

East Village Magazine

August 2022

Photograph By

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Commentary
In praise of (good) politicians

By Paul Rozycki

Last month’s *East Village Magazine* was devoted to the idea of good governance and the problems with dysfunctional government in Genesee County, as we took a look at the Flint City Council, the Flint Community School Board, and the many problems they have faced. Some of those problems have been blamed on “politics” or “politicians.” Sometimes, it seems that if we could just get rid of politics and politicians our problems would be solved.

But maybe the opposite is true. Maybe we just need to elect those who are good at politics in the best sense of the word.

Avoiding the politician label

I had a good friend who had served in several elected political positions in Flint and Lansing over his long career. By every measure he was a political leader. However, whenever I introduced him as a “politician” he would correct me, and say he was a “public servant.” Or, with a teasing smile, sometimes he would say a “statesman.” He wasn’t unique in his desire to avoid the politician label.

for every occasion and every interest. In particular, they have ornaments for almost any occupation.

You can buy ornaments to honor doctors, nurses, teachers, accountants, reporters, computer operators, social workers, weather forecasters, truck drivers, artists, police officers, postal workers, athletes for almost every sport, and dozens of other occupations.

But there is one they don’t seem to have.

I’ve never seen an ornament to honor politicians. They have some for Democrats, some for Republicans, but none for elected politicians.

“I’m not a politician”

What’s curious is that even those seeking political office often deny they are politicians. How often do we hear a campaign pitch saying that we should elect someone because they are “not a politician” and they are a businessman, a farmer, a teacher, or some other occupation? In a recent televised debate before the primary election, five candidates who were running to be governor of Michigan spent a good part



Campaign signs in front of Flint City Hall, November 2020

(Photo by Paul Rozycki)

In a similar vein, my wife Nancy and I often go to Bronner’s in Frankenmuth, where she buys ornaments to give to friends for Christmas, birthdays, graduations, and anniversaries. When looking around the huge store it seems that they have ornaments

of an hour accusing each other of being “politicians” as if it were a curse word.

Yet those who reflect the wishes of the voters and manage the business of government are politicians. Like any occupation some of them are very good

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Photo of the Month: Mural on Water Street (Photo by Edwin D. Custer)

Education Beat

Flint Board of Education: Some same old stories

By Harold C. Ford

[Editors' Note: The Flint Board of Education (FBOE) meeting witnessed on July 20 was troubling to cover for Harold C. Ford, East Village Magazine's (EVM) education reporter. For purposes of readability and thematic tidiness, EVM is dividing this month's Education Beat report into two parts: "same old stories" and "good news stories." Both pieces are available at the EVM website.]

"We have met the enemy and he is us." — Earth Day poster, 1970
 "This is ridiculous." — Linda Boose, secretary, FBOE, July 20, 2022

Same Old Stories

An often-chaotic Flint education board meeting -- lasting more than five hours on July 20 -- was frequently disrupted by tension and yelling between and among FBOE members. It was as conflictual a meeting witnessed by this reporter in five-plus years of covering the Flint board.

The climactic moment featured a shouting match that primarily involved Joyce Ellis-McNeal, president; Carol McIntosh, vice president; and Laura MacIntyre, treasurer. During the verbal melee, McIntosh was escorted from the meeting by an officer of the Flint Police Department at the request of Ellis-McNeal.

[The aforementioned fracas -- one of many -- starts at about the three-hour mark of a YouTube recording of the meeting.]

Proposals and personalities

On the surface, the agenda item that triggered the three-way row were proposals by Kevelin Jones, superintendent of Flint Community Schools (FCS) to hire two executive assistants -- one to be assigned to him, and the other to be assigned to the board.

However, recent FBOE history and public comments increasingly suggest that a deeper reason for the row may be social issues within FCS governance that include a racial component.

"Mission was accomplished"

An excerpted representation of the July 20 back-and-forth follows:

- McIntosh, at her first FBOE meeting in months: *"I was the one who made that motion (to appoint an executive assistant). ... Nobody asked me (for clarification)."*

- Jones: *"The board president (McNeal) clarified it."*

- McNeal: *"You (McIntosh) have not been to any meetings when we been having this conversation. ... You (McIntosh) were not available. ... You coming back and want us to rehearse history for you."*

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Education ...

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• [At this point, both McIntosh and McNeal frequently interrupted and spoke over and past one another.]

• DelMorone to McNeal and Jones: “You cannot come to a decision on your own and implement it.”



FBOE Vice-President Carol McIntosh
(Photo source FCS website)

• McNeal: “I did not make a decision on my own.”

• McNeal to McIntosh, whose hand was raised to be recognized: “Ms. McIntosh, you have monopolized this meeting over and over ... to tie this meeting up ... with he-say, she-say.”

• McIntosh: “Excuse me ma’am, this is not the place for personal attacks.”



FBOE President Joyce Ellis-McNeal
(Photo provided by Elis-McNeal.)

• McIntosh, now shouting, to McNeal: “Why you couldn’t text me and

ask me about this board business?!”

• McIntosh, to MacIntyre attempting to interject with a parliamentary point of order: “You (pointing at MacIntyre) told a story on me and said I threatened you and I did not! These two (referencing MacIntyre and McNeal) have been lying on me and I haven’t been coming because I don’t wanna’ get set up like Ms. Green got set up! Ms. Green can’t come to these meetings because they cooked up this shenanigans and pushed her over the edge and I didn’t want to be pushed over the edge because my criminal record is important to me!”

• McIntosh, pointing to MacIntyre and shouting over MacIntyre’s attempt to make a point of order: “You’re not chairing the meeting!”

• [At this point McNeal, MacIntyre, and McIntosh all began shouting; much of what was said is unintelligible. McNeal ineffectually banged her gavel seeking order.]



FBOE Treasurer Laura MacIntyre
(Photo provided by Laura MacIntyre)

• McIntosh to MacIntyre: “You’re always attacking black women!”

• MacIntyre to McIntosh, eventually shouting the others: “Point of order! Point of order! Point of order! Cease! Cease and desist! Right now! Point of order! You’re out of line! Point of order!”

• [At this point, McIntosh began gathering her board materials preparing to be escorted from the meeting by a Flint police officer apparently summoned by McNeal for that purpose.]

• McIntosh to McNeal: “And she (MacIntyre) don’t need to leave?!”

• McNeal: “Point of order.”
• MacIntyre: “Point of order!”
• McIntosh: “She (MacIntyre) attacked everybody!”

• McNeal: “Point of order.”
• Del Morone to MacIntyre: “Point of order. Point of order. ... Address your point of order to the chair (not to McIntosh).”

• McNeal: “Point of order. Point of order.”

• MacIntyre to McIntosh: “Point of order. You need to stop talking! Point of order! Stop talking! Point of order. ... Stop talking!”

• McIntosh to MacIntyre: “You racist!”

• MacIntyre and McNeal simultaneously, twice: “Point of order. Point of order.”

• McNeal, pleading: “Come on, point of order.”

• MacIntyre to McIntosh as she continued to talk while exiting the meeting: “Point of order! Point of order! Point of order!”

• McIntosh: “... Liars!”
• MacIntyre: “Point of order!”
• McIntosh to MacIntyre: “And you privileged!”

• MacIntyre: “Point of order.”
• McIntosh to MacIntyre: “You ain’t the chair.”

• MacIntyre to McIntosh: “Point of order. I’m drowning out your loud noise.”

• McNeal, as McIntosh was escorted from the meeting: “Well, I think the mission was accomplished.”

“We’ve gotta do better.”

During the meeting time reserved for comments, members of the public and board reflected on what had transpired earlier in the meeting:

• Chloe Scott, parent and former FCS student: Scott said she’d pulled her children from Flint schools but had considered returning a daughter to FCS for her high school years. “But from what I seen tonight I don’t think that’s going to be a decision I’m gonna make. ... There’s no focus on the children.

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Sports Beat

Flint City Bucks power into playoffs

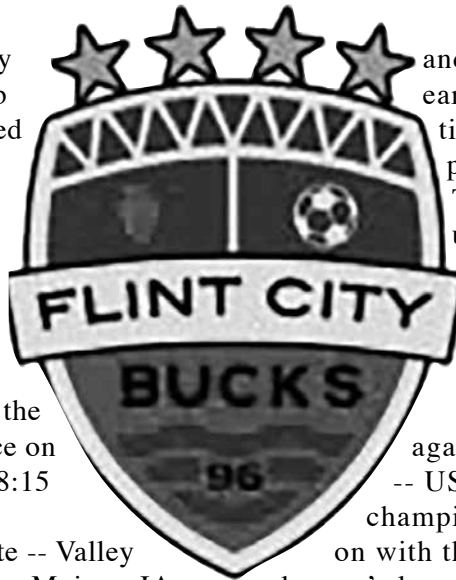
By Harold C. Ford

The Flint City Bucks football club (soccer team) gained momentum in a late-regular season surge to reach the United States Two League (USL2) Central Conference Championship match against the Des Moines Menace on July 29 starting at 8:15 p.m. EDT.

The match site -- Valley Stadium in West Des Moines, IA -- is about a nine-hour drive from Flint at 590 miles. Video transmission of all remaining USL2 playoff matches is available at the league's website -- usleaguetwo.com.

Flint is one of just eight teams remaining in the USL2 postseason tournament. USL2 boasts 113 teams in four conferences subdivided into 16 divisions.

Flint is a member of the six-team Great Lakes Division. The Bucks finished the regular season in second place with an 8-3-3 record (wins, losses, ties)



and 19 points. (A win earns two points, a tie one point, and no points for a loss.)

The first-place regular season finisher was Kalamazoo FC with an 8-2-4 record and 20 points.

A victory against Des Moines -- USL2's defending

champion with the league's longest active winning streak -- on July 29 would advance the Bucks to the USL2 semifinal against the winner of the match between Ventura County Fusion (CA) and Ballard FC (WA) on the same day. Date, time, and location of the semifinal is to be determined.

The goal of all USL2 teams is to reach the USL2 championship match on Aug. 6.

Flint starts playoffs with wins over South Bend and Chicago

Victories over the South Bend Lions (IN), July 22, and Chicago FC United (IL), July 24, at Flint's Atwood Stadium on the first weekend of the USL2 postseason tournament sent Flint to the July 29 conference championship in Iowa.

In the 3-1 win over South Bend, Flint goals were scored by Jeldrik Dallman at the 39th minute (assists from Harvey Slade and Sebastian Chalbaud), Slade at the 45th minute in stoppage time (unassisted), and Amadou Cisse at the 56th minute (unassisted).

Cisse scored two more goals in the win over Chicago -- at the 29th minute (assisted by Dallman) and the 39th minute (unassisted). Cisse has now scored the last three goals for the Bucks.



Flint City Bucks team member Jeldrik Dallman
(Photo source www.usleaguetwo.com)



Flint City Bucks forward, Amadou Cisse
(Photo source www.usleaguetwo.com)



Flint City Bucks team member Isaac Walker
(Photo source www.usleaguetwo.com)

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Soccer ...

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Flint City Bucks

(Photo source: Flint City Bucks Facebook page. Photo credit: Amanda Thick).

Stalwart defense, primed offense prepped Flint for 2022 playoffs

After nine matches into a 14-match 2022 regular-season, the Bucks' playoff chances seemed uncertain. In late-June, their record was a middling four wins, two losses, and three ties. Making the playoffs was a possibility, not a certainty. The Bucks offense was scoring at a pace of 1.7 goals per match while the de-

fense was stellar allowing less than one goal per match.

In their final five regular-season matches, the Bucks outscored their opponents 16 goals to six. The offense improved to a rate of 3.2 goals each match while the defense continued to lock down opponents limiting them to about one goal per match.

Dallman was far and away the offensive points leader for Flint with 11 goals, or 22 points

(two points for each goal, one point for each assist). Three other players pitched in with seven points: Slade (three goals, one assist); Cisse (two goals, three assists); and Cekrezi (two goals, three assists).

Flint's defense was buoyed throughout by something that cannot be taught -- speed. All season long, Flint's back line was patrolled by capable players that stuffed opponents' offensive thrusts and moved the ball back up field to their midfielders and forwards.

In an interview with *East Village Magazine*, Bucks' coach Andrew "Andy" Wagstaff lauded his defense. "We've got some of the best defenders in the country," said Wagstaff. "There is absolutely zero doubt in my mind."

Wagstaff cited the defensive play of Hugo Bacharach, Abdel Kuku, and Jannik Videbaek.

One of Flint's goalkeepers, the aforementioned Isaac Walker, is touted as one of USL2's "top 50 prospects" to move on to a higher professional level.

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



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Commentary ...

(Continued from Page 3)

at it. Others not so much. A functioning democratic government needs those who are good at the art of politics. Politics is a skill and a legitimate career like many others. With the complex decisions we face today, it may not be a good time for amateurs. Yet many go out of their way to avoid the label and deny they are politicians.

The need for good politicians

How would we respond to a doctor who said, "I'm not really a surgeon, but let's see how it goes if I try and take your appendix out?" Or an auto mechanic who said, "I've never worked on a transmission before, but show me where it is, and I'll see what I can do?"

You get the idea. Any occupation requires certain skills and abilities. A good politician is one who understands the workings of government, the needs and wants of the voters, and who has the ability to make government work in both an effective and efficient manner. A good politician knows when to lead public opinion, when to follow it, and when to discount it. A good politician who is actively involved with the government must make sure it delivers on its promises. And sometimes that means compromise.

In a time when so many aspects of our lives divide us along partisan lines, in the final analysis government must deliver results. All too often today's governments have been characterized by delay and deadlock on every level, from the Flint City Council, to the Flint Community School Board, to the U.S. Congress. It's not surprising that there has been an increasing distrust in all governments.

The art of compromise

In the last few weeks I recall seeing a campaign ad for one candidate who asks for our vote because "He won't

back down!" That's a memorable phrase, and it may make for a good bumper sticker or 30-second commercial, but that attitude also leads to the polarization that we see today, where little is accomplished except conflict and cynicism. All too often today's political leaders know how to make headlines, but are not as effective at making good policy.

A good politician should be able to do both. Of course, winning an election requires making headlines, getting public attention, and gathering votes. But after the election is over comes the more mundane business of making policy, running a government,



Michigan State Capitol building in Lansing
(Photo source: Michigan State Capitol Facebook page)

and delivering public services. Doing that often means one must be willing to compromise and work with those you disagree with. Sometimes to get things done, a leader may need to back down, and give the other side its due.

A good politician should have the ability to do that, and should also have the wisdom to know when to do it and when not to. A good politician should also have the ability to explain to voters why he or she did what they did. There are times when a political leader should not back down, but there are also times when compromise is essential.

Unfortunately, all too often, those who are willing to work with the other side are seen as traitors to their

party—as RINOS (Republicans in name only) or DINOS (Democrats in name only), and they run the risk of facing primary election challenges from within their own parties. With the typically small voter turnout for primary elections that can be a serious threat.

Our choices in politics

Many observers speak of the "Game of Politics" or the "Art of Politics." How the game is played can make all the difference in the world. As a game, politics can be either a poker game, a chess game, or a mud-wrestling match in the alley. As an art, politics can be either a renaissance masterpiece painting, or the work of a five-year old who scribbles a crayon across the lines of a coloring book.

There is no guarantee that those who practice politics are always good at it, and there is no guarantee that even those who are good at it will pursue worthwhile goals. Certainly Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt were skilled politicians and left the world better for their efforts. Yet Hitler and Stalin were also formidable in their own versions of politics, and left nothing but horror and disaster in their wake.

Politics in a democracy can be a messy process, and can lead us to dismiss those who are politicians. We are living in an anti-incumbent time, when it's easy to be cynical of all officeholders or politicians.

But politics is at the heart of democracy, and it is up to us to make sure, that for all the jokes we make about politics and politicians, we elect those who represent our best vision for the future. A failure to do that makes Plato's quote ever more accurate:

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.

— Plato

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Village Life ...

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Concerns with brother-in-law as he continues rehab work from the stroke he has suffered and trying not to give up on hoping for further progress.



Jay with a sign created by his family celebrating the completing of his 50th marathon

(Photo submitted by Jay Cummings)

“When I am running a race in a marathon there are fascinating sights and scenes as well as people,” he says. “When you run a marathon you often fall into a group of runners who are running the same pace and you talk to



Receiving some encouraging hand claps from his grandkids cheering on their grandpa

(Photo submitted by Jay Cummings)

each other a little, or a lot, for perhaps the first 20 miles. Then after the 20-mile mark your focus changes to your running the last 6 miles. You focus

on measuring your sense of how your body feels and how you want to finish.

“Running has made me a more disciplined person when it comes to exercise, eating and my mental and emotional health,” Cummings says. “It helps me to relax and relieves stress. Sometimes I go for a run just for relief and a chance to gain perspective from the beginning of regular running these past 30 years.”

Cummings says the enjoyment and sense of accomplishment of completing a marathon is what motivates him to keep running and training. He says he has no intention to stop running. He anticipates participating in the Crim Festival of Races this year, the first time since the pandemic.

“When I have waited for a long time before I start the training, I miss it,” he says.

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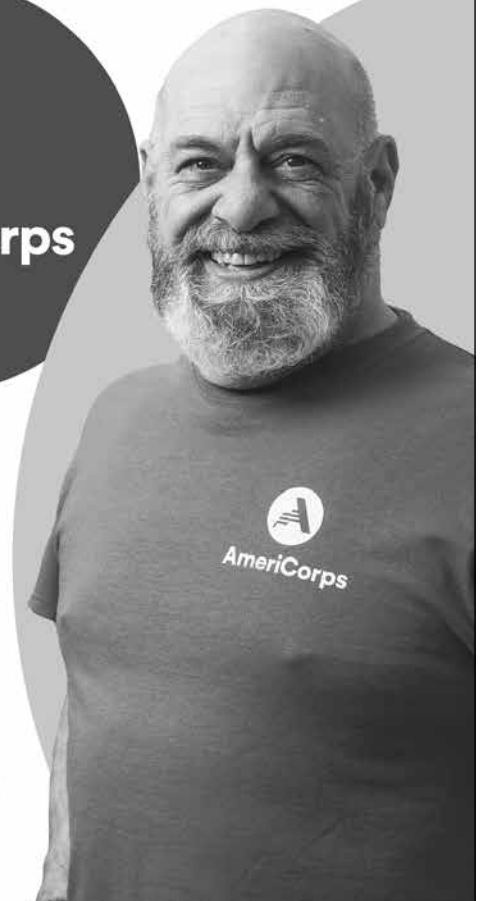
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Re-made Sloan Museum of Discovery opens doors to more inspiration for math, science and enriched local history

By Jan Worth-Nelson

Three years after a groundbreaking at which a host of dignitaries foresaw local opportunities to champion science and history, the promise has been delivered. The newly renamed Sloan Museum of Discovery opened its doors to the public July 16 after a dramatic \$30 million makeover.

Whitmer declared to an audience of about 250. “From hands-on science and engineering experiences to a makers space featuring high-tech careers and skilled trades, this museum will inspire future innovators.”

She predicted the Sloan will “support jobs, uplift the local econo-

Institute of Science and History Board; philanthropist Phil Hagerman; Terry Rhadigan, General Motors VP of Global Communications and Corporate Giving; and others.

Thanks to the approval in 2018 of a county-wide arts millage which yields about \$1.8 million a year to Sloan/Longway along with millions to other cultural institutions, Genesee County residents get in free. Spokespersons for the museum pointed out none of the millage money went to the renovations.

Additions include a new hands-on science gallery, called Discovery Hall, featuring a multi-story “SpaceShip Earth” and an interactive water table to teach visitors about the Great Lakes.



Ribbon cutters, l-r: Adam Falk, CEO, Sloan Foundation; Isaiah Oliver, president and CEO, Community Foundation of Greater Flint; Anne Saab, Flint Institute of Science and History board of directors; Hon. John Cherry; Linda LeMieux; Todd Slisher, CEO Flint Institute of Science and History/Executive director of the Sloan Museum of Discover/Longway Planetarium; Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley; Debbe Campbell, director of development, Sloan Museum of Discovery; Ridgway White, president and CEO of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; Shannon White; Terry Rhadigan, General Motors VP Global Communications & Corporate Giving; Tim Herman, Flint Institute of Science and History board of directors.

(Photo by Anne Mancour)

Funded by a combination of grants, millions in contributions from philanthropic institutions, state funding and individual donations, the renovation almost doubled the size of the space, from 58,000 to 107,000 square feet and added four new galleries, a cafe, a full-service kitchen and expanded community spaces.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who came in through a back entrance with her security detail, was at the top of the bill of speakers at the July 14 ribbon cutting.

“This is a great day for Flint,”

my, and inspire future generations of Michiganders.”

“This expansion is yet another example of the fact that Flint -- and Michigan -- are on the move,” she declared.

Whitmer was joined on the podium by Todd Slisher, CEO and executive director of the museum; Ridgway White, CEO and president of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; Mayor Sheldon Neeley, Isaiah Oliver, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint (CFGF); John Cherry, Sr., chair of the Flint



Some children enjoying the hands-on activities at the re-made Sloan Museum of Discovery

(Photo by Tom Travis)

The museum also includes a new Vehicle City Gallery, being renamed The Durant Gallery to honor General Motors founder Billy C. Durant and, through a \$500,000 contribution from General Motors, supporting STEM exhibits and programs. That 11,000-square-foot gallery will feature rotating vehicles from the Sloan’s collection of 105 rare and vintage vehicles. GM already had donated \$1 million to the renovation effort.

GM’s Terry Rhadigan described how Durant and J. Dallas Dort turned their carriage company into what is

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Sloan Opening ...

(Continued from Page 10)

now one of the largest vehicle manufacturers in the world.

“Billy Durant was a fearless visionary who boldly seized opportunity wherever he found it,” Rhadigan said, “and the decisions he made changed the auto industry forever.” He pre-

basis to showcase community-based exhibits.”

CFGF President Oliver highlighted those efforts in acknowledging “the Anishinaabe, Mississauga, and Sauk as the ancestral stewards of the land we are standing on today. We pay tribute to the elders both past and present in Flint, Michigan who have cared for this place,” he said.

pathways before us.”

He said some of the museum’s changes reflect a larger attempt nationwide to tell more accurate histories “about the lives of Native Americans in exhibits, museums, and historical markers. And that is a reckoning with the truth that will take time,” he said.

According to Sloan’s Curator of Collections Geoff Woodcox, the museum has 47,511 three-dimensional artifacts, 34,391 photos; 5,179 books; 62,562 archival documents.

The original Sloan Museum opened in 1966 as the Sloan Panorama of Transportation, named for longtime General Motors President Alfred P. Sloan. Today it is supported in part by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. And its programs are additionally funded by Genesee County citizens through the support of what’s called the Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment millage, passed by county residents in 2018.

In the years of the renovation, the AI and staff moved into rented space in the Courtland Center Mall. That closed in May after three years to allow for the move back to the new space.

The museum opens at 10 a.m. Saturday and noon Sunday to the public. It is part of Flint Cultural Center campus, at 1221 E. Kearsley St., Flint. More information available at 810-237-3450, www.sloan-museum.org.

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Children enjoying the fishing and water hole at the renovated Sloan Museum of Discovery

(Photo by Tom Travis)

dicted in the Sloan’s new era Durant’s spirit “will continue to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs and STEM leaders.”

Durant’s great-grandson Duke Merrick of Virginia came to the opening to represent the Durant family. An Early Childhood Gallery, called Hagerman Street acknowledging gifts from Flint’s Hagerman Foundation, aims to prepare kids for kindergarten through “play-centric exploration.”

Finally, a new History Gallery “showcases stories of Flint and Genesee County, as well as artifacts collected from the community.”

The aim of making the museum “an inclusive center for the entire community,” underwrote much of the renovation redesign. “This museum is literally being built from the ideas of our members, guests and the community at large,” Slisher said. One of many new features is a new community gallery “co-curated with local organizations on a rotating

He said the new era of the museum provides, “A fuller history. A deeper history. A history that is not being re-written. A history that is acknowledged.”

“A core purpose of our truth, racial healing and transformation work is to end the hierarchy of human value,” Oliver asserted. He said as viewers visit the new exhibits, “You will see new voices lifted up. Affirming voices with stories that are often left out. And a new exhibit focuses on our true historical roots among the Native Americans who created



New entrance welcomes visitors to \$30 million Sloan makeover

(Photo by Tom Travis)

Education ...

(Continued from Page 5)

... Today, I went to a Grand Blanc board meeting; 30 minutes, everything was taken care of; and then you wonder why we pull our kids (from Flint schools) ... It seems like my color people can't speak without being interrupted. I can't even tell who's the president on the board ... We've gotta do better. ... What I seen tonight was pure nonsense."

- Arthur Woodson, resident, activist: Woodson said he would initiate a recall campaign targeting two unnamed FBOE members: "You and her made the former superintendent (Anita Steward) quit. The hostility made the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) quit. The hostility made the HR (Human Relations) person quit. That same individual is being sued ... for being racist ... this individual, the treasurer (MacIntyre) can sit back and call people ignorant and clowns ... She said, 'I know how to use my white privilege.'"

- Allen Gilbert, FBOE trustee: "What I saw here today was very disturbing. ... Some of us don't have the rights as others do on this board. ... You (McNeal) removed one of our trustees (McIntosh) but didn't remove the other (MacIntyre). And in my mind, that's blatant discrimination. ... If you (McNeal) cannot chair the meeting and be fair with all of us, perhaps you should step down. ... All of us deserve the same amount of respect. ... What I saw here tonight was ... partial to Trustee MacIntyre over the rest of us."

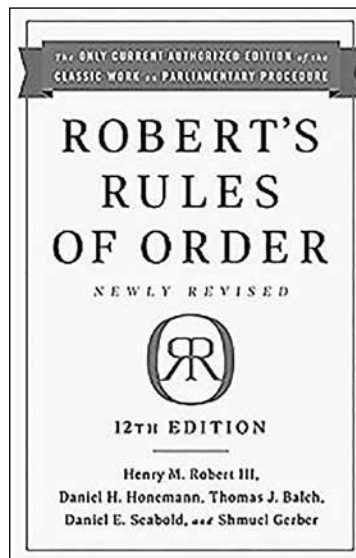
- Chris Del Morone, FBOE assistant secretary/treasurer: "What I saw was a board member (MacIntyre) continually saying, 'Point of order.' Points of order should be directed to the chair, not to another board member. ... I hope we can all work together, leave our differences at the door."

"Tired of being accused"

"I'm tired of being accused of being the one who's making problems," MacIntyre said. "I'm not the one who's

causing all of the problems and the dissent."

MacIntyre said Green is not currently prevented from attending FBOE meetings as a result of the PPO she filed with Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Joseph Farah. Rather, it is a condition of bail set by 67th District Court Judge Herman Marable that currently bars Green from meetings at which MacIntyre is present.



Book cover graphic of *Robert's Rules of Order*
(Photo source Amazon.com)

"Sometimes I make missteps," MacIntyre admitted. "I'm human, I make errors."

"I have never called anyone a clown," MacIntyre said. "I have never said that anyone is stupid. I have said that some decisions have been ignorant."

"It's not comfortable talking about mental illness or a different ability," MacIntyre continued. "I have both. ... I'm also open about my gender and my sexuality and all those things have been used against me. I've been mocked, I've been ridiculed. The harassment and the hostile work environment -- I'm the one being subjected to it."

MacIntyre said that all three of her children had attended Flint's public schools in the past but none of them are FCS-enrolled at present. She pulled them from FCS when a dual enrollment partnership with the University of Michigan-Flint ended.

MacIntyre said her ability to speak

freely was currently limited by pending litigation. "The truth will prevail," she predicted.

Robert's Rules and disorder

The intricacies of the labyrinthine Robert's Rules of Order can be daunting. Nonetheless, a basic understanding of those rules can aid the orderly deliberations of a public panel.

In fact, FBOE policies mandate that meetings be governed, in part, by Robert's Rules; a copy of those rules is inserted in the board binder of every FBOE member.

Simple explanations of Robert's Rules can easily be found. One source is at an online website titled "Roberts Rules of Order (Simplified)."

Overuse of Robert's Rules during meetings may indicate orderliness or the lack thereof. The overuse of "points of order" may, in fact, indicate a lack of order. Points of order were invoked at least 131 times by FBOE members during the July 20 meeting.

A proper point of order permits a member to draw the chair's attention to a perceived procedural error or lack of decorum. It is not debatable or amendable, does not require a seconding motion, and is decided by the meeting's chairperson.

"Point of information" was uttered 72 times at the July 20 FBOE meeting for a total of, at least, 203 parliamentary points of interjection.

A point of information -- "a request for information", as explained by "Robert's Rules of Order Made Simple" -- is frequently misused by FBOE members. "A point of information does not give the speaker the privilege to provide information," according to the aforementioned document. "If you have information for the body, raise your hand to be put on the speaker's list."

Generally, points of parliamentary procedure at FBOE meetings often seem misused, intended to quiet another member. The tone(s) of voice used by some FBOE members is often derisive, angst-filled, and impatient.

(Continued on Page 13)

Education ...

(Continued from Page 12)

It is common for the presiding officer of the public panel to expeditiously dispatch parliamentary points and then move back to the business of the meeting/the orders of the day. The current FBOE president, McNeal, often seems lost in the parliamentary weeds as indicated by the volume of parliamentary interjections and the following:

- “You know where we are?”
- “I’m trying to get clarity.”
- “I can’t remember.”
- “You guys are getting a little confused here.”
- “Point of order ... We can’t use point of information just to go back and forth; it confuses the audience and even confuses me.”

On several occasions, other FBOE members and the FCS superintendent helped the president and the board return to the proper place on the agenda.

- Several vote counts were either unstated or misstated by the president.

Nearly in tears, McNeal explained that she experiences hearing and speech difficulties resulting from a vehicular accident. “It takes me time to hear; it takes me time to speak. ... I’m sitting here doing the best I can.”

It is not uncommon for a public panel to appoint an experienced parliamentarian to assist with the conduct of a meeting. The parliamentarian can be another voting member of that body, or not.

The next meeting of the FBOE is a Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on Aug. 10, 2022, starting at 6:30 p.m., at Accelerated Learning Academy, 1602 S. Averill Ave., Flint, MI 48503. Meetings can be attended virtually; check the FCS website to register. Recordings of FBOE meetings are available at YouTube.

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

AUGUST 2022 "MEET AND GREET" SERIES IN ALL 9 WARDS FLINT SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE SLATE

FREE FOOD AND WATER

Monday August 8th 5-7pm	Ward 1: Clara Hilborn Park
Tuesday August 9th 5-7pm	Ward 9: Windiate Park
Wednesday August 10th 5-7pm	Ward 3: Kearsley Park
Saturday August 13th 4-6pm	Ward 7: Court Street Village office
Tuesday August 16th 5-7pm	Ward 4: Longway Park
Monday August 22nd 5-7pm	Ward 2: Sarvis Park
Tuesday August 23rd 5-7pm	Ward 8: Sarginson Park
Wednesday August 24th 5-7pm	Ward 6: Ballenger Park
Monday, August 29th 5-7pm	Ward 5: Dort Park

YOUR SLATE OF CANDIDATES



DYLAN LUNA

CITY / COUNTY BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



EMILY DOERR

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



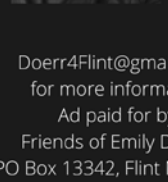
MELODY RELERFORD

COMMUNITY HEALTH
NAVIGATOR



TERAE KING JR.

MAJOR CORPORATION
STORE MANAGER



MICHAEL CLACK

FORMER EDUCATOR,
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THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE

A selection of events available to our readers is highlighted — beginning after our publication date of Aug. 2. It's a sampling of opportunities in the city. To submit events for our Sept. issue, email info about your event to pisenber@gmail.com by Aug. 26.

Flint Institute of Arts

Continuing through Aug. 28

“Being Human: Contemporary Art from the Rubell Museum.”

Admission is free for FIA members, Genesee County residents, children under 12 and all visitors on Saturdays. Regular admission is adults \$10, students and seniors \$8.

Free music at Late Night at the FIA lawn each Friday in August on the Palette Cafe patio, 5 to 8 p.m.

Flint Institute of Arts
1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint
810-234-1695 or visit flintarts.org for more info.

Second Friday ARTWALK

Fri., Aug. 9, 6 to 9 p.m.

Walk all over town browsing the many galleries, art on the street and in various businesses, and sample the delicious food available in downtown Flint.

For more info contact:
Greater Flint Arts Council
816 Saginaw St., Flint
call 810-238-2787 or visit greaterflintartscouncil.org

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB)

Thurs., Aug. 18, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The organization's focus is to share and promote the latest information that the community needs. Meetings held the third Thurs. of each month.

Flint Public Library
1026 E. Kearsley St., Flint
To join meetings via Zoom or for more info call 810-241-6124.

Back to the Bricks Main Event

Sat., Aug. 20

The legendary classic car show is again taking place in downtown Flint all day. For more info, including other events held that week, visit backtothebricks.org.

HAP Crim Festival of Races

Fri. and Sat., Aug. 26-27

The several 2022 race events kick off on Friday, Aug. 26 and races take place all over town.

For more info or to sign up, visit crim.org/races/.

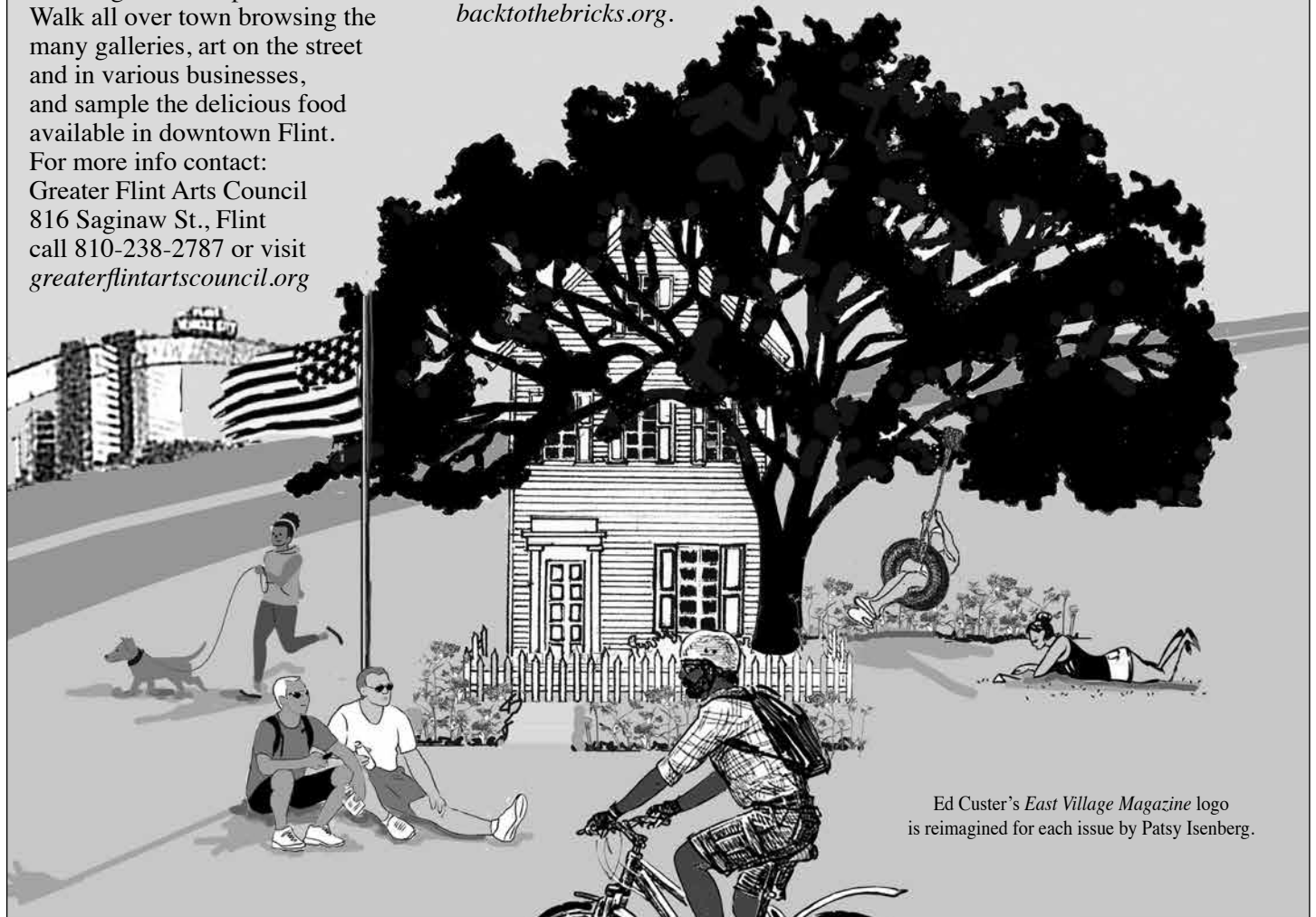
Blues on the Library Lawn

Sat., Aug. 27, 6 to 9 p.m.

Greg Ellis, Faye Bradford, Bleau McCray-Morel, and The Bobby Murray Band featuring Lenny Watkins, with special guest Tosha Owens will play.

This is a free event suitable for all ages. Bring chairs. For more info, call 810-232-7111.

Lapeer Public Library
1026 Kearsley St., Flint



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

Have you heard about the Flint Registry?

Nearly 20,000 of your neighbors are already signed up!



- **Be Connected.** The Registry is a resource for people who were impacted by the Flint Water Crisis.
- **Be Supported.** The Registry has made over 27,000 referrals to health and wellness services to reduce the impact of lead and to support children.
- **Be Counted.** Everyone's story is different and important. The more people enroll, the greater the chances of securing additional resources for our community.

Learn more or register at **flintregistry.org** or call **833-GO-FLINT**.



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EAST VILLAGE MAGAZINE

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Sign up to get notices of meetings at **ccnaflint@gmail.com**

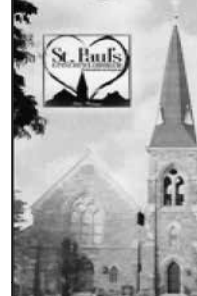
PLEASE JOIN US

Artwalk

August 12
6-8:30p

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acrylics

Matthew Benjkert
organ



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Unclassified Ad

Apartment for Lease

Two-bedroom second story apartment for lease on Avon near Kearsley St. Can be partially furnished. Has a large upper deck, off-street parking, washer, dryer, storage. Walk three blocks or less to U of M-Flint, MCC, Cultural Center, library, downtown, Farmers' Market, three parks, and bike paths. Easy freeway access. References and credit check requested. \$650 per month plus utilities.

E-mail ecuster@sbcglobal.net or write:

Apartment
Box.11
720 E. Second St.
Flint MI 48503.

Village Life

At 74, he's run marathons in all 50 states and on the Great Wall

By Tom Travis

From the Great Wall of China to all 50 of the United States, Ortonville resident Jay Cummings, 74, experiences life 26 miles at a time -- again and again. A retired United Church of Christ minister, he's a devoted marathon runner who finds the discipline of his chosen sport to be good for his body and spirit -- and he has no plans to quit.

The Great Wall marathon cost \$500 to register. The marathon organizers suggested the runners train on steps as most of the Great Wall is made up of steps. Jay found an eight-story building in Jackson, where he lived at the time, and ran the steps inside the building to train. According to Jay, the course along the Great Wall would take runners on portions of the Great Wall then into a nearby village then back on the Great Wall.

It's a mental, as well as a physical experience, he says.

"My mind goes in all kinds of directions. I enjoy the scenery running on country roads and trails of a county park...observing some sand cranes, a couple of deer, a rabbit and other people running and walking. A couple pushing their baby in a carriage, dogs running and beautiful flowers," Cummings says.

The marathon race has become popular in the 20th century and was first created for the 1896 Athens Olympics. The Ancient Olympics nev-

partner. He said he used to run with a friend but she was diagnosed with cancer several years ago and was unable to continue running. Jay's wife Leslie, supports Jay from the sidelines. Sometimes a daughter and grandson will, on occasion, join in a race with their dad/grandpa.

Cummings describes a calculated and statistical process to his training and actual running of a race. "I check my pace from time to time as I run. Because I am working on maintaining my projected marathon pace for 10 of the miles. I focus on my breathing, staying relaxed and my form. I take my pulse first thing in the morning. I weigh myself (if possible). I drink a glass of water, take a multipurpose vitamin, magnesium and eat a banana." When I finish a run, I take my pulse, wait ten minutes then take my pulse again. If it has dropped back to less than 100 I can feel good about my workout. If it is above 100 at that point I consider that I worked too hard.

"Then there are just ideas that pop into my mind. About plans

for the day and week ahead, the trip we will soon have with our grandchildren, the new book we are reading for the book study group at church.

(Continued on Page 9)



Marathon runner, Jay Cummings, approaching the finish-line of his 50th U.S. marathon

(Photo submitted by Jay Cummings)

er included long distance running. The length of the marathon run has been standardized to be 26.2 miles.

Cummings says he chooses to run by himself with no running