



East Village

Magazine

November 2013

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Commentary *Election workers: Keeping the wheels of democracy turning*

By Paul Rozycki

For those of us who spend our time trying to analyze the most recent election with polls, predictions and punditry, it's easy to forget about all the work and preparation that goes into just running an election.

The job of putting the ballot together, setting up the voting machinery, staffing the 231 precincts in Genesee County, and finally, counting the votes in a timely and accurate manner, is no small task.

That task rests with an army of election workers who are charged with setting up the voting equipment, guiding thousands of voters through the polls, gathering the votes for counting, and returning all the tables, chairs, voting machines, and booths at the end of a very long day.

While most of us see only a few elections workers at our own voting location, for only a brief time, the process of setting up and running an election is a challenging one, especially in these times of partisan division and distrust of the election process. While passing out ballots and collecting them might seem routine, it's more vital than ever to do it right.

There may have been a time when working an election was a simple process that could be done by anyone, with little training. Maybe that was true when Abe Lincoln ran for Congress in the 1840s, and all voters had to do was walk into the local log cabin, put an X on the paper ballot, and stuff it into a wooden box. But today's elections are more complex than that, and today's poll workers face challenges that go far beyond those in the past.

The challenges voting inspectors face

In Flint, there are 62 precincts that need to be staffed by hundreds of poll workers. Those workers are trained to do much more than stuff a paper ballot into a wooden box. With voting equipment always changing, they must be up

to date on how to set up and use the latest computer technology. They must be able to set up and adapt that technology to a variety of temporary situations, as polls are set up in schools, churches, and community centers.

As with the technology, the laws and procedures that are part of the voting process are always changing, and workers need to be up to date on the latest changes. And those elections often take place while other activities are going on at voting locations, so election inspectors must work around the daily business of local churches, schools, and community centers.

This year's election

Poll workers must also deal in a civil manner with voters who may be impatient, partisan or simply confused about the voting process. This year presented new challenges to voters and the poll workers behind the table. For the first time in 127 years, Michigan voters won't have the option of voting a straight ticket, where a single mark would cast a vote for all the members of a party. This year, voters have to vote individually on each and every office from governor to the local school board. In Flint, voters are expected to cast more than 28 separate votes on candidates and issues. The number was even higher in many areas of the county.

In addition, this year, there are three fairly complex state-wide proposals on the ballot, and if voters don't study them earlier, they could easily take a lot of time in the voting booth going over them. There are also more than a few new voters who are just learning the process. Workers also need to be ready to deal with voters who may be in the wrong location, have moved, or those who need to cast provisional ballots. All of that can lead to long lines, angry vot-

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Cover: Calling Mother Nature at Applewood



Photograph by
Edwin D. Custer

Photo of the Month: Monarch making early autumn visitation

Central Park eyes traffic, blight, beautification upgrades

By Harold C. Ford

“This is one of the best places to live.”

Nic Custer, Central Park Neighborhood resident, activist

With a three-lens focus on traffic, beautification, and blight, members of the Central Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) are planning for neighborhood improvements to be undertaken and completed in the next three years.

Flint-based Sedgewick & Ferweda Architects presented a “project narrative” for the initiative(s) to the CPNA at its September 2018 meeting.

“We’ve been talking for a while now on how to improve quality of life in the neighborhood in connection to both downtown and to the arts institutions that are just east of us,” CPNA resident Nic Custer said. Custer is chair of the CPNA’s Neighborhood Investment for Community Enhancement (NICE) committee.

“The overall scope of the project is divided into three parts,” Kurt Neiswender, a Sedgewick & Ferweda architect, said. Neiswender told residents those three parts

include:

- Neighborhood beautification: Two monument signs demarcating the neighborhood; landscaping and horticultural enhancements at East Street Park located at 3rd Street and Chavez Drive; visual, as well as safety, upgrades to the bridges that carry traffic over I-475 at 2nd Street, and 3rd Street; an outdoor mural to cover the west wall of the building at 720 E. 2nd St. which houses *East Village Magazine* and other tenants.



- Safety improvements: Repair of the brick noise barrier wall at I-475; curb cuts and other improvements along Chavez Drive to make it more barrier free and handicap accessible.

- “Complete street” designs with a focus on Crapo Street and Kearsley Street: Putting thoroughfares on a “diet” to create more space for bike lanes; repaving sidewalks with materials that create surfaces with different textures and colors; enhanced intersections.

According to Custer, the initiatives may cost anywhere from \$25,000 to several million. Though grant money from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint has sustained NICE through the initial planning stages, he said, “We don’t have any money on the table to make it a reality yet.”

Identified potential funding sources include the City of Flint, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, the Ruth Mott Foundation, the Genesee County Land Bank Authority, and Habitat for Humanity.

Origins of the NICE Committee initiatives grew out of the Imagine Flint Master Plan adopted by the City of Flint in October, 2013. It was the city’s first master plan in more than 50 years and was the work of more than 5,000 individuals, at

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... Central

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nearly 300 events, over an 18-month period. The Master Plan was intended to guide the city for its next 20 years.

Central Park Neighborhood:

Central Park Neighborhood (CPN) is situated between downtown Flint and the Mott Community College (MCC) campus and includes the old Flint Central site, Applewood Estate, and the Flint Cultural Center. Roughly, CPN is a rectangular area bordered by Longway Boulevard on the north, east Court Street on the south, Gilkey Creek on the east, and north-bound Chavez Drive on the west.

CPNA was established in the late 1960s and has been supported by Court Street Village Non-Profit (CSVNP). CSVNP created the NICE Committee in 2009 to assist neighborhoods to become safe, strong, and vital.

The first major accomplishment of NICE was switching out 50 older, less efficient sources of light for more cost efficient LED street lights in 2013 and 2014. An additional 10 LED lights were installed in 2015.

CPN prides itself in being one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the area in terms of income, race, age, nationality, income level, and other identifying factors:

- 52 percent of the homes are owner-occupied, 48 percent are renter-occupied

- 47 percent of residents are 44 years and younger, 53 percent are 45 years and older
- 47 percent of residents are white, 49 percent are black
- 40 percent of the residents are at or below the poverty level, 60 percent are above the poverty level



Charles Boike and Nic Custer
(Photo by Harold C. Ford)

Mural artist chosen

Charles Boike, 35, has been chosen to do the mural project on the west exterior wall of the EVM building. Samples of Boike's work are plentiful in the community and include:

- most of the murals at Flint Farmers' Market including the striking Asia-themed mural at MaMang
- mural portraits in Flint's Buckham Alley that include Frank Sinatra, Audrey Hepburn, Sammy Davis Jr., and Marilyn Monroe
- other various murals including some at Totem Books and Hoffman's Deli.

Boike presented a few mockups of possible murals to CPN residents at

their Sept. 2018 meeting. One proposal was to represent the diverse population of the community. Another possibility was a dual image that would link Flint's historical past to its more contemporary present.

"Large-scale artwork is normally larger than life," said Boike, as he explained his visioning process to CPN residents. "When you come up on something and it's bigger than you, it's humbling."

Residents to continue push for remediation of Flint Central site

In a related matter, CPN residents intend to continue lobbying Flint Community Schools (FCS) for remediation of the old Flint Central High School/Whittier Middle School campus. The campus has been abandoned for nearly a decade and has fallen into a considerable state of disrepair.

Resident Ingrid Halling, CPNA past president, delivered a list of concerns to then-Superintendent Bilal Tawwab in March, 2017 when it was believed that FCS would knock down the old buildings and build a new secondary school by 2020. Tawwab is now gone and as far as the residents know, plans for a new school are nowhere in sight. "We haven't been told anything," Halling said.

But the old school buildings remain and continue to deteriorate. Residents consider them to be a blighted eyesore and a safety and health hazard.

EVM Staff Writer Harold C. Ford can be reached at hcford1185@gmail.com.

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Good news emerging on many fronts, Weaver asserts in State of the City address

By Meghan Christian

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver lauded her administration's successes on budget fundamentals, a strong stand against crime, water pipeline replacement, and economic development during her State of the City Address Oct. 18 at the Capitol Theatre.

Weaver gave her address, a requirement of the city charter, to a theatre crowded with residents and various members of Flint government, including Flint City Council (FCC), Flint Police Chief Tim Johnson, and others.

"I truly am grateful for the opportunity to serve you all and represent my hometown," she said.

Progress and achievement under Home Rule

Weaver discussed the progress the city has made now that the government is no longer under emergency management, highlighting recognition the city has received.

"We were able to fully demonstrate that we are more than capable of operating in a sound and sustainable financial condition. This is the first time since 2011 that the city of Flint is free from emergency managers and state oversight," Weaver said.

"This year we came out of receivership and adopted the budget, we are spending less than we are taking in, and adding money to the general fund, showing fiscal responsibility," Weaver said. "The city of Flint was once again, awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada," she added.

Water and pipe replacement

Aware of the prominence of the water crisis in the minds of residents, Weaver addressed issues relating to water. These

included access to clean, affordable drinking water, the ongoing pipe replacement project and its funding from the money the city has received from the State.



Photo by Jan Worth-Nelson

"In addition to service line replacement, which will help restore safe drinking water, we have received \$80 million in Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) funding. That funding will be used for several projects: water meter replacement, water quality monitoring panels, back-up water line from GCDC, Dort and Cedar St. Pump station upgrades, and water main replacement," Weaver said. According to MLive, WIIN funds were approved by President Obama back in 2016 and were approved as a part of a \$132 million plan by FCC in July of this year.

"As a result of that funding, local contractors have excavated over 15,000 pipes to date, through my FAST Start (Flint Action Sustainability Team) service line replacement program," Weaver said. "We are well on our way to meet our goal of replacing all of the known lead and galvanized services lines in the city by the

end of 2019," she added.

Weaver also revealed assistance is coming to assure clean drinking water for Flint Community Schools students. "I am excited to announce that after months of conversation between my administration, Flint Community Schools and the Musk Foundation, that Flint Community Schools (FCS) will be installing new ultraviolet (UV) water filtration systems for water fountains throughout all of the school buildings thanks to a nearly half-million dollar donation from Elon Musk and the Musk Foundation," Weaver said.

Public safety

Weaver discussed the Administration's stance on crime and improvements to the Flint Police Department, like the expanding Intelligence Bureau and other technological advances. "Thanks to our hard-working Police Chief, Timothy Johnson, and the many men and women who work tirelessly day in and day out, I can stand here today and say, we are standing strong in our fight against crime," Weaver said.

"The police department continues to build the Intelligence Bureau by adding new investigative tools all the time and coming soon, a state-of-the-art cell phone analytical system, Drones, and the highest-rated software platform system used by the top investigative governmental agencies. Securing the city of Flint's residents, businesses and its visitors remains the departments' primary focus," Weaver added.

The Flint Fire Department has also made strides this past year, according to Weaver. "Our dedicated fire department, led by Chief Raymond Barton, who has excellent backup in Carrie Edwards, responded to nearly 5,000 fire and EMS calls for service since the last State of the City address and the department was in 100 percent compli-

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... Weaver

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ance with NFPA standards for residential structure fires,” she said.

Mayor Weaver also touched on the opioid crisis that is devastating Genesee County. “Responding to the opioid crisis has required the city to sustain economic damages and to continue to bear a significant financial burden. We have or are filing a lawsuit against these companies because, like other communities across the country, the opioid epidemic has left its mark on the city of Flint,” Weaver said.

“While it has strained our resources, and created yet another challenge for our community, I have no doubt that our resilience and persevering nature will help us rebuild in the wake of the devastating crisis,” Weaver said, adding that holding the companies who make these drugs accountable is the next step toward recovering from this epidemic.

Economic development

Weaver thanked the Kellogg Foundation again for their grant to the city, which funded creation of an economic development team. “We are grateful to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for their generous grant which provided the foundation to build the capacity for our city’s economic development efforts,” she said.

According to Weaver, the team has made huge strides, securing large companies for the city as well as creating relationships with area small businesses.

Weaver also announced that due to testing results, General Motors has decided to switch its plant back to Flint city water. “I am pleased to say that with all of the upgrades and extensive testing of our water, the city of Flint and General Motors have reached an agreement to switch the Engine Plant back to city of Flint water,” Weaver said.

“Welcome back to Bedrock, baby,” Weaver said in closing to thunderous applause. A full transcript of Mayor Weaver’s State of the City address is available on the City of Flint site.

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

Gas-burning cars, trucks will be left behind, futurists predict

By Harold C. Ford



From left at Factory One Oct.4: Jim Motavalli, Michael Ableson, John DeCicco, Michelle Krebs (Photo by Harold C. Ford)

A panel of automotive futurists anticipated the next great transportation transition for the human species during the first day of the Society of Environmental Journalists’ (SEJ) 28th Annual Conference in Flint in October. That transition will likely leave behind individually owned, gas-burning cars and trucks as travelers opt for autonomous, electric, shared vehicles, the experts predicted.

Panelists included: freelance environmental journalist Jim Motavalli, moderator; Michael Ableson, vice president of global strategy for General Motors (GM); John DeCicco, research professor at the University of Michigan Energy Institute; and Michelle Krebs, an automotive writer for Autotrader.

Given the current popularity of cars and

trucks in the U.S., the panelists’ predictions varied widely as to when this transition will begin in earnest. Nonetheless, they were unanimous in forecasting major disruptions of American transportation systems and the business models that sustain them. Uber and Lyft were cited as but two examples of new transportation models that will continue to emerge in the 21st century.

Motavalli flatly predicted, “The future of the car is autonomous, electric, and connected.” But future generations will have to decide if vehicles are privately owned or shared, he said.

GM’s Ableson claimed the future is now. GM has deployed the plug-in hybrid Chevrolet Volt as part of its fleet since 2010. However, the buying public is hard-

(Continued on Page 13.)

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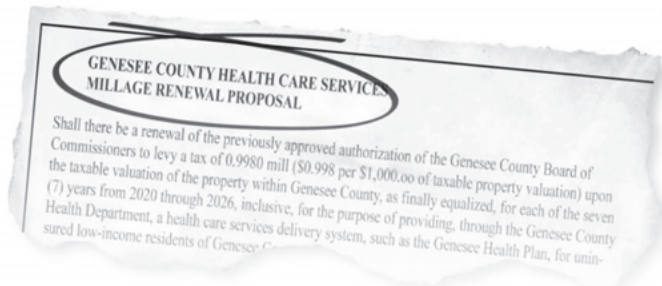
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Location: UM-Flint's Harding Mott University Center, Happenings Room, 400 Mill St. Flint, MI 48503
"Whitewashing": Racial Disenfranchisement in Higher Education
Panel Discussion
Dr. Ernest Emenyonu, Professor of African Studies, UM-Flint
Dr. David 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

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Flint Ethics Board considers budget needs, ombudsperson process shuffles into eleventh month

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 still has yet to appoint an ombudsperson, one of the conditions outlined in the new city charter. During their October meetings (Oct. 9 and Oct. 23), members provided updates on tasks they have been working on and discussed how to proceed to hire the city's ombudsperson.

Absent from the Oct. 9 meeting were member-at-large Art Evans, Fifth Ward appointee Andrietta Dicks, Sixth Ward appointee Dr. Delores Langston, and Ninth Ward appointee Eric Roebuck. Absent from the Oct. 23 meeting were Fourth Ward appointee Nicholas D'Aigle, Langston, and Roebuck.

The EAB is a requirement of the charter adopted by voters in August 2017 by a 2-1 vote 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 they be necessary.

Budget hurdles

One of the main hurdles the EAB has been facing is establishing a line of activity in the city's budget. To address that need, Interim Chair of the EAB and Eighth Ward appointee John Daly, said he and Interim Vice-Chair, and Seventh Ward appointee, Allen Gilbert had met with Chief Financial Officer Hughey Newsome. "We need to have an activity in the budget for the Ethics and Accountability Board because we do

have some requirements we have to fulfill," Daly said. "We are a public entity, so we have to keep records and we have to pay someone to keep the records ..." he added.

EAB members agreed to send a letter to Newsome, copying Flint City Council (FCC), the mayor, all members of the EAB, and the city attorney's office. The letter would outline what the EAB members believe is needed to be operational, including an activity in the budget; an as-of-yet undetermined allotment of funds for part-time clerical work, outside legal counsel, supplies, and more. The EAB also plans to attend the next meeting of the FCC Finance Committee to discuss how the FCC can help them to get more established.

"We have to go the route of the council," Gilbert stated, adding that because of the wording of the city's charter, the City Attorney does not believe the EAB has the authority to spend money set aside for the ombudsperson.

Ombudsperson process

Another problem facing the EAB is how to go about hiring an ombudsperson. Some members say they believe they should use the pre-existing system the city already uses. This would not only keep costs low, they argue, but would also allow them to have a higher likelihood of choosing a Flint or Genesee County resident as the ombudsperson. "We need to do our due diligence with the resources we have," said member-at-large Loyce Driskell.

However, other members say they would rather use an outside source, viewing using the system already in place in the city's human resources office as a conflict of interest. "How do you have independence if you're going to have the search, essentially the nuts and bolts of the search, done by somebody that's been hired by the mayor?" Daly asked his colleagues, adding that he thought independence was essential to the functioning of the EAB. The Human Relations Director is a position appointed by the mayor and approved by FCC. Makini Jackson currently holds the position, approved by

FCC earlier this year.

Dicks suggested that instead of speculating on the process, the EAB should extend an invitation to have members of HR come to one of their next meetings to explain the search process. Daly agreed to do so on behalf of the EAB.

Trip to Detroit

On Oct. 16, some members of the EAB visited the Ethics Board in Detroit. At their Oct. 23 meeting, they discussed their trip and what they gained from the experience. Many members echoed each other, saying they liked the efficiency and decency with which the Detroit board functions. "We're not the size of Detroit, but we went there to see the efficiency and get some facts about how ... to give us an idea ... of how the ombudsman office runs," Third Ward appointee Linda Boose said. "Some leaders should see how a board or a group should conduct themselves," she added.

"The thing that was captivating ... is that they (the Detroit Ethics board) came with this disposition that they were committed to serving the community, the people, and that when they had dialogue between one another... they always listened to one another," Gilbert said.

Residents are welcome to attend EAB meetings, which offer an opportunity to speak. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Nov. 6 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.

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.

From the Pacific Ocean to a Flint classroom, Mott Foundation National Geographic partnership enriches students

By Harold C. Ford

Nine Flint Community Schools (FCS) students were among the very first beneficiaries of a new educational partnership between the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the National Geographic Society (NatGeo). A \$450,000 grant from the Mott Foundation to National Geographic's Explorer Classroom program was inaugurated with a live-stream between classrooms in five states and the Exploration Vessel Nautilus in the Pacific Ocean.

The middle and high school students at Flint's Southwestern Classical Academy joined 600 students from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Maine for the Oct. 23 interactive broadcast with two members of the science team aboard the Nautilus. The Nautilus, with a crew of 30 scientists and 17 day-to-day operations personnel, are exploring unknown regions of the ocean seeking out new discoveries in biology, geology, and archaeology.

Joe Grabowski, a National Geographic fellow/science teacher, and Summer Farrell, a pilot of the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) Argus, shared their responsibilities and experiences while aboard the Nautilus. Grabowski, a science and math teacher from Guelph, Ont., was in his second week aboard the Nautilus, while Farrell was in her fifth year as a member of the crew.

Grabowski explained that the main objective of the current mission is an area in the unexplored, deep-water region of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) off the central coast of California. MBNMS is 276 miles long and encompasses an area of 6,094 square miles. He told students that "We have better maps of the moon and mars than we do of the seas' floors."

Farrell's responsibility as pilot of the Argus is critical to the Nautilus' mapping mission as well as the identification and collection of plant and animal marine life. It is not uncommon for the Nautilus crew to find rare and unidentified plant and animal species.



Ridgway White with Flint Southwestern students
(Photo by Harold C. Ford)

New partnership, new experience, promising future

The Mott Foundation-National Geographic partnership is a first. Ridgway White, president of the Mott Foundation, said the partnership came about as a result of a happenstance conversation with a representative of National Geographic.

"It was such an easy partnership to put together," said Michael Ulica, National Geographic executive vice president and chief operations and financial officer. He explained National Geographic works primarily with teachers while the Mott Foundation supports after-school programming.

White agreed. "Across the country we connect with ten million children through the after-school networks," he said. The after-hours community school model pioneered by the Mott Foundation in Flint schools in the 1930s now extends to all 50 states.

White wants the project to go beyond what he termed "a screen experience" into something experiential and hands-on. "What we really want it to be is an interactive experience," he explained. "I think there's an opportunity to be active in addition to, and supplemented by, some of the screen time where you're actually interacting with explorers."

Ulica said National Geographic funds 600 explorers with a variety of grants all over the world. The 2018 expedition by the Nautilus is but one of thousands fund-

ed by NatGeo in its 130-year history.

Both organizations predict the initial three-year grant will lead to a multi-year, multimillion-dollar partnership.

EVM Staff Writer Harold C. Ford can be reached at hcford1185@gmail.com.

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Book Review: “David Buick’s Marvelous Motor Car” by Lawrence Gustin

By Harold C. Ford

Get your name on 40 million cars and you’re bound to find fame and fortune. Nonetheless, David Dunbar Buick was forgotten first by the company that bears his name, then by the public, and ultimately by historians.

Author, Flint native, former Flint Journal reporter and retired Buick assistant public relations director Lawrence Gustin aims to correct this historical oversight with his 2006 book “David Buick’s Marvelous Motor Car.” A recently updated version includes mention of the water crisis, the virtual abandonment of Flint by General Motors (GM), and the resultant loss of 70,000 GM jobs.

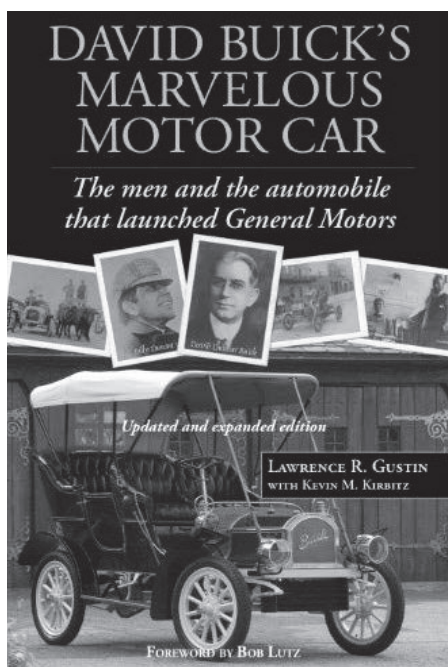
That ongoing history never fails to offer points of reflection. In light of the recent visit by some 700 members of the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) to Flint for their 28th Annual Conference, Oct. 3-7, it seems appropriate to revisit Flint’s early automotive history through the lens of Gustin’s book.

After all, the site of the SEJ’s opening plenary session, titled “Future of Cars,” was Factory One on Water Street — the site of early Buick production and the Durant-Dort office building across the street is considered the birthplace of General Motors at the start of the last century. Factory One was one of the seminal sites for the last great transition of human transport a century ago, from horse-drawn carriages to motorized vehicles. “Future of Cars” panelists envisioned this century’s transportation revolution to autonomous, electric, shared vehicles.

Flint pioneers

Gustin’s book is chock full of the names of engineers, financiers, industrialists, and others whose names are indelibly etched in Flint thoroughfares, landmarks, and institutions: Dort; Bishop; Mott; Begole; Mason; Durant; Chevrolet; Kettering; Crapo; Whiting; Ballenger; Paterson; Stewart; Bower; DeWaters; and, of course, Buick.

And there are other names you should know for a more thorough



understanding of this community that we live in that is a fount of great pride and considerable angst: Walter Marr; A.B.C. Hardy; Eugene Richard; Charles Annesley, and others.

Other well-known names in automotive history — Charles Nash, Walter Chrysler, and others — advanced their prominent careers during their time in Flint.

The reader is reminded that this great city began with a trading post established in 1819 by Jacob Smith; that it became a lumbering center, and a manufacturer of horse-drawn wagons; that it was visited by numerous dignitaries, from Alexis deTocqueville (1831) to Teddy Roosevelt (1912); that it was incorporated in 1855; that it became the second largest automobile producer in the world, second only to Detroit.

Without the contributions of these early pioneers, several of the important building blocks of Flint’s history would not have occurred including: formation of General Motors; creation of unique community/after-school programming; and the birth of the United Auto Workers, which hastened the growth of America’s middle class.

Tinkerer, inventor, patent winner

Gustin writes that Buick “displayed a talent for invention. Between 1881 and

the first several years of the 20th century he was assigned 25 patents, mostly plumbing related ...” Buick’s tinkering and inventiveness progressed from steam engines, to motorized tricycles and bicycles, to marine engines, to plumbing, then ultimately to the automobile engine.

The most important patent awarded Buick was for his valve-in-head or overhead valve design, which significantly advanced the power and efficiency of the gasoline engine. Automotive writer Terry Dunham deemed it “the single most important mechanical factor in the early success of the Buick car.”

Gustin’s research and writing appropriately gives credit to Eugene Richard and Walter Marr for their contributions to the development of the overhead valve design. In fact, Gustin does a marvelous job of detailing how the inventions related to and development of the automobile can never be attributed to just a few individuals. In fact, Gustin’s book memorializes the collective efforts of dozens, hundreds, or more individuals who made creative contributions to the mass production of automobiles.

It becomes personal

With Chapter Seven, “Valve-in-head engines”, Gustin’s book became personal for me. My father, as is true for hundreds of thousands of others, would make his living and sustain his family from the earnings enabled by his labor and knowledge directly descended from the inventions of the early auto pioneers such as Buick.

The family on my father’s side was drawn to Flint in 1920 by the emerging auto industry and the resultant creation of jobs. My father left the auto factory’s monotony and became an auto mechanic. He understood the designs and machinations of the inventions by Buick and his contemporaries.

Consequently, my father put food on the family table and clothes on the back-sides of his children with the money he earned. The link between David Dunbar

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(Continued from Page 12.)

Buick and Harold Richard Ford and Harold Clayton Ford is clear.

Ford, Buick, and others

The automotive careers of Henry Ford and David Buick are remarkably similar. Gustin notes they were among the young men who would learn skills in Michigan during its “great industrial age that was beginning to muscle up” as the 1800s transitioned to the 1900s. It’s even possible that Ford, nine years the junior of Buick, may have been an apprentice under the direction of Buick at a machine shop in Detroit.

“The world was on the edge of a revolution in transportation,” Gustin writes. Michiganders Ford, Buick, and others were in close proximity to one another during those formative years of the auto industry. Individually and collectively they created a synergy that launched the single most important and transformative land transport mechanism in human history — the automobile.

Gustin writes: “One historian has noted that in the early days, Flint had a group of men of unusual ability, many brought together by Durant, and ‘there was probably not a more lively bunch anywhere else in the country.’” It is worth noting that the sales of Buick automobiles often surpassed those of Ford.

Final thoughts

David Buick died at age 74 on March 5, 1929, “leaving only his name on a car,” according to one newspaper account.

Gustin tells us that not long after his death, Theodore MacManus and Norman Beasley, in their book, “Men, Money, and Motors,” wrote: “Fame beckoned to David Buick — he sipped from the cup of greatness ... and then spilled what it held.”

Gustin’s book is generously filled with visuals — vintage photos, newspaper clippings, documents, and maps — a total of 209 by this reviewer’s count.

Any individual imbued with the remotest interest in Flint’s history would be remiss if they skipped a read of

Gustin’s book about Buick and his automobile.

(As detailed on his Amazon.com biography, Gustin has established his own venerable place in documenting and preserving Flint’s automotive history: “He authored three critically acclaimed and award-winning books: Billy Durant: Creator of General Motors, the first biography of Durant, in 1973, with an updated edition published by the University of Michigan Press in GM’s centennial year, 2008; “The Buick: A Complete History,” co-authored with Terry B. Dunham in six editions, five updated (1980-2003); and the first edition of this book in 2006. He launched a newspaper campaign to save a building in Flint that today is a national historical landmark, considered virtually the birthplace of General Motors, and helped create the Buick Gallery and Research Center at the Sloan Museum.” In 2016 Gustin donated a major collection of General Motors memorabilia, included personal papers of Billy Durant, to the Sloan.) –Ed.

EVM Staff Writer Harold C. Ford can be reached at hcford1185@gmail.com.

(Continued from Page 7.)

ly rushing into the plug-in hybrid market. Sales of the Volt and a few other related models accounted for about 100,000 sales worldwide from 2010 to 2015, he said. That’s a small drop in the automotive ocean of an estimated one billion vehicles on the planet, a number expected to double by mid-century.

Ableson touted OnStar, a subscription-based communications system launched in 1996, as a step toward transportation connectedness. OnStar services include hands-free calling, turn-by-turn navigation, in-vehicle security, emergency services, and remote diagnostics systems. OnStar boasted six million subscribers by 2011.

GM’s future moves will include deployment of “an autonomous, truly driverless vehicle in a ride-sharing service, an electric vehicle next year in 2019,” according to Ableson. He also said GM’s “current portfolio plan” includes 20 new autonomous, electronic vehicles with zero emissions by 2023.

Uncertain future to be shaped by market demands

Motavalli judged the transition timeline to be uncertain. “The crystal ball remains a little bit murky in terms of the timetable,” he said. “When it happens, the change will be profound. It will be a new ecosystem of mobility and accessibility that will have to co-evolve with the new landscapes, with new ways that we use buildings, and it’s entirely unpredictable.”

Krebs predicted that 2023 to 2025 will be key years, “an inflection point,” a time of significant change from personal ownership to fleet ownership of autonomous vehicles. “The model has to change how we acquire transportation,” she said. “We think the future is a sharing future.”

Krebs asserted safety concerns will help determine the market for autonomous vehicles. She cited the alarm generated by a fatal accident involving a self-driving Uber vehicle in Tempe, Arizona, the night of March 18. That car struck and killed a 49-year-old woman walking her bicycle in the middle of the road.

That single death pales in light of the carnage caused by manually operated vehicles

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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:
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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 events available to our readers — beginning after our publication date of Nov. 1. It is not an exhaustive list, rather a sampling of opportunities in the city. To submit events for our December issue, email your event to Managing Editor Meghan Christian at meghan.christian22@gmail.com by Nov. 26.

Free Day

Every day in November
All Day Event
Flint Children’s Museum,
1602 W. University Ave.
810-767-5437
Admission: Free

Gain free entrance to both Sproutsid e and the museum. Sponsored by the Genesee County Department of Health and Human Services.

Valley Area Agency on Aging/MMAP Open Enrollment

Every Day in November
Valley Area Agency on Aging,
225 E. 5th St., Suite 200
800-803-7174
Admission: Free

The Valley Area on Aging is having open enrollment and is available to help seniors navigate the health care system. For more information and to find a location near you, call 800-803-7174 or visit valleyareaaging.org

Christmas Box Program

Every Day in November
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., closed from noon - 1 p.m. each day
Old Newsboys of Flint,
6255 Taylor Dr.
810-744-1840
onbflint.org
Admission: Free

Beginning Oct. 29 and running through Dec. 21, this program is for children from newborns to high-school age in need during the holiday season.

Laura Love in Concert

Nov. 8
7 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church,
2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.
810-232-4023
Admission: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door

Come enjoy a performance of Folk-Funk music by Laura Love.

“Barefoot in the Park”

Nov. 8 - 11, 16 - 18
Thurs - Sat: 7:30 p.m.
Sun: 2:30 p.m.
Flint Community Players,
2462 S. Ballenger Hwy.
810-441-9302
Admission: \$13

Enjoy the comedy about newlyweds Paul and Corie Bratter as they navigate married life post-honeymoon.

Kuungana Conference

Nov. 9 - 11
Fri: 5 - 10 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.
Sun: 10 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Historic Masonic Temple,
755 S. Saginaw St.
810-394-3880
Admission: \$8-15 per workshop

Learn West African drum and dance during a weekend of workshops taught by master dancers and drummers. The conference concert will be at 8 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are available for purchase.

Sacred Circle — Open Spiritual Discussion Group

Every Friday in November
Nov. 9, 16, 23, and 30
6 p.m.
Sacred Elements,
5353 Fenton Rd.
810-422-9125
Admission: Free

An open spirituality group that meets every Friday that is open to all faiths and belief systems. While admission is free, donations are accepted. If possible, bring a snack or beverage to share.

FSPA Faculty Concert feat. Michele LeNoue

Nov. 16
7 p.m.
Flint Institute of Music,
1025 E. Kearsley St.
810-238-1350
Admission: Free

Enjoy a free evening of music located in the MacArthur Recital Hall.

Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 22
All Day Long

Enjoy a great holiday with family and friends. East Village Magazine is thankful for all of our supporters.

The Heart of the Matter

Nov. 28
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Hospitality House at McLaren,
G-3170 Beecher Rd.
810-342-4473
Admission: Free; registration required

Hosted by McLaren Flint, come to a free seminar on the topic of Artificial Fibrillation (A-Fib). Mustafa Hassan, a board certified cardiologist will be giving the talk. Registration is required. To register, call 810-342-4473 or go to afibflint1.eventbrite.com.



... Election

(Continued from Page 3.)

ers, and the election workers who face the brunt of that frustration.

Long hours at the polls

The hours are long. While the polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m., the workers' day begins well before the polls open and ends long after they close.

Typically, the set up for the election begins no later than 5:30 a.m. and poll workers must stay until the votes are collected and made ready for counting. At the end of the day, the workers are responsible for delivering the votes to the tabulation center, packing up the voting equipment and returning it. At a recent gathering of election workers, several told of staying until early the next morning, after the election, to deal with unexpected issues that arose.

The job is even more difficult because it's normally only done three times a year. For most of us, when we do a job every day, we get used to a predictable routine that, hopefully, makes us better at what we do. There isn't much time to build up a routine for most election inspectors.

Training for election workers

For the election workers, the preparation for Election Day begins weeks before the voters show up. After workers are hired, they are expected to attend a series of training sessions and workshops prior to the election. This year, depending on their duties, election workers were expected to attend an orientation workshop, a training session for all election workers, a workshop for those working with electronic poll books, and a special training session for an Absentee Voters' Counting Board, and those involved with technical support. Supervisors also are expected to receive additional training. Workers are paid for the training sessions as well as their work on Election Day.

In spite of all the challenges of the job, at a recent gathering of this year's election inspectors, many said it was rewarding to be a part of the most basic part of democracy — voting. They were reminded of how the right to vote has gradually been

expanded over the last 200 years, to include more than just white, male property owners. They learned of the many times that one vote has made a difference in past elections, and how one vote has changed history. They took pride in the fact that they are the first step in making sure those votes count.

Becoming an election inspector

Those who work the polls must be registered voters and can't be a candidate or member of a candidate's family, a member of the local Board of Canvassers, or an election challenger. Those interested in being an election worker may submit an application to their local city or township clerk. While many election workers have been helping voters for a long time, and bring a wealth of experience with them, there is always a need for new workers to assist voters. Michigan's 83 counties, 274 cities, and 1,242 townships all need a staff of paid poll workers at election time. Websites for the City of Flint, Genesee County, and most local municipalities offer more details on the process, and how those interested might apply.

It's an important job on the front lines of democracy, and they deserve our thanks.

EVM political writer Paul Rozycki can be reached at paul.rozycki@mcc.edu.

... Cars

(Continued from Page 13.)

on American highways year after year. Auto accident fatalities regularly exceeded 50,000 in the '60s and '70s, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. From the '80s through 2007, annual fatalities surpassed 40,000, declining to about 34,000 to 35,000 per year since then.

For the rest of this story, please go to eastvillagemagazine.org.

EVM Staff Writer Harold C. Ford can be reached at hcford1185@gmail.com.

Lead/galvanized tainted pipes replaced so far in Flint:

7,466+

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

The total includes 1,238 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 6,072 homes, which did not need to be replaced. A total of 16,143 pipes have been excavated altogether as of Oct. 22.

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

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Commentary

Are journalists the enemy of the people? Free press “vital to democracy,” winning student writer affirms

Editor’s Note: Each year the Flint Jewish Federation sponsors an essay contest as part of their Daniel Pearl World Music Days observance. Pearl, a *Wall Street Journal* reporter, was murdered in 2002 while reporting in Pakistan. While the yearly event aims to honor Pearl’s love of music, it also highlights the significance of his work as a journalist.

The essay contest is open to any high school student in Genesee County. This year’s prompt was as follows:

“Reporters are under fire, it seems, whether they are ducking bullets in Afghanistan or potshots from politicians. Are journalists the enemy of the people?”

The first place winner was Hill-McCloy High School senior David Sackrider. He answers, “History may have its villains, but journalists are not one of them.”

We are honored to print Sackrider’s essay here, with his permission. Thanks to the Flint Jewish Federation for sponsoring this thought-provoking and timely event.



David Sackrider

David Sackrider is the son of Christine and Michael Sackrider and is a senior at Hill-McCloy High School in Montrose. David is the President of the Montrose National Honor Society and is a three-sport varsity athlete. He also is the sports director of the five-time MHSAA Student Broadcast Program of the Year, MDM-TV.com, where he has earned the 2017 and

2018 Michigan Association of Broadcasters Best Sports Announcing Team award and the 2018 National Federation of High Schools Best Sportscast in the future.

In the future, he plans to attend Harvard University to study political science with the ultimate goal of becoming President of the United States.

Antagonistic Accountability

By David Sackrider

Leaders all over the globe would love it if they controlled the press. President Donald Trump, in particular, dislikes the way reporters analyze everything he has to say. In his eyes, America would be better off if he could wipe away the naysayers with the snap of his fingers. Due to this, he often dubs journalists as “the enemy of the people” and their work as “fake news.” Despite all of this, the press keeps fighting the President at every step. They are burdened with a much more glorious purpose: to hold the bigwigs like President Trump accountable. History proves that reporters are vital to our democracy at large.

The press is vital to a democracy because it keeps the voters informed. Thus, a true journalist could never be the enemy of the people because in holding leaders accountable, they show the public what is truly going on. George Orwell once wisely said that “Journalism is printing what someone else doesn’t want printed: everything else is public relations” (Goodreads). By this definition, a journalist is always going to be viewed as the enemy of some people, but never all. Throughout history, leaders have often tried to control the public by controlling what people knew. Hitler did it in the ‘40s and Nixon tried to do it in the ‘70s. The difference between these two events is that in the ‘40s, Hitler controlled the press and thus, controlled what the public knew about. The majority of his people believed what he had to say because everything from the “science” to the news was backing him up. People were deceived because journalists acted like publicists, spreading Hitler’s wishes instead of acting as a check to his power. On the flip side, Nixon was unable to keep his secrets under wraps. Through the effort of diligent journalists, the Watergate scandal was uncovered and Nixon was forced to resign. Journalists add value to society because they keep the public informed even when the leaders would try to stop them.

A democracy requires the public to contribute to the decisions of those elected. However, they cannot do so without information from the press. Journalists cover the news in order to inform the public about what their leaders really do. It is then up to the people to draw their own conclusions about how they feel about those in charge. Journalists prevent a democracy from falling to dictatorship by granting the public the opportunity to fight against the wrongs of their leaders. If a journalist chose only to report on what the powers-that-be wanted them to say, then they would be doing a disservice to the public. Yet, they do not and thus, history may have its villains, but journalists are not one of them.