

East Village Magazine

October 2021



Photograph By
Edwin D. Carter

The Tom Sumner Program

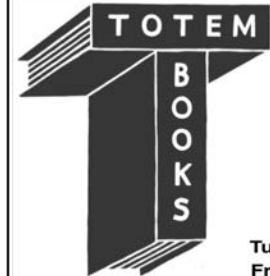
Produced live weekdays from 9 to noon

Ways to listen...

★ **STREAM IT ON-LINE:**
www.tomsumnerprogram.com
 (810) 339-8255 (TALK)

★ **ON THE RADIO:**
 WFOV 92.1 FM in Flint

★ **ARCHIVED:**
 Episodes & Podcasts



Books
Vinyl
Cafe

Tu-Th: 11am-7pm
 Fr-Sa: 10am-6pm
 Su-Mo: Closed
 Ph.: 810-407-6402
 620 W. Court St. Downtown Flint

VERN'S COLLISION INC.

Free Loaners

- Unibody • Frame
- Paint Specialists • Glass
- State-certified Mechanics

More than 40 years
at the same
location.

(810) 232-6751
 2409 Davison Rd.

Healthy Home Cooking!
 810-235-1968
 Flint Farmers' Market

Located inside the Flint Farmers' Market

Weichert REALTORS | Grant Hamady

Mark Fisher
 Your College Cultural Realtor

Buying or Selling?
 I'm here to help!

810-285-8624
markfishersells.com
 4265 E. Court Street, Burton MI 48509

FREE Home Warranty
 Flint's Resident Realtor
 The Name Trusted in More Neighborhoods
 (810) 234-1234
www.RyanEashoo.com

Ryan Eashoo

MISSION SAFARI

OCTOBER 2, 2021 – JANUARY 2, 2022

SLOAN MUSEUM AT COURTLAND

HOURS
 Tues.-Sat.: 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
 Sun.: 12:00-5:00 PM
 Closed Mondays

Spin the wheel and your adventure is real! Spider webs, jungle vines, swinging bars and more await you in this a-maze-ing Mission Safari adventure that's both educational and fun.

Mission Safari is created by Minotaur Mazes, a company specializing in interactive maze exhibits. Mission Safari is funded in part by the Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment Millage. Your tax dollars are at work.

Visit SloanLongway.org/MissionSafari

4190 E. Court St. Burton, MI 48509 | 810-237-3450

107 W. Kearsley St.
 Downtown Flint
 Open Monday-Saturday
Facebook.com/consolidatedbarbershop



East Village Magazine

Vol. LIX No. 10 October 2021

Founder Gary P. Custer

Managing Editor Tom Travis
Consulting Editor Jan Worth-Nelson
Consulting Editor Ted Nelson
Reporters Harold C. Ford
 Madeleine Graham
 Patsy Isenberg
 Melodee Mabbitt
 Coner Segren
Columnist Paul Rozycki
Photographer Edwin D. Custer

Distribution Staff

Director: Edwin D. Custer. **Staff:** Sue Bailey, Kim Bargy, Jacob Blumner, Connor Coyne & Ruby Coyne, Casey Custer, Caroline Fechik, Christine & Patrick Figgins, Marabeth Foreman, Charlie & Linda & Patrick & Terrance & Christan & Jillianne Goldsberry, Patsy Isenberg, Carol Larzelere Kellermann, Stephen Kellermann, Jo Larzelere, Mary LeRoy, James & Lillian & Livia Londrigan, Alan & Julie Lynch, Ron & Mary Meeker, Robert & Nancy Meszko, Ted Nelson, Dave & Becky Pettengill, Julian Rodriguez, Paul Rozycki, Mike Spleet, Kim & Ronan & Jude Streby, Holly West, and Karen Wilkinson.

Board of Trustees

- FaLessia Booker • Edwin D. Custer
- Alec Gibbs • Paul Rozycki
- Jan Worth-Nelson

720 E. Second St.
Flint, Mich. 48503
(810) 233-7459

Website:

eastvillagemagazine.org

E-mail:

eastvillagemagazineflint@gmail.com

Layout by Patsy Isenberg. 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.

© 2021 East Village Magazine

Commentary

City Council election crucial to Flint's future — Vote Nov. 2! Don't put it off!

By Paul Rozycki

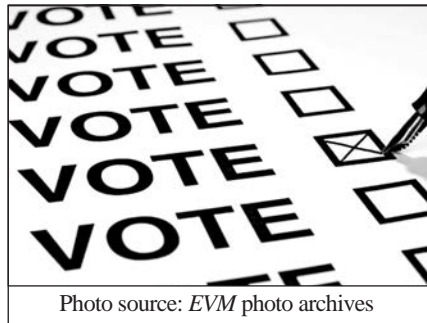


Photo source: EVM photo archives

Recently a scheduled forum hosted by write-in candidates Tanya Rison (1st Ward), and Lakeisha Tureaud (7th Ward), presented a worrisome portent for the Nov. 2 city council election. The meeting, where voters could have a chance to meet write-in candidates for the Flint City Council, was held at Kearsley Park Sept. 18, and all five write-in candidates, as well as those on the ballot were invited. There was to be food, music, and a chance to meet and greet the candidates.

The gathering was scheduled to run from noon to 5 p.m. and it seemed to be a well-organized event. I stopped by at about 1 p.m. and found only a handful of supporters in attendance, and tables for only two write-in candidates — Rison and Tureaud. Those candidates were well prepared, and had tables of literature, gift bags for kids, and snacks. A food truck was on site, ready to handle any crowds that might show up.

Apparently none did. I left and planned to come back later when there might be more people and candidates in attendance.

About an hour later I drove by again and the parking lot next to the Kearsley Park Pavilion was empty. Everyone was gone. I learned that they left for a meet-up in the 1st Ward, where they had

a band, and a few more people showed up.

Admittedly, it was more than a month before the Nov. 2 election, it was a beautiful day, and there were lots of other things to do. This year, the city council is the only thing on the ballot, and off-year elections typically have a low turnout. But it's too bad there was so little response to the rally for the candidates.

The new council will have a number of important issues to deal with — the budget and city finances, how to spend the COVID money, a rising crime rate, racial divisions, living by the new city charter, and perhaps most important, restoring a sense of civility for the council and each other. The Flint City Council should not be the poster child for ineffective and disorganized governance. This last year has been a series of marathon meetings, endless bickering, personal and racial insults. Whatever other problems Flint has, the image of the council is hardly an encouragement to move to Flint or invest in it.

Write-in candidates typically have little chance of success, but in a low-turnout election, where some of the write-in candidates are putting together significant campaigns, they might matter more than usual this year.

In any case it's up to the voters of Flint to make their voices heard and turn out and vote for the city council they want to represent Flint. Because the census was delayed, this election is based on the ward boundaries of the last ten years. With the new census numbers, the wards will certainly

(Continued on Page 12.)

Cover: Kensington Ave.



Photo of the Month: That time of year: geese migrating south

(Photo by Edwin D. Custer)

Education Beat

Busy Flint Community Schools board settles teachers' contract, fills board vacancies, addresses bats and black mold as teacher attrition continues, enrollment dips below 3,000

By Harold C. Ford

It took more than four hours, but the remaining five members of the Flint Board of Education (FBOE) got work done at their Sept. 29 meeting, including settling a contract with the teachers' union, filling the two board vacancies created by recent resignations, electing officers, reviewing efforts to sell vacant schools, and approving action to eliminate bats and black mold in elementary schools.

Teacher contract settled

The board and the United Teachers of Flint (UTF) have ratified a new contract.

The FBOE approved the



Acting Flint Community Schools (FCS) Superintendent Kevelin Jones.

Photo source: FCS

contract by a 5-0 vote at the Sept. 29 special meeting.

Teachers voted Sept. 20 and 21 to approve the new contract by a margin of more than 90 percent, according to Kevelin Jones, interim superintendent for Flint Community Schools (FCS). Jones told *East Village Magazine* that a pay raise and new language addressing teacher safety concerns and planning periods led to the overwhelming positive vote.

Flint's teachers had been working without a contract since July 2020. Negotiations for a new contract started four months earlier in March 2020.

UTF filed a lawsuit in May charging the district with "unfair labor practices." And UTF members

(Continued on Page 5.)

Education ...

(Continued from Page 4.)

expressed their displeasure about the pace of negotiations at several summer meetings of the FBOE.

“We worked hard to get to this point,” said Jones of the settlement. “Now it’s time to renovate and rebuild.”

Board vacancies filled

The five current members of the FBOE interviewed 11 candidates for two vacancies on Sept. 29 at Accelerated Learning Academy (ALA). After two rounds of interviews, the FBOE chose Allen Gilbert, 65, and Chris Del Morone, 66, to fill the two vacant positions.

Gilbert is a retired skilled trades worker for General Motors; he currently serves as associate



New FBOE Board Member Rev. Allen Gilbert

(Photo by Harold Ford.)

pastor at Bethel Apostolic Church, 5133 Fenton Rd. Del Morone sought a seat on the Flint City Council in the Aug. 2021 election, has served as chair of the Genesee County Land Bank Citizen Advisory Council, and was a candidate in the Nov. 2017 Flint mayoral

recall election.

The board vacancies were created when long-time board members Vera Perry and Diana Wright abruptly resigned from



New FBOE Board Member Chris Del Morone

(Photo by Harold Ford.)

the board on Sept. 7. Collectively, Perry and Wright had served on the board for more than 24 years.

During summer board meetings, Wright was rebuffed in her attempt to get the C. S. Mott Foundation’s proposal to rebuild or renovate all FCS school buildings on the FBOE agenda. Perry told East Village Magazine that her services were “no longer used.” Both had missed several recent FBOE meetings prior to their resignations.

New board officers

The resignations of Perry and Wright resulted in board leadership changes on Sept. 29. Danielle Green moved from the treasurer position to vice president. Joyce Ellis-McNeal replaced Green as the board’s treasurer, moving from the assistant secretary-treasurer position. The board’s newest member, Adrian Walker, was

chosen assistant secretary-treasurer.

Bats in the Potter building

The presence of bats in the Potter Elementary School building, 2500 N. Averill Ave., was reported at the Sept. 15 meeting of the Flint Board of Education (FBOE).

“They’re having an immediate issue with bats in the building,” reported Kevelin Jones, interim superintendent of Flint Community Schools (FCS). “It’s been a constant issue for that particular school.”

Potter currently houses some 400 students representing two schools. Students from Doyle/Ryder Elementary were recently moved to the Potter building when black mold was



Danielle Green, new FBOE Board Vice-President.

Photo source: FBOE website

discovered in early childhood classrooms.

On Sept. 8, the FBOE approved a \$440,000 plan to fix the problems at Doyle/Ryder. On Sept. 15, \$22,050 was approved by the FBOE to remove bats from Potter. That did not include

(Continued on Page 6.)

Education ...

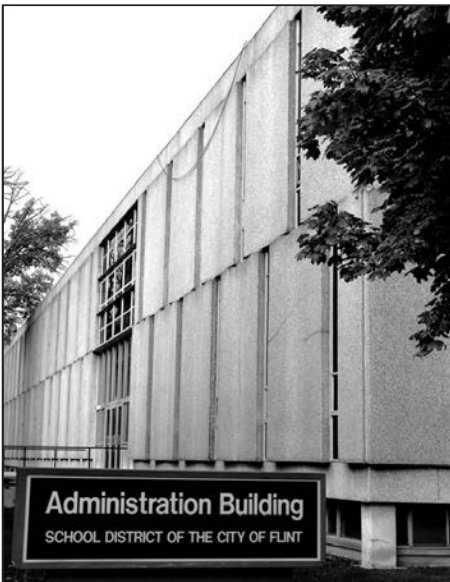
(Continued from Page 5.)

patching holes in the roof and elsewhere that allow bats to enter the building.

“If more bats get into the building, we have to do this process again,” concluded Carol McIntosh, FBOE president.

“It absolutely is an emergency,” declared Danielle Green, FBOE treasurer.

Doyle/Ryder was built in 1901, making it, at 120 years, the oldest building in the district. Potter is a 69-year-old facility, built in 1952.



**Flint Community School
Administration building**

(Photo by Ed Custer)

The eleven FCS buildings that currently house students in grades K-12 average 70-years-old. The average age of school buildings in the U.S., according to a 2017 study by *Education Week*, is 44 years.

“Effective facilities maintenance”

A report by the National Center for Educational Statistics addressed the need for scheduled

maintenance of public buildings:

“Because we know that routine and unexpected maintenance demands are bound to arise, every education organization must proactively develop and implement a plan for dealing with these inevitabilities.”

“Thus, an organization must plan to meet the challenges of effective facilities maintenance. It’s simply too big of a job to be addressed in a haphazard fashion. After all, the consequences affect teaching and learning, student and staff health, day-to-day building operations, and the long-range fiscal outlook of the organization.”

Vacant properties

FCS is attempting to sell its vacant properties to reduce any costs of maintaining the properties and to generate badly needed revenue for the district. Information about the properties compiled by Flint-based THA Architects Engineers can be found by visiting the district’s website.

Some key data about some of the vacant properties is found below. Information includes: name of the property; address; year built; property size; square footage; an estimate of the amount needed to restore the property. The information was compiled more than a decade ago in 2008; thus, the price tags to restore the properties have likely increased.

- Anderson: G-3284 Mackin Road; 1965; 6 acres; 36,390 sq. ft.; \$3,481,304.

- Bryant: 201 E. Pierson Rd.; 1960; 20 acres; 108,424 sq. ft.; \$8,683,020

- Carpenter Road: 6901 Webster Rd.; 1965/68; 6 acres;

56,870 sq. ft.; \$3,856,887

- Civic Park: 1402. W. Dayton St.; 1922/1958; 5 acres; 53,432 sq. ft.; \$5,620,848

- Cook: 500 Welch Blvd.; 3.71 acres; (other information not found at the FCS website)

- Dort: 2025 North Saginaw; 1962/76; 3.7 acres; 53,200 sq. ft.; \$4,383,128

- Garfield: 1301 E. McClellan St.; 1928/77; 21.8 acres; 52,000 sq. ft.; \$6,417,248

- Johnson: 5323 Western Rd.; 1967; 5.1 acres; 35,950 sq. ft.; \$2,251,935

- King: 520 W. Rankin St.; 2.071 acres; (other information not found at the FCS website)

The average age of the properties listed above, from the original date of construction, is 68 years. On more than one occasion, Laura MacIntyre, FBOE treasurer, has proclaimed that FCS properties represent a potential “goldmine” for the district. Persons interested in acquiring the properties should contact the district.



Eileen Tomasi, retired FCS health coordinator.

Photo source: LinkedIn

Staff attrition continues

The attrition of FCS staff is continuing. At the Sept. 15

(Continued on Page 8.)

THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE

"This Month" highlights a selection of events available to our readers — beginning after our publication date of October 3. It is not an exhaustive list, rather a sampling of opportunities in the city, which, because of the restrictions starting to be lifted, are beginning to expand.

To submit events for our November issue, email your event to pisenber@gmail.com by October 20.

Capitol Theatre

Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m., Saturday

Jokes & Jams, iconic R&B group Tone'! Toney! Toni! and Def Comedy Jam perform. Tickets are \$79 - \$96.

Saturday, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show, a screening of the movie, audience participation, memorabilia and a costume contest.

Tickets are \$31 - \$149.

The Capitol Theatre
140 E. Second St., Flint

For more info visit
capitoltheatreflint.com
or call 810-237-7333.

John Berry Acoustic Performance

Oct. 8, 8: p.m., Friday

Country music performer John Berry performs after bout with throat cancer.

Blackstone's Smokehouse
531 Saginaw St., Flint

Tickets are \$40

For more info visit eventbrite.com.

Flint Public Library Used Book Sale

Oct. 21, 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. Thursday

The Friends of the Flint Public Library are having their final outdoor used book sale this month. Books, CDs, and DVDs will be offered for \$5 a bag. All proceeds benefit special programs of the Flint Public Library. There will be sales on the third Thursday of every month through October.

Flint Farmers' Market, Pavillion
300 East First St., Flint
For more info visit fpl.info.

Crim Sports Cheer Clinic

Oct. 23, Saturday

PeeWee (K - 2nd) is 11:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Senior (3rd - 6th) is 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Kids can learn how to cheer, jump, dance, and stunt then show off their skills at the flag football playoff games.

Free event.

Flint Cultural Center Academy
1200 Robert T Longway Blvd., Flint

For more info visit
eventbrite.com.

Flint Institute of Arts

Oct. 1 through 31, see "The Hollow Coin" in the Media Arts Gallery.

Now through Nov. 28, see "Art Nouveau Innovation: Danish Porcelain from an American Collector" in the Walsh-Chan Gallery.

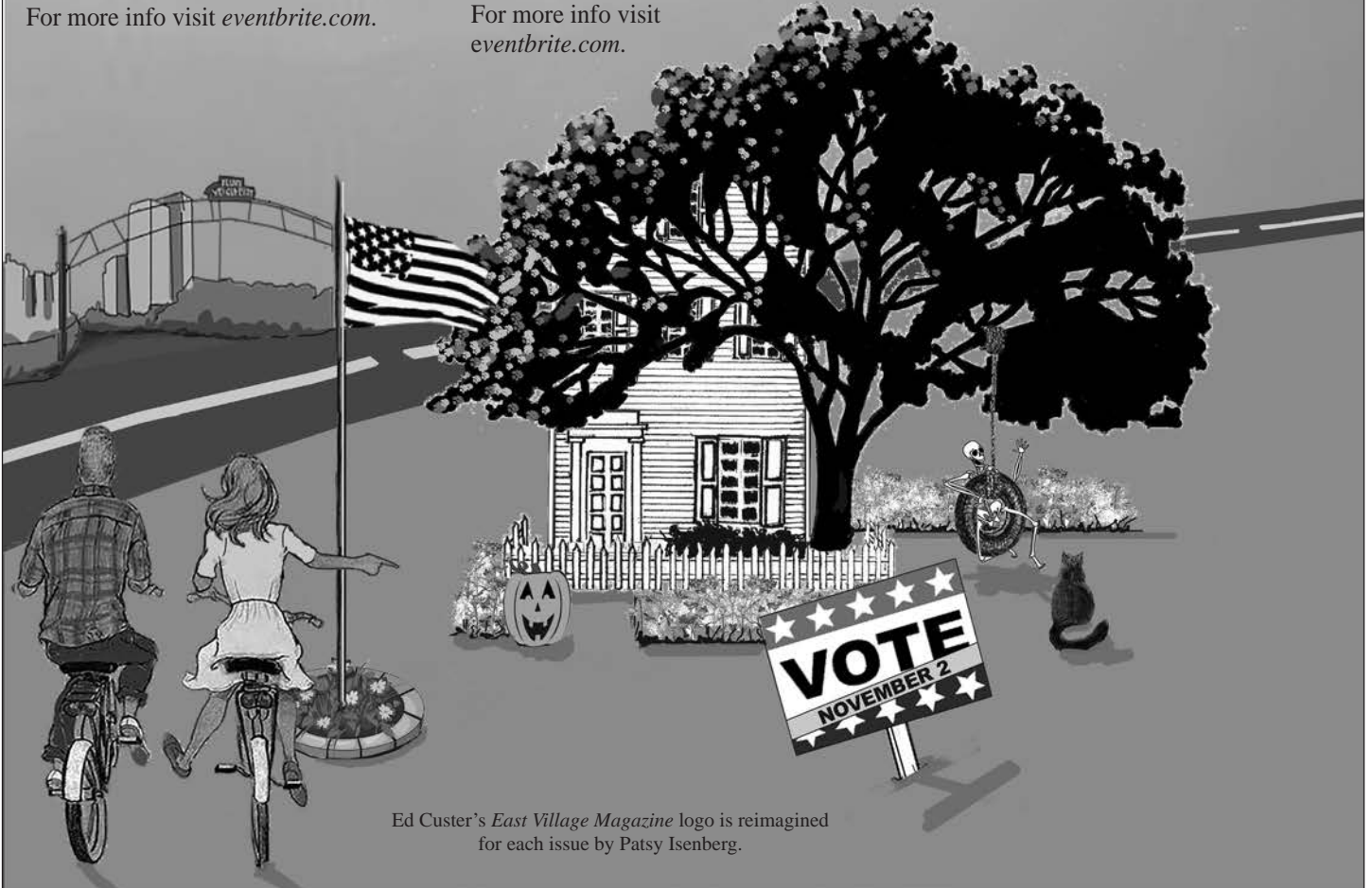
Now through Jan. 2, see "Brush with Reality: Yigal Ozeri," Photorealistic paintings of women in landscapes in the Henry and Hodge Galleries.

Oct. 9 through Jan. 9, see "Time (Constant, Suspended, Collapsed): Neha Vedpathak" a collection of her plucking technique altering Japanese paper with a pushpin on which she paints, sews and creates collages, in the Graphics Gallery.

Flint Institute of Arts

1120 East Kearsley St., Flint

For more info call 810-234-1695
or visit flintarts.org.



Ed Custer's *East Village Magazine* logo is reimagined for each issue by Patsy Isenberg.

Education ...

(Continued from Page 5.)

meeting of the FBOE, Jorgina Rubin, interim executive director of human resources, reported the resignations or retirements of another nine FCS employees whose collective service to the district totaled nearly 74 years.

Of particular note was the resignation of Eileen Tomasi, school health coordinator, who stepped down after nearly 11 years of service. "That is a very key position in our district right now especially under COVID," observed Rubin. "We're going to miss her dearly."

Rubin is filling in for Ayunna Dompheh, the district's executive director of human resources, who has taken a leave of absence after filing "hostile work environment" charges against Laura MacIntyre, FCS board treasurer.

Student enrollment under 3,000

At the Sept 15 meeting, Jones reported that student enrollment was 2,800, up from an initial count of 2,500 for the 2021-22 school year. Jones said that enrollment recruitment efforts were underway including production

of a 30-second promotional video and home visits by staff.

Superintendent Steward still on leave

Anita Steward, FCS superintendent, was still on leave and not present at the Sept. 15 or 19 meetings. Jones had told EVM earlier in Sept that he expected Steward to be coming back from leave and be present at the Sept 15 meeting. Steward did not return and was still absent from the Sept 15 meeting. Things remain unclear where it stands with Steward.



Flint Community Schools (FCS) Superintendent Anita Steward

(Photo from FCS website)

On Sept. 8, Steward filed a lawsuit against four members of the FBOE: McIntosh; MacIntyre; Green; and Ellis-McNeal. Tom Pabst, a Flint-area attorney representing Steward, told MLive on Sept 9, "he doesn't see Steward

returning to the district."

Following a two-hour closed session to discuss the Steward lawsuit, the board adjourned its Sept. 15 meeting at 9:39 p.m. making it, at four hours and nine minutes, the longest in this reporter's five years of covering the FBOE. Two weeks later, that was exceeded by the Sept. 29 meeting at four hours and 47 minutes.

Future meetings

The next scheduled meetings of the FBOE are Oct. 13 (Committee of the Whole or COW) and Oct. 20 (regular meeting). Meetings begin at 6:30 at the ALA building.

At present, members of the public can attend FBOE meetings in-person at ALA or virtually by registering at the link found on the district's website: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2980657693257532943>.

Audio-visual recordings of the meetings can be found on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnr6IGn8sLKt0L-jLgeEsmFQ>

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

Theatre ...

(Continued from Page 14.)

This musical was planned for 2020 but had to be postponed because of the pandemic. This was one of the works "found" at 2020's "New Works Festival."

Summary of audience requirements

About the pandemic, these instructions have been given on Flint Institute of Music's website at

thefim.org/covid-19/: "THE FOLLOWING WILL BE IN EFFECT FOR THE FIRST PRODUCTION OF THE FLINT REPERTORY THEATRE BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 8, and through the production ending December 19:

- Masks Required regardless of vaccination status.
- Proof of Vaccination OR Proof of a Negative COVID-19 Test Required.
- There are no exceptions to this policy."

For more info about performance dates and times, buying

tickets (including Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment Millage resident benefits), and about its public health measures, visit flintrep.org. or call 810-237-1530. Tickets can be purchased at 810-237-7333.

The Flint Repertory Theatre is located at 1220 E Kearsley St. across from Whiting Auditorium in the Flint Cultural Center complex.

EVM Reporter Patsy Isenberg can be reached at pisenber@gmail.com.

MDOT earmarks \$300 million to rebuild I-475 through Flint – public comments invited for next 12 months

By Tom Travis

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has announced it will invest \$300 million to rebuild I-475 from Bristol Road to Carpenter Road, estimating the work will begin in the Fall of 2023.

The proposed project is an eight-mile span of road and will include bridge repairs and I-69 and I-475 interchange repairs. MDOT estimates the project will last from November 2023 to December 2027 and will provide for more than 3,800 jobs.

On Sept. 15 about eight MDOT representatives and two representatives from consulting firm HNTB presented to the public in three repeat presentations the plan for a 12-month Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study. About 60 to 70 members of the public attended the meeting held in the Ramsdell Room in Flint Farmer’s Market. Masks were required and social distancing was followed for the seating area.

The PEL study is a collaborative process that considers environmental, community, and economic goals in the transportation planning process. To receive project updates and information regarding the I-475 PEL from MDOT please use this link: I-475 Project Contact List.

Flint remembers St. John’s and Floral Park neighborhoods

Both MDOT and HNTB representatives acknowledged the history and removal of the neighborhoods, St. John’s and Floral Park, when I-475 was originally built in the early 1970’s. Some residents present in Wednesday’s

meeting brought up the issue of racism and social equity.

Included in MDOT’s presentation was a page depicting a 1936 photo of St. John’s neighborhood and the right-of-way map of the Floral Park neighborhood

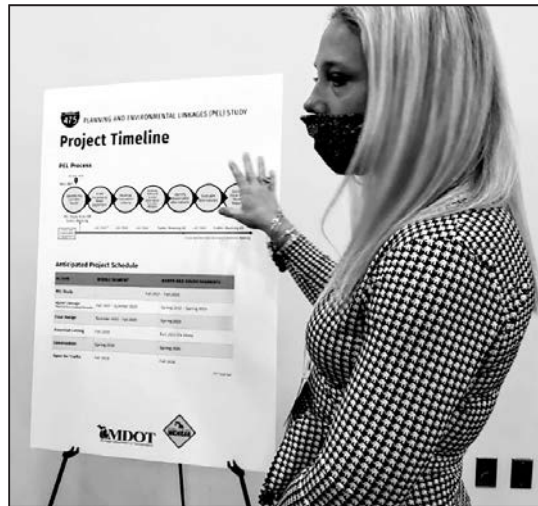
public community meetings throughout the city. MDOT officials have set up a communication through email and text for residents, available by clicking this link. The PEL study will last until November 2022 when HNTB will present their findings to MDOT.

Clarissa McQuiston, a seven-year MDOT employee who recently transferred to the Davison MDOT office five months ago, explained that after the October 2020 presentation of a plan to rebuild I-475, “We heard a lot of comments from the public and we’ve gone to some community group meetings. We really want to hear what people have to say and to hear the history and the public’s perspective.”

“You tell us – it’s your community,” McQuiston said. “What do you want to see? What’s the future? What does 475 look like to Flint in the future? That’s what this process [the 12-month PEL study] is about. We’re excited to kick off this process of listening to the community.”

“I have no idea what the final design will be but it will be exciting to see where this year leads us, it will be public driven,” she said.

Tony Migaldi, a project manager at HNTB consulting firm for thirteen and a half years, said, “We will be working with the community and considering the social equity elements and that’s what we’re beginning tonight. To listen to those concerns and the stories.”



Clarissa McQuiston explains the timeline for the I-475 rebuild
(Photo by Tom Travis)



Tony Migaldi, project manager for consulting firm HNTB, details PEL study timeline.
(Photo by Tom Travis)

that was demolished for I-475. Both MDOT and HNTB representatives explained that the purpose of the year long PEL study is to avoid the mistakes of the past and to engage and listen to the community.

The PEL study will include

(Continued on Page 11.)

2021 - 2022 CONCERT SERIES

MUSIC IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

We are going ahead as planned with social distancing and masks required at all concerts.



150TH ANNIVERSARY

9/11 Remembrance Choir

Directed by: Daniel Schmier & Steven Holovach

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 4:00PM

Voices & Piano

Daniel Ewart, Joseph Baunoch, Neill Campbell

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021 4:00PM

Beautiful Piano Music

Carl Angelo

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022 4:00PM

Organ

Thomas Gouwens

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022 4:00PM

Flute, Voice, Piano

Townes Osborn Miller, Brittnee Siemon, Carl Angelo

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022 4:00PM

Organ Master Recital

Matthew Benkert

APRIL TBD, 2022 4:00PM



Celebrate our Music series with us as we celebrate 150 years of our church on the corner of Third Street and Saginaw Street. We have celebrated music and musicians from the very first service when we used a flute and cello for our first service at the Tabernacle. In this location from our first services we used an organ as our primary instrument. We continue our great musical tradition with artist using the Dalton Memorial Organ for our concert series.

Please join us as we continue our great musical heritage for the 2021-2022 musical season.

Holly Richardson, Artistic Director of Music in the Heart of the City



Admission: \$10.00 for Adults / \$5.00 Students / Free to MCC & U of M students with ID

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH · 711 SOUTH SAGINAW ST. · FLINT, MI (810) 234-8637

MDOT ...

(Continued from Page 9.)

In response to the October 2020 presentation to rebuild I-475

ized safety impacts, environmental justice impacts, social equity local and regional mobility needs, connectivity benefits for adjacent neighborhoods, economic impacts

sistency with approved local land uses plans.

The anticipated engagement with the “stakeholders” (Flint residents) will include local advisory committee and business advisory committee meetings (TBA), local government meetings, small group/one-on-one meetings, meeting people where they are and public meetings, according to the MDOT representatives.

Anticipated purpose and need

In Wednesday’s presentation MDOT spokespersons said they anticipate addressing deteriorating infrastructure conditions; prioritizing the movement of people, including accommodating safer non-motorized travel; connecting neighborhoods with cultural, institutional, and commercial activity centers; and creating greater opportunities for economic development that support adopted master and land use plans.

(Continued on Page 13.)



Flint Central Park neighborhood resident takes notes on I-475 rebuild handouts as MDOT officials explain the project

(Photo by Tom Travis)

Migaldi added, “We’re taking a step back and allowing the public to participate with us in the PEL study over the next 12 months. All design options are on the table. This process is about having the community to tell us what we should be looking for as we pull the alternatives together.”

Analysis of social economic and environmental impacts

MDOT and HNTB consulting firm representatives said the PEL study will allow Flint residents (referred to as “stakeholders” during the presentation) to engage and communicate their ideas.

A “screening process” will be used to identify a locally-accepted alternative for the I-475 corridor. The “screening process” will include:

Safety, cultural impacts, noise impacts, air quality impacts, pedestrian and non-motor-

on local businesses, secondary and indirect impacts, impacts on local emergency responders, and con-



Residents inspect aerial view of I-475 and write down questions for MDOT officials

(Photo by Tom Travis)

Election ...

(Continued from Page 3.)

change to reflect Flint’s population changes. Those new ward boundaries will be in place for the 2026 elections when, according to the new city charter, both the mayor and city council elections will be held at the same time as elections for governor.

Here are the candidates running for the Flint City Council this Nov. 2.

1st Ward (north-west Flint)

In the 1st (north-west Flint), Ward Eric Mays is unopposed on the ballot. However Tanya Rison is running as a write-in candidate against him.

Fifth Ward

In the 5th Ward (central Flint, downtown), where there was no primary contest in August, incumbent Jerri-Winfrey Carter is running against Joseph Schipani.

Sixth Ward

In the 6th Ward, (west Flint), Tonya Burns and Claudia Perkins-Milton are running to replace incumbent Herbert Winfrey, who chose not to run again. Leslie Haney is running as a write-in candidate.

Seventh Ward

In the 7th Ward (central, east Flint), incumbent Monica Galloway is being challenged by Allie Herkenroder, who is on the ballot,

for the council. “The Tom Sumner Program” will be interviewing all of the candidates, both those on the ballot and the write-in and those interviews can be found on his website tomsumnerprogram.com or at WFOV, 92.1 in Flint. The website for the League of Women Voters, Vote411.org, is a valuable source of information about the candidates as well. Most of the candidates have their own web sites where they explain their backgrounds, their views on the issues and their reasons for running.

Other Genesee County elections

The voters of Flint won’t be the only ones choosing local leaders Nov. 2. Fenton and Flushing are electing mayors and council members. Burton is electing its council members. Clio is electing members to its City Commission. Grand Blanc is electing its city council and a Board of Review and Davison Township is electing a clerk.

As has been true for several years, in addition to voting at traditional polling locations Nov. 2, all voters will have the option of voting absentee. Absentee ballots can either be mailed or left at drop boxes that will be located at City Hall and at fire stations throughout the city. Voters can register up through Election Day, and some of the candidate forums are likely to be registering voters.

With the loss of over 20,000 in Flint’s population, the next few years can be critical and we need a council ready, willing and able to deal with the issues. A new council won’t solve every problem Flint has, but it can be a step in the right direction. Because it’s an off-year contest, this year’s council election is likely to be easy to ignore.

Take the time to learn about the candidates, and take the time to vote. Don’t put it off.

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



Write-in candidates Tanya Rison (1st Ward) (right with white shirt), and Lakeisha Tureaud (7th Ward) (center)

(Photo by Paul Rozycki)

Second Ward

In the 2nd Ward (north-west Flint), Ladel Lewis and Audrey Young are competing for the council seat. Incumbent Maurice Davis lost in the primary election.

Third Ward

In the 3rd Ward (north-east Flint), A.C. Dumas and Quincy Murphy are running to replace incumbent Santino Guerra, who chose not to run again. Richard Jones is running as a write-in candidate in the ward.

Fourth Ward

In the 4th Ward, (east Flint), incumbent Kate Fields is being challenged by Judy Priestley.

and Lakeisha Tureaud, who is running as a write-in candidate.

Eighth Ward

In the 8th Ward, (south-west Flint), incumbent Allan Griggs is facing a challenge from Dennis Pfeiffer.

Ninth Ward

In the 9th Ward, (south-east Flint), incumbent Eva Worthing is facing write-in candidate Steve Barber.

Learn about the candidates

In the next month there will be forums and meet-and-greet opportunities to get to know the candidates

(Continued from Page 11.)

Alternatives in road designs will be considered

In the photo a Common Urban Freeway and Narrowed urban Freeway are pictured showing an added bike lane and parking lane. Also, still in consideration is converting I-475 to an at-grade urban boulevard. *East Village Magazine* reported on this intended change in October 2020.

Ways for the public to connect with MDOT

MDOT and HNTB representatives provided several ways the public can share feedback and ways to connect with them in the coming months:

Email: MDOT-I475@michigan.gov

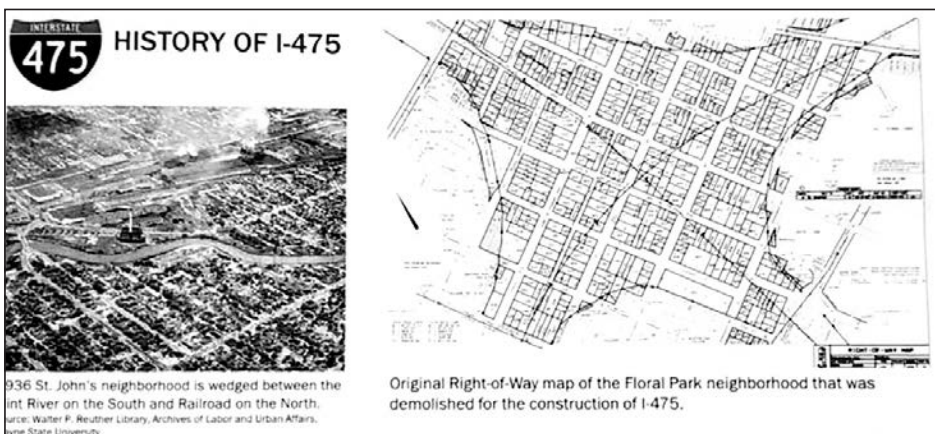
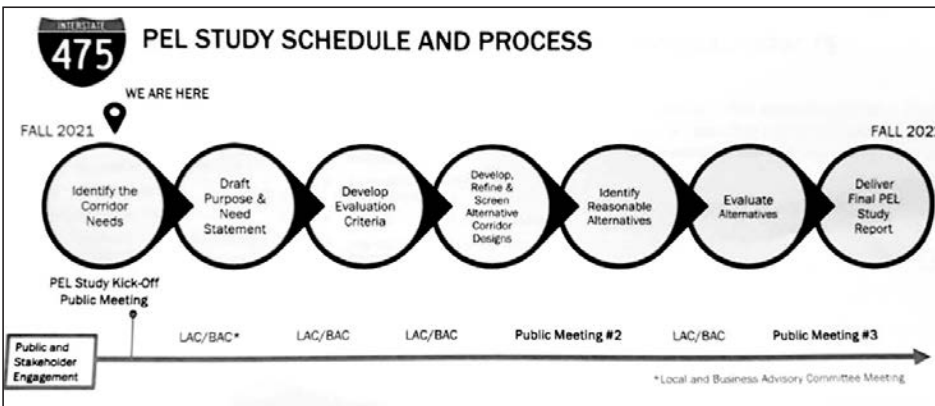
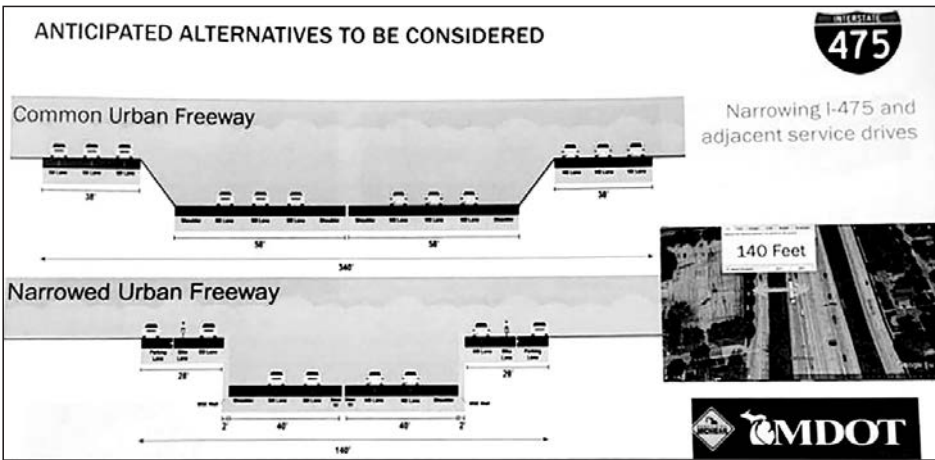
Visit the I-475 PEL study project website (bit.ly/I-475PEL).

Call MDOT at (517) 335-4381

The public can participate in a survey at the following website (arcg.is/1188L5).

It was also announced that future updates MDOT will use the Public Involvement Management Application (PIMA). The public can sign up to be on that contact list for opportunities to engage with the I-475 PEL study by visiting this link (bit.ly/I-475Contact).

EVM Managing Editor Tom Travis can be reached at tomtravis@gmail.com.



Visual material presented to the public by MDOT at the Sept. 15 meeting (Photos by Tom Travis)

Flint Repertory Theatre returns to the stage Oct. 8 with Beckett absurdist comedy

By Patsy Isenberg

After eighteen months of no live theatre indoors in Flint, the Flint Repertory Theatre (The Rep) begins its 2021-2022 season with a production of the absurdist comedy “Happy Days.” The play opens with an 8 p.m. Oct. 8 performance, with a run of eight more performances through Oct. 17.

All audience members will be required to wear masks and present either proof of vaccination or negative results of a COVID test.

Tickets can be purchased at 810-237-7333. More information on performance dates and times is available at flintrep.org.

About “Happy Days” and cast

This play, written by Samuel Beckett in 1961, was first performed in New York on Sept. 17, 1961. Because of its surreal strangeness, some might say “Happy Days” is an appropriate play for the month of October with fall arriving and Halloween looming and after 18 months of pandemic chaos.

“Happy Days” features primarily just two characters, a married couple buried in a mound of earth talking to each other “going” about their days and reminiscing as though this was a perfectly natural situation. “Though Happy Days is one of Beckett’s most playful works it is also a play of despair and horror of sorts,” according to the British Library website.

Janet Haley plays the female character and Rico Bruce Wade plays the male character. Both Haley and Wade have been cast in several previous Rep productions and have won Wilde Awards for their performances.

Haley effectively played the mentally unstable mother in “The

Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds,” nurse Ratchet in “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” and several others. Haley is also assistant professor of theatre at the University of Michigan – Flint.

Wade performed three roles in the Rep’s “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” and was also in the musical, “Into the Woods.” and which was the final play of the 2020 season. Unfortunately “... Cuckoo’s Nest’s ...” run was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was the final play of the season.

Kathryn Walsh is directing this production of “Happy Days.” Walsh has

directed other plays at The Rep including “The Effect of Gamma-Rays on Man-in-the-Marigolds,” “The Wolves,” and “Ballooney.” Walsh is a Chicago-based freelance teacher, director and coach.



Actor Janet Haley

Photo source: The Flint Rep



Actor Rico Bruce Wade

Photo source:
michiganactorsstudio.com



**Director
Kathryn Walsh**

(Photo by Antje Kastner.)

How The Rep stayed alive in lockdown

The Rep managed to remain active through the pandemic, putting on an outdoor musical in July titled “Songs for a New World.” EVM attended that performance, which seemed like a thespian reunion following the lockdown in March of 2020.

The Rep also partnered with the Flint Public Art Project, June through August last summer, by offering a COVID-friendly outdoor experience, presenting short audio plays

viewers could listen to on their phones via an app called PixelStix while looking at several of Flint Art Project’s murals around town.

2021-2022 season “reimagines what theatre can be”

Coming up in season 2021-2022 are several other presentations. Michael Lluberes, Producing Artistic Director of The Rep, says “This season,

we ask you to reimagine what theatre can be as we renew our commitment to create work that sparks joy, provokes thought, challenges and entertains in new and exciting ways.”

In December “The Fantasticks” will be “reimagined.” It’s the longest-running musical in

history, this time re-imagined as a love story between two young men..

In early 2022, the Rep will present “Wrong River.” This play

touches on the Flint water crisis and was developed in The Rep’s “New Works Festival.”

The spring lineup will feature Arthur Miller’s “Death of a Salesman” starring an accomplished Broadway actor, Lewis J. Stadlen. Stadlen is a two-time Tony Award nominee.

After that, the aforementioned “New Works

Festival” will again occur. The festival offers readings of new plays and musicals over a three-day weekend, some of which might be eventually performed at The Rep.

Then “The Magnificent Seven” can finally be seen by Flint audiences.

(Continued on Page 8.)

Book Review

A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind

By Rev. Deborah D Conrad, EdD

Harriet A. Washington. *A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind*. New York: Little, Brown Spark. 2019.

From the early 2000s, I was director of a center that taught poverty to the non-poor. The point was to help resourced people understand the problems and become allies in the work for a better world. Our constituency was mostly young people, so “boiling it all down” was often our approach.

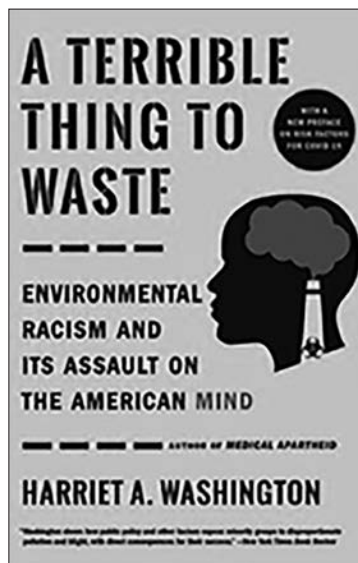
Along the way, I developed a trajectory to help folks connect “what is possible” to “what is epidemic.” I would draw for them a line directly from “creating a national corps of exterminators” to “reducing the prison population” that bracketed cockroaches, school absenteeism, reading capability, drop out rates, and you get the idea.

Of course, nothing is ever that easy, and my straight line became really just a metaphor for a host of ills that create and sustain poverty — up to and including policies that embed poverty in our national economic system, a requirement of capitalism. And we would eventually get to the reality that people of color are overwhelmingly poor and poor people are disproportionately people of color, hence it is challenging to get people in any position of power to

do or want to do anything different.

My basic trajectory, my metaphor, found girth, breadth and depth in Washington’s book *A Terrible Thing to Waste*.

With a specific thesis exploring the connections between environmental degradation and intellectual/neurological development, Washington offers a tome that is more frankly maddening than hopeful, yet another indictment of



American capitalism.

The cockroaches of my metaphor are of course inadequate to describe the environmental issues faced by people of color and people living in poverty (and again, there is huge overlap). Her list of

poisons goes far beyond to describe how roaches, rats and other vermin become a problem to begin with — and if you guessed it has something to do with capitalism, well, you’re right.

Washington begins with an introduction and first chapter on the problematic history of measuring IQ and a refutation of the long-defended premise that people of color are just naturally less intelligent. I hope no reader here needs to be convinced, but that’s probably naive.

Generational harm is real, she maintains, but even genetic traits that are passed along are more often caused by external factors, which she details at length throughout Part 2. “When this genetic transmission causes brain damage leading to lowered faculties it occurs as a result not of innate inferiority, but of a chemical insult,” which is sometimes intentional, she reports. She includes stories of harm through exposure by unethical and dubious “research” or profit-driven dumping and development, little of which would surprise.

The middle section of the book, then, is a deep dive into all manner of toxins: heavy metals, chemicals, byproducts, microbes, things in the soil and water, things that linger in the air. She indicts faux science, corporations

(Continued on Page 16.)



(Photo by Mike Naddeo)

Terrible Thing ...

(Continued from Page 15.)

and industry, with extensive discussions of lead, tobacco, parasites, pesticides, benzene, arsenic, mercury, PCBs, NTDs, DDT, TCE, PBDEs, BSE, and so many other acronyms, and how they pervade our daily lives; she probes who knew what and when they knew it among the corporate poisoners; she tells god-awful stories of American communities, among them: Flint, Detroit, Baltimore, Anniston, Philadelphia, New York, Houston, Standing Rock and the Yellow Dog Plains in Michigan's UP. She discusses the dangers of "fence line communities" — the people who live adjacent to and poisoned by coal mines, lead smelters, landfills and such, precisely the effect local activists in Flint are now trying to prevent by opposition to the Ajax asphalt plant in Genesee Township. In just one particularly egregious instance, Ft Myers, FL, the cynically named "Homearama" comprised a section of parcels bought by the city under the pretense of establishing affordable housing, which instead became a city dump and diminished the value in all the surrounding homes and poisoned its people for decades.

There are, she says, some 60 thousand chemicals approved in the US for general use, under the US policy of "use until you prove them unsafe" rather than the European policy of "don't use until they're proven safe." The US requires no testing on humans prior to general use. And because proving things unsafe after allegations are raised can be a years- or decades-long process, a lot of harm is done in the meantime. One particularly effective industry tactic, established by the Lead Industries Association (LIA) is in creating a lingering question mark: "Doubt became a useful foil against the expense of regulation. ...

This corporate skepticism is often articulated as a scientific question, to wit, "Is there really incontrovertible evidence that lead in paint is a hazard demanding eradication?" We hear the method repeated in cases against everything from tobacco to Teflon.

Climate crisis contributes to blight and poison, as well, as warming trends hasten the spread of pathogens and escalate risks of infectious diseases, as documented in post-Katrina New Orleans; storms ever increasing in intensity and frequency compromise energy and other chemical-emitting plants, breaching safety perimeters; and post-disaster reconstruction sees debris dumped in vulnerable neighborhoods and building codes relaxed to speed recovery, often introducing toxic materials into newly rebuilt neighborhoods.

The problem with cockroaches, even as a metaphor, is that they reinforce social pressure to believe that people are to blame for just failing to clean properly; blaming the victim is America's favorite response to social ills, we know. In neighborhoods, environmentally degraded areas often become blighted, as residents are not able to maintain their homes (renters can't coerce landlords; homeowners cannot get loans for homes that have no equity) nor sell them, (because the home or the area is no longer desirable for new purchasers).

Thence derided as "slums," these blighted areas are assigned to the "poor character" of the occupants, with little regard for the circumstances people were forced into. Then, as Washington reports in the case of Flint, the Genesee County Land Bank takes over and takes ownership of so many properties, "driving longtime Flint residents from their homes," to which the Land Bank sales manager responded with a racial epithet and a charge that Flint's distressed citizens don't pay their bills.

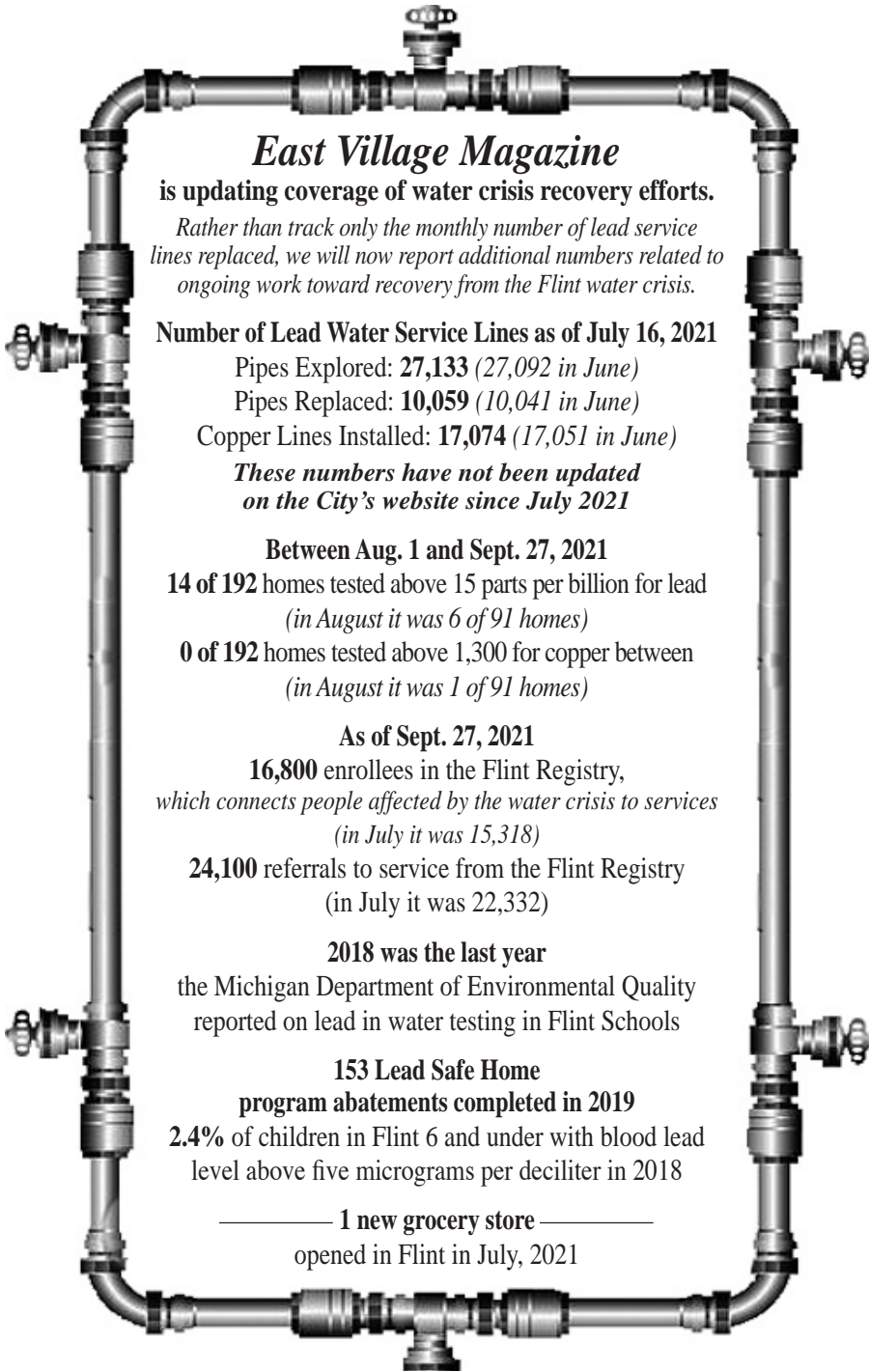
Likewise, all these environmental stressors and toxins contribute to neurological deficits that include impulse control, ability to focus, and ability to make sound decisions, all of which contribute to the crime reported in poor, damaged communities. Among other effects, Washington cites a study indicating "the reduction in gasoline lead was responsible for most of the decline in U.S. violence crime during the 1990s."

Nefarious motives also are assigned to people who are victims: As

recently as 2015, Washington reports, "Kenneth C. Holt, Maryland's secretary of housing, community and development, dismissed the plight of (lead-)poisoned children by speculating that their mothers were deliberately exposing their own children in fraudulent attempts to obtain better housing." Which I have to note is not all that different from the cavalier attitude the people of Flint experienced from our state government during the water emergency. Washington cites one of those moments in Flint, when a state nurse commented to a worried mom, "It's just a few IQ points; it's not the end of the world." And we in Flint surely remember others, like the Governor's staff member who told a resident "It's called the safe drinking water act, not the tasty drinking water act." In one report Washington cites, lead industry officials referred to Baltimore's lead-poisoned black children as "little rats," and their mothers as "overfecund imbeciles." This attitude bleeds into draconian policies that require, for instance, implanted sterilization for women deemed unfit for parenting. (There is no equivalent court-ordered response for men.)

There are other moments that may trigger unpleasant Flint memories: an industry settlement with the PCB-poisoned people of Anniston, Alabama, that was surely too little to make any meaningful remedial difference in the lives of current residents or future generations; the people struggling to make their days work who are also forced to become scientists and community activists just to have clean water; the reality that water was only the latest insult to a city population that had been abandoned after manufacturing had extracted and exploited everything that was available to extract or exploit; and her discussion of the dangers of radiation, which surely flashes us back to the news reports in recent months of a settlement-hungry law firm that used unregistered (illegal) scanners to x-ray the tibias of Flint children. She also discusses, in a section called "vanished children" the unique-to-Flint high number of fetal deaths and a fertility rate that

(Continued on Page 18.)



East Village Magazine

is updating coverage of water crisis recovery efforts.

Rather than track only the monthly number of lead service lines replaced, we will now report additional numbers related to ongoing work toward recovery from the Flint water crisis.

Number of Lead Water Service Lines as of July 16, 2021

Pipes Explored: **27,133** (27,092 in June)

Pipes Replaced: **10,059** (10,041 in June)

Copper Lines Installed: **17,074** (17,051 in June)

These numbers have not been updated on the City's website since July 2021

Between Aug. 1 and Sept. 27, 2021

14 of 192 homes tested above 15 parts per billion for lead
(in August it was 6 of 91 homes)

0 of 192 homes tested above 1,300 for copper between
(in August it was 1 of 91 homes)

As of Sept. 27, 2021

16,800 enrollees in the Flint Registry,
which connects people affected by the water crisis to services
(in July it was 15,318)

24,100 referrals to service from the Flint Registry
(in July it was 22,332)

2018 was the last year

the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality reported on lead in water testing in Flint Schools

153 Lead Safe Home program abatements completed in 2019

2.4% of children in Flint 6 and under with blood lead level above five micrograms per deciliter in 2018

————— **1 new grocery store** —————
opened in Flint in July, 2021

Music in the Heart of the City Voices & Piano

*Daniel Ewart, Joseph Baunoch,
Neil Campbell*

Sunday, October 24, 2021, 4:00pm

\$10 adults — \$5 students

Free to MCC & U of M students with ID

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



WRITERS WANTED

Writers are the life-blood of *East Village Magazine*. They are the story tellers, the analysts, and the truth tellers.

If you have writing skills, we need you. We publish daily in our online edition and monthly in our hard copy edition. As an *EVM* writer, you would work with other staff members to determine writing assignments, report on community events, and improve your skills through training, feedback, and editing.

AND YOU WOULD BE PAID A SMALL STIPEND (\$50) FOR EVERY ARTICLE PUBLISHED.

For more information, contact Ted Nelson:
810-235-2977 or
mainegame@aol.com

**LET'S EAT GRANDMA
LET'S EAT, GRANDMA
—————
COMMAS SAVE LIVES**



“A sign that has hung in the *East Village Magazine* office for several years.”

Terrible Thing ...

(Continued from Page 16.)

plummeted after the water poisoning.

Of course, asthma's not nothing. There is truth behind my metaphor. In 2010 alone, "21,000 U.S. facilities reported discharging 3.9 billion pounds of toxic chemicals into U.S. land and air... Moreover, industries have dumped 21.8 billion pounds of industrial waste into the water, and ... one of every 10 U.S. power plants sits on Native American land." Washington reports asthma's high cost according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: 10 million lost school days; 1.8 million emergency room visits; 15 million outpatient visits; half a million hospitalizations; \$14.5 billion in 2000 alone. And disproportionately those numbers represent people of color.

The whole thing, in fact, is of greater consequence to people of color, already demeaned by pre-existing bias and expectation of low performance. Additionally, she notes, the stress of racism exacerbates measurably the effects of all the other factors.

People of Color cannot win in America. Only capitalism can win here.

If Parts 1 and 2 made me mad, Part 3 made me tired and mad. Titled *Mission Possible: How to Bolster the Nation's IQ*, it purports to raise people's spirits by raising their hopes. "The only known national solution is to eradicate harmful, under-regulated poisons from residential housing, schools, water, food and fence-line communities..." she declares, but then spends 60 pages laying the task at the feet of parents.

Though parts of the problem she cites are that doctors don't generally discuss with their patients the neuro-invasaders that are shaping their children's lives and marketing departments routinely target people of color and low income people in particular insidious ways, Chapter 6 coaches burdened parents on how to fight a problem they cannot identify: things like enrolling kids in pre-K, fighting contaminants in schools, poison-proofing their homes

and water, providing ameliorative foods and snacks, and making "safe household purchases." In the margin, after each suggestion, I added a dollar sign and/or a symbol for time, reminding me that overworked, overburdened and under-resourced parents have hardly the time, money or energy to do any of the things she suggests, much less tackle a complicated and comprehensive program of poison eradication. (This, after she has specifically noted that "dollar stores," the most convenient and affordable options for families, often have cheap toys and goods imported from non-conforming countries and more likely to be tainted with poisons.)

Chapter 7, assumes parents have time, money and energy left after chapter 6, and advocates community organizing, legal action and lobbying. There are community activists who do this, we know; we've seen them active here in the water war, in the fight for racial justice against police, and now in the fight against Ajax. There are fights for racial justice on every front. People of Color are apparently never allowed to be tired or let their guard down. But every moment fighting extracts something. Washington is a Black woman; she knows this and stays in the struggle.

Churches are especially powerful, she claims, and I want to be hopeful. The stories she tells (including stories from the United Church of Christ, of which Woodside is a member), are inspiring; but there are but a few drops of win in an ocean of offense. I've heard it said that if churches ever stood as a united front against injustice, the world would change. I'm just not all that hopeful churches will find the will to do that. And my cynical self reminds that churches spend inordinate amounts of energy guarding the holy grail of tax exemption, to the detriment of the common good.

All of that is mostly a recounting of the book; the review part is shorter and, I hope, useful. Here are my thoughts:

- Washington is a journalist but I wished for more citations. She is well-credentialed — according to her

Wikipedia page, she has been a fellow in ethics at the Harvard Medical School, a fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health, and a senior research scholar at the National Center for Bioethics at Tuskegee University — and has a decades-long tenure reporting on science and medicine. But with 575 footnotes, there were still moments when I wondered whence her data was drawn.

- She regularly used the anachronistic and mostly discarded word "retardation" and its derivatives, which was hard to stomach.

- Washington also neglected to address the ways that animal consumption contributes to the poisoned world we inhabit. Pandemics, we know, are transmitted from animals to humans, and I hope we will learn this lesson from Covid-19, but we seem resistant to changing our ways. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), the only way to farm animals that can feed the whole world, are well documented to cause all manner of human ill. By their methodologies, these CAFOs create and market animals that are not healthy; by their very existence, CAFOs poison neighboring communities with waste, stench and by-products, creating many of the types of "fence-line communities" Washington warns about — even lowering life expectancy among their neighbors. Given that she associates hypertension and other physical ailments with mental and neuro effects, I find it distressing that she doesn't address animal consumption issues — what we eat, how it is grown. She discusses Red Tide, HIV, Mad Cow, and even includes a preface related to Covid, which emerged from a wild animal market, yet her only mention of the food chain is to advise eating smaller fish for less mercury.

All that said, this is a good book. It is comprehensive, exhaustive.

For people of color, perhaps it is a reassurance that the issues they face, the physical and intellectual challenges — and economic and security issues — in their families and communities, are

(Continued on Page 19.)

Terrible Thing ...

(Continued from Page 18.)

not character flaws or personal failings, but well-aimed assaults by a capitalistic, white-supremacist culture accustomed to having its own way.

For white people, I hope it can be a call to action, a call to blame less and be engaged more in work that gets at the very definition of neighbor, the very heart of what it means to be community.

“The only known national solution is to eradicate harmful, under-regulated poisons from residential housing, schools, water, food and fence-line communities...” but there is news this week that campaign contributions from pharmaceutical companies are causing Democrats to drop the legislative

permission for Medicare to negotiate for better drug prices, so policy solutions don't seem forthcoming.

There are metaphors, even good metaphors, but no single metaphor can tell us all that we need to know. The book is good; can we learn?

Rev. Deborah D Conrad, EdD, is pastor of Woodside Church in Flint, and director still of UrbanSpirit, a faith-based non-denominational poverty education center.



Unclassified Ads

Apartment for Lease

(1,200 sq. ft.) A unique, large, one-story space for a two-bedroom apartment available in November. It's on E. Second St. in historic East Village. Walk 5 minutes or less to UM-Flint, Downtown, MCC, Library, Cultural Center, Farmers' Market, horticultural gardens, three parks, bike paths, with quick expressway access, laundry, and off-street and gated parking. Can be partially furnished. No pets. \$675 per month includes water. References and credit check requested.

E-mail ecuster@sbcglobal.net or write:

Apartment
Box 24
502 Crapo St.
Flint MI 48503.

Jack Minore...

(Continued from Page 20.)

who suggested getting the *East Village Magazine* as a way of reintroducing herself to the neighborhood. She also told of the time when Jack and Arletta bought a home in the suburbs on behalf of an African-American couple, who wouldn't have been able to buy it because of racial discrimination. They did it as means of promoting open housing in the region, one of Jack's major causes in Flint.

Jack Minore's political activity was central to his life. Long a champion of progressive causes, Jack ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for the state Senate in 1970 and the state House in 1974. In 1983 he was elected to the Flint City Council from the 7th Ward, which he held until 1998, when he was elected to the Michigan State House of Representatives. He served three terms in the state House, when he made a run for the state Senate in 2006.

Jack attended both Mott Community College (then Flint Junior College), and the University of Michigan -Flint, and was an ardent UM supporter. Anyone showing up in

a Michigan State sweatshirt, or, God forbid, an Ohio State shirt, was likely to receive a teasing rebuke from him. He was a teacher in the Flint Community Schools and taught at Whaley Children's Center. He later served as executive director of the Genesee



Jack Minore

(Photo By: Paul Rozycki)

County Bar Association.

He was also active the Sierra Club, the Flint Watershed coalition, the Friends of the Flint

River Trail, Music in the Parks and the Flint Institute of Music. As an active member of the Friends of the Flint River Trail, he was part of their weekly bicycle rides every Sunday, leaving from the old Flint Farmers' Market. He served as the board chair and interim executive director of the Flint Watershed Coalition and co-leader of the Flint River Trail Chapter. His love for music was evident when we'd see him at every Flint Symphony concert in his same seat along the right aisle.

He is survived by his children, Eric, Jennifer, Steffan and Jeffrey. Arletta Minore passed away in 2020 and was honored recently in a memorial service.

A memorial service was held at Whiting Auditorium from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 3. The family has asked that instead of flowers they would appreciate donations to the Friends of the Flint River Trail, the Flint Watershed Coalition, Music in the Parks, the Flint Institute of Music, or the organization of your choice.

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

Village Life

Memories of Jack Minore, Michigan, Flint, and East Village

By Paul Rozycki

There have been many official obituaries, tributes, and memorials written about Jack Minore, the offices he held, the causes he championed, and the commitment he had to the state of Michigan and the Flint community. Most political leaders in the area have spoken about his commitment to Michigan, Flint and a long list of causes—civil rights, women’s rights, labor and the environment.

But beyond those, I’d like to share some personal memories of Jack Minore. He was the first politician that I met after moving to Flint. Our first apartment was at 711 E. Second St. and he and Arletta lived around the corner on Avon, where Arletta ran a bed and breakfast for many years. The back yards of our residences adjoined, and I met Jack shortly after moving in. His campaign for the state Senate in 1970 was the first one I worked on in Flint. Whenever I introduced him as a politician he would correct me and say he was a ‘public servant’ or perhaps ‘statesman’ with a smile.

That was the start of a long friendship and many campaigns and causes which covered the last half century.

He served on the Flint City Council for 15 years, and I recall walking door-to-door in our ward dropping off campaign literature more than a few times. What struck me as we went through the routine of hanging his campaign lit on doors is that he seemed to know who lived in every house, and could share stories about their lives and families. Nearly everyone who answered the

door knew him and greeted him warmly. I think we still have Jack Minore city council magnets, jar openers, and matches around the house.

ciation president, who also lived on Commonwealth.

In recent years, I’d pick him up at his home and we’d drive to ‘Club 225’, a Democratic Party luncheon group. Along the way we’d decide who was going to drop off the *East Village Magazines* for the group this month.

In 1996, we attended the Democratic National Convention together in Chicago and, as a delegate, Jack was more than generous in inviting me to any number of events that I wouldn’t have been able to attend otherwise. After the convention, we went to his first Chicago Cubs baseball game at Wrigley Field, where he bought a Cubs jacket that he wore for years afterwards.

Over the years, Jack would celebrate the ‘whatever’ anniversary of his 39th birthday, and Nancy would often find 39th birthday cards, and amend them to fit whatever age he was that year.

He was also an active member of the *East Village Magazine*, serving on its Board of Trustees and distributing the magazine to his neighbors. Usually, after our ‘batching day’ Jack’s house would be the first stop on my way home, to drop

off the bundle of magazines for him to deliver.

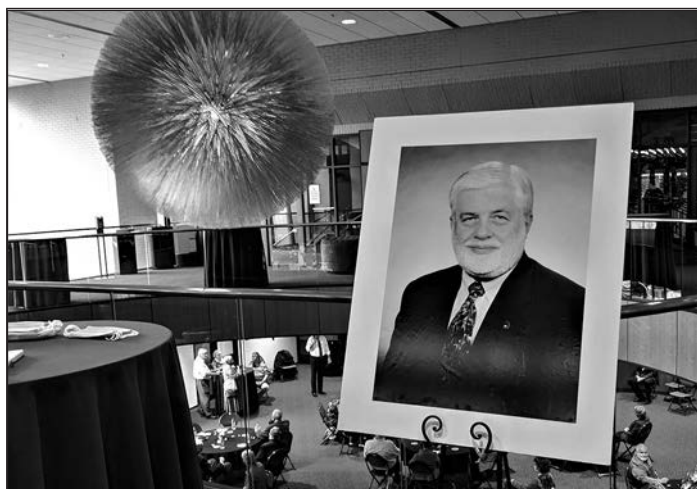
Maggie Hart, who grew up in Flint, moved away and returned in 2012, was friends with Jack and Arletta for most of her life. She recalls that when she moved back, that Jack Minore was the one

(Continued on Page 19.)



U.S. Representative Dan Kildee speaking at Jack Minore’s memorial held in the lobby of The Whiting auditorium on Sunday, Oct 3, 2021.

(Photo by Paul Rozycki)



A large portrait of Jack Minore displayed at the entrance of The Whiting Auditorium for a memorial service held on the first floor lobby on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021

(Photo by Paul Rozycki)

When Jack moved to his current home, just a few blocks down from our house on the same street, we joked at Democratic Party meetings that we were ‘The Commonwealth Caucus’ as we often came in together, along with Steve Robinson, a Mott faculty member and MCC Education Asso-