totem Books, 620 W. Court St.
810-407-6402
Admission: Free
Join discussion led by Harold Ford on “Demolition Means Progress” by Andrew Highsmith. Learn more about Flint. Books available online and at Totem Books for purchase.

Flint Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

Oct. 14
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Flint Masonic Temple, 755 S. Saginaw St.
Admission: \$12
An afternoon of food and barbershop music. Vouchers available from chorus members, at door, or by calling Steve at 844-370-6470, ext. 1. All funds raised go to performances throughout the community.

“JFK: The Last Speech” Book Launch

Oct. 18
5 - 7 p.m.
Totem Books, 620 W. Court St.
810-407-6402
Admission: Free
Reading, discussion, and book signing. Flint residents Jan Worth-Nelson and Ted Nelson are highlighted as co-editor and contributor respectively. (See ad on p.5 of this magazine.)

FSPA Faculty Concert

Oct. 19
7 p.m.
Flint Institute of Music, 1025 E. Kearsley St.
810-238-1350
Admission: Free
MacArthur Recital Hall, featuring talented Flint School of the Performing Arts faculty. Jessica Cech, flute; Brandon Cota, cello; and Brendan Jacklin, piano.

Late Night Tailgate

Oct. 19
8 p.m.
Capitol Theater, 140 E. 2nd St
810-767-5141
Admission: \$15-30
Live comedy/sports discussion show. Topics in professional and college sports, and current issues. Featuring athletes, comedians, and other pop culture experts.

3rd Annual Smallidge Family Lecture

Oct. 21
3 p.m.
Buckham Gallery, 134 ½ W. 2nd St.
810-239-6233
Admission: Free
Join in on a lecture by artist Thom Bohnert discussing imagination and imagery.

Rally the Vote! event and showing of film “JFK: The Last Speech”

Oct. 21
6 - 8 p.m.
Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St.
810-234-1695
Admission: Free

“JFK: The Last Speech,” Documentary. Hosted in partnership with the Flint Institute of Arts and the Flint-Area League of Women Voters. (See ad on p. 7 of this magazine.)

Flint Winter Clothing Distribution

Oct. 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Oct. 20, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
1225 Robert T. Longway Blvd.
Free winter clothes, boots, blankets, and more distributed at the church while supplies last.

2018 Halloween Ghosts and Goodies

Oct. 26, 29, 30, and 31; 5 - 9 p.m.
Oct. 27 and 28; Noon - 9 p.m.
Crossroads Village, 6140 Bray Rd.
Family fun. Magic show, enchanted forest, straw maze, and more. Tickets and information at: geneseecountyparks.org

... Beat

(Continued from Page 7.)

when we come to do city business here,” Council President Winfrey said at the Sept. 24 meeting. Addressing his colleagues, he added, “I want you all to do better. Your citizens that elected you deserve better.”

It is not just between council members where tempers have been flaring. Resident and community activist Quincy Murphy addressed Second Ward Councilperson Maurice Davis at both the Sept. 10 and Sept. 24 FCC meetings regarding recent comments made about Murphy by Davis. The comments range from Davis referring to Murphy as a “fake activist” to downplaying Murphy’s work in the community.

“I feel that Mr. Davis is coming at me ... and at times, at his colleagues,” Murphy said. “Not one time have I ever come to this podium and personally attacked anyone ... I’m asking for the same respect,” he added.

However, during the FCC meeting on Sept. 24, Davis publicly apologized to Murphy for his behavior in previous meetings. “I’d like to say to Mr. Murphy, I’m going to sit up here and apologize publically ... because one thing I am not is perfect,” Davis said. “So we just leave our differences aside because there’s too much business that needs to be handled,” he added.

“I would just like to say that I think it’s really gentlemanly of Mr. Davis to apologize for those comments,” Worthing said.

However difficult relationships among council members have been, FCC has still managed to take care of some city business. For information on appointments, resolutions and ordinances see the online version of this story at eastvillagemagazine.org

EVM Managing Editor Meghan Christian can be reached at meghan.christian22@gmail.com.

Volunteer Distributors Wanted

The East Village Magazine is looking for volunteer distributors in some of the residential blocks bounded by E. Court, Franklin, Tuscola and Meade streets. Spend less than one hour a month getting exercise and insuring your neighbors get the magazine. Contact ecuster@sbcglobal.net or write to 720 E. Second St. Flint, MI 48503.

Flint Fresh Food Hub opens, offers expanded options for local produce

By Darlene Carey

It was fitting just a day before the fall equinox that local growers gathered to celebrate a time of harvest and Flint food distribution advocates rejoiced in the official Sept. 21 opening of the new 14,530-square-foot Flint Fresh Food Hub at 3325 E. Court St.

There is reason for the public to celebrate as well. The opening of the \$1 million nonprofit food distribution center means expanded food options for residents and businesses within Flint city limits to buy locally-grown vegetables for pickup or delivery.

According to the FlintFresh website, flintfresh.com, delivery is available to Flint addresses on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Routes have been organized by zip code, as follows:

Tuesday: 48503, 48505, 48506

Wednesday: 48502, 48504, 48507 and 48532 (within Flint city limits).

Residents will be notified and given a time window of when a crew member will be in their area. The driver will leave their box on the doorstep unless otherwise arranged, or customers can choose to pick up their box at The Local Grocer (601 MLK Ave,

48502) during business hours by selecting the “pick up at store” option when placing their order.

Customers can choose small (\$15) or large (\$30) boxes. Orders are due by 5 p.m. the Thursday of the week before. There are two options: Farmer’s Choice, where staff choose what goes in the box, or A La Carte where customers use a drop-down menu online and choose five fruits and six vegetables. Orders may be placed online through the website or by phone at 810-620-1902.

The Court Street facility provides a new home for the Flint Fresh Mobile Market, founded in 2016 in response to the Flint water crisis, to provide fresh produce to underserved Flint residents with little or no access to grocery stores.

More on this story is available at eastvillagemagazine.org.

EVM staff writer Darlene Carey can be reached at darcar7@hotmail.com.

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The New Generation: *Millennials and young adults embracing politics*

By Meghan Christian

According to Ruth Milkman's analysis "A New Political Generation: Millennials and the Post-2008 Wave of Protest" in the January 2017 *American Sociological Review*, the media has perpetuated an idea that millennials (who range between 22 and 36 years old currently) are lazy, entitled, and less engaged overall. This was demonstrated by the 2013 *Time Magazine* cover story claiming millennials as the "Me, Me, Me" generation. However, Milkman finds that this is not the case.

"Defying the popular stereotypes of their generation as selfish, narcissistic, and politically disengaged, millennials have more progressive attitudes and beliefs than do older generations," Milkman asserted. "Moreover, many of them have acted on those beliefs through engagement in social movements," Milkman added.

These social movements have taken many forms. We have seen them in the Occupy Wall Street movement of 2011, Black Lives Matter, the #MeToo movement, and even more locally in the Power to the Polls protest held in Lansing earlier this year, just to name a few.

Not only do millennials engage in social movements, but Milkman also asserts that they, and other young people, are not as removed from organized politics as previously believed. According to numbers provided by the Pew Research Center, "66 percent of voters under age 30 cast their ballot for Obama that year, compared to 50 percent of those age 30 or over," and then in 2016 when Bernie Sanders was running for the Democratic nomination, "72 percent of voters under age 30 cast their vote for Sanders ..., whereas 71 percent of those 65 and over voted for Clinton."

This type of political involvement goes even deeper for some here in the city of Flint. Many young people are activists and others are even getting involved in the legislative arena. Though technically too

young to be considered a millennial himself, Third Ward Councilperson Santino Guerra, 20, has been incredibly active in politics from a young age and believes that young people everywhere should become engaged in local politics, especially if they don't like what they are currently seeing from their political leaders.

Guerra spoke with *East Village*



Santino Guerra

(photo by Meghan Christian)

Magazine about his engagement in politics and any tips he had for other young people. Responses have been lightly edited for spelling and grammar only.

What first inspired you to get involved in politics in general?

I was inspired to get into politics because of the way I grew up. My father got locked up when I was a baby. I went on to be raised by a single mother who I barely saw because she was working to support my sister and me. The struggles that make or break people were the true inspiration. I grew up, in a far from perfect world, with the desire to want to help others who may be going through the same things I was. The best way to achieve this goal was through politics, so when I was old enough to get involved at 14 I started knocking doors for candidates that represent the people.

What about Flint made you want to get involved in politics?

Seeing the rapid decline in the City

that I was raised in got me involved in local politics. I got involved so I could support public safety to help the citizens of Flint by reducing crime in the city. The blighted homes scattered throughout the city encouraged me to join the fight to get them knocked down. The Flint Water Crisis, became a situation where I did not want to sit on sidelines and watch the city suffer; I wanted to get in the game and move the city forward. But my biggest motivation to get into Flint politics is because of the opportunity I get to serve the people.

Do you think it's important for young people to get involved in politics? Why or why not?

Absolutely it's important for young people to get involved in politics. Every piece of legislation that is passed affects every generation. We all may have certain topics that are more special to us, but regardless of what the issue is or your age your voices should be heard.

Where should young people look to start getting involved? Any tips?

If young people want to get involved I would encourage them to look around the community, see what needs to change, and then change it. Find a church, club, organization, business, or politician you believe in and reach out to them ... ask how you you can help. If I can be of any assistance, don't hesitate to contact me at 810-499 9619.

"If you don't like the conversation, change the subject," Guerra said. He added that residents are always welcome to attend Flint City Council meetings and voice their opinions and concerns during the public speaking portion. The next FCC meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 8 in City Council Chambers on the third floor of City Hall.

EVM Managing Editor Meghan Christian can be reached at meghan.christian22@gmail.com.