

East Village

Magazine

September 2017



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East Village Magazine

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Commentary

Privatizing “public” services: trustworthy choice for a battered city?

By Paul Rozycki

During a recent East Village Crime Watch meeting a major issue was the possibility of hiring D.M. Burr to provide private security for our neighborhood, in addition to the Flint Police Department, Mott Community College, and the East Village Neighborhood Watch. As Kim Owens reported in her *EVM* article, the company gave a presentation on the nature of their services at the meeting. Signing up with D.M. Burr may or may not be a good idea, but the mere suggestion that we should hire a private police force underscores a debate that has infused state and

local (and national) government for the last 30 years or more.

The idea that some traditional governmental services should be delivered by private, for-profit organizations had its most recent growth in the early Reagan administration, though there are examples in earlier American history and others that go back to medieval and ancient times. The debate over what government should do and shouldn't do is as old as government itself, and the choices can be as complex as any modern government. The box below summarizes some elements of that debate:

Advantages of privatization:

In general, the strongest advocates for privatizing government services have come from the conservative side who feel that the “government that governs best is the government that governs least.” Those who favor having private companies provide traditional government services offer several arguments to support their claims.

- 1) *Lower costs and lower taxes:* Privatizing public service allows market competition to lower the costs as it would in the traditional free market business world, giving taxpayers more for their money. This is particularly appealing in a time when state and local governments are hard pressed to raise enough revenue to provide the most basic services.
- 2) *Greater efficiency:* Some argue that private organizations can react more quickly to meet changing conditions and can be more flexible than a large government bureaucracy.
- 3) *Lack of political influence:* Where there is a tradition of political corruption and influence, bringing in a non-political outside firm can be a way of avoiding bribery and corruption.
- 4) *Specialized skills:* In cases where specialized skills are needed, contracting with a private company may be the only way a government can have access to specialized skills and technologies.

Disadvantages of privatization:

Those who oppose having non-governmental organizations take over traditional activities also offer reasons why governments should avoid privatization and why existing government organizations are better suited to provide basic services to its citizens.

- 1) *Decline in the quality of services:* Since the private corporation is geared to make a profit for its stockholders it's likely that the quality of service will decline. Unlike the products of a corporation, government programs can't always be measured on a profit and loss chart.
- 2) *Distortion of services:* Some government services are not designed to be profit-making and doing so will distort those services. A common example is the increased use of private companies to run prisons and jails. They make more money if the cells are full. A criminal justice system should be concerned with justice, not filling as many jail cells as possible.
- 3) *Corruption:* Corruption is just as possible in a privatized system, when well-connected politicians can direct contracts to their friends and supporters.
- 4) *Breaking public unions:* Very often the major saving that arise from privatizing comes from moving employees out of unions (and union wages) to lower wages.

To be sure, the devil is in the details. Well written and well-enforced contracts for some services can be an advantage to the public and taxpayers. And in many cases privatization has worked out well, but all too often shifting government duties to the private sector saved little money, delivered poor services, and hurt the

very people they were supposed to help.

In Flint, recent events can offer support for both sides of the argument. On one hand, the Rizzo/Republic trash conflict and the scandal surrounding it certainly raises doubts about the wisdom of privati-

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Cover: “Birds in Flight” by sculptor Berthold “Tex” Schiwetz, at the Flint Institute of Arts



Photo of the Month: bikers on the bricks

Photograph by Edwin D. Custer

Lear Corp. bringing up to 500 jobs to former Buick site

By Dylan Doherty

Prospects for a Lear Corporation automotive seat assembly plant expected to bring 450 to 500 jobs to Flint moved one step closer to implementation Aug. 22 when the Flint Planning Commission approved the site plan for the facility.

The plant will be built where the Buick administrative building in Buick City once stood. It will be approximately 156,000 square feet, according to Doug Daugherty, vice president of global facilities and real estate for Lear.

The closure of most of the 390-acre Buick City site in 1999 created one of the largest brownfields in the state. As summarized in a recent article in *The Detroit News*, in its heyday the huge complex employed nearly 30,000 and was the manufacturing home of the Buick Regal and LeSabre. Its bright lights were one of the first things travelers saw when coming into Flint from the north on I-475.

The Lear plant might bring back a little of that former industrial energy, with the facility expected to operate seven days a week with three shifts of 170-240 employees a day.

Lear is a Michigan-based international manufacturer of automotive seating and electrical distribution systems, with more than 200 manufacturing facilities worldwide and global sales of \$16 billion as of 2013, according to its 2014 filing with the

Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Buick City location was selected from a list of 30 potential locations, Daugherty said, adding it will be the first manufacturing facility constructed by Lear in Michigan in 16 years.

Out of 17 buildings currently being planned for construction by Lear around the world, Daugherty said the Flint plant is the only one being built in the United States. The developer for the site is E & L Construction Group of Flint.

Daugherty said Lear wants the plant to be open for moving equipment in and constructing prototype parts by March 2018.

According to Daugherty, the plant will be a “clean process building” — that is, it will not output gases, waters, or waste. It “looks more like a laboratory,” Daugherty said, and will not include welding or plastics.

Kevin Schronce, lead planner for the city of Flint, said the plant is zoned for light manufacturing use, and that Lear has committed to “the footprint, the use, the position, and the size (of the plant) on site.” Schronce added that the landscaping which Lear has committed to for the site goes “above and beyond” city of Flint ordinances.

After discussion, The Planning Commission approved the Flint site plan, conditional on

administrative review, on a 7-0 vote with Commissioner Leora Campbell absent.

The seat assembly plant and parking lot will be located on the southwest and southeast corner of E. Hamilton and Industrial avenues.

The front of the building will face East Hamilton. The primary parking lot for workers and management will be east of the plant across Industrial, with a 23-space parking area in front for vendors, customers, and guests. To ensure safety of workers and management crossing Industrial to enter the facility, Lear, in cooperation with the city of Flint, will build a crosswalk connecting the primary parking area with the plant site.

Renderings of the exterior and interior Lear provided to the Flint Planning Commission are in early stages and are not the “final product,” Daugherty said. The site will use approximately 24 trucks in total.

Commissioner Elizabeth Jordan asked if Lear or the city of Flint would bear the costs of future street improvements mentioned by Daugherty, including a proposed right turn lane at the intersection of North Street and E Hamilton Avenue. Daugherty said that all on-site costs will be borne by Lear, but that the proposed improvements will not be in place by March. He added, “Our mission is to build, hire, and open” by March, 2018.

(Continued on Page 5.)

... Jobs

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Commissioner Robert Jewell continued Jordan's line of questioning, pointing out that the proposed street improvements are not on-site, but off-site costs. Jewell asked if these off-site costs will be borne by the city of Flint or Lear. Daugherty said that he "anticipates" that Lear will cover those costs, but admitted that there is currently no money in Lear's budget for this site for off-site street improvements.

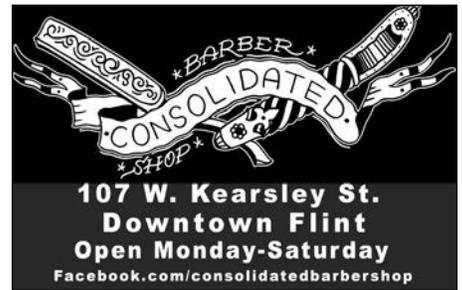
Daugherty said any changes will be improvements and if necessary the plan before the Planning Commission could be the final plan. Daugherty added Lear had to bid twice for this project and the site plan needs to be reviewed and approved

as soon as possible to stay on schedule to open the facility in March.

Commissioner Harry Ryan said that if there were any future changes to the site plan, Lear would have to come before the Flint Planning Commission again and have the changes reviewed. Planning Commission Chairman Robert Wesley agreed, saying that Lear "can file another plan," for "any future plans that might come forward."

According to Reuters and *The New York Times*, Lear briefly filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2009 but emerged out of bankruptcy four months later.

EVM staff writer *Dylan Doherty* can be reached at dohertydylanc@gmail.com. EVM editor *Jan Worth-Nelson* contributed to this report.



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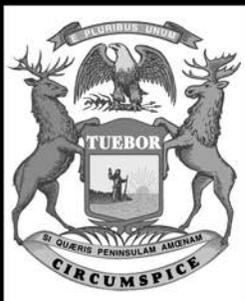
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A Flint gem: The colorful life of Roberta “Bobbi” Wray

By Teddy Robertson

Wingwalker, actor, musician, music lover, pilot, lawyer, magistrate, neighborhood activist and pioneering broadcaster in Flint’s glory days: those are some of the words that describe the colorful life of Roberta “Bobbi” Wray, 77.

At her Mott Park dining room table strewn with current projects, Wray, the first woman TV broadcaster hired in the state of Michigan, describes how her life evolved through a series of dares and dreams.

Her history with the city intertwines richly with its many changes and challenges, and even today, her writing and activism correspond to issues with roots in her early years and throughout the decades.

Wray says one passion started it all: theater. “I always loved show biz,” she says.

Going through piles of old photos and newsprint, we mull her 29-year news career in radio and TV. Our friendship dates to 1986 when we met in a history class I was teaching at UM-Flint. She was finishing her BA and, as I learned later, headed for law school.

There are many milestones to cover.

“Show biz” started it all

“I caught the theater bug early from movie musicals that came to the Rialto in Grayling and the Strand in Roscommon. After I saw a movie about the life of Chopin, “A Song to Remember,” sometime in the 1940’s, my cousin and I spent hours making up plays about classical musicians and presenting them to our families in grandma’s front room,” Wray recalls. Christmas and Easter pageants at church, playing the piano, or dancing in tap and ballet recitals — Wray smiles and says, “I was always on!”

In 1942, Wray’s family moved from Crawford County to Flint where her father went to work in the war production at AC Spark Plug. Four different cities were “home” until finally Wray’s parents bought a house on Ohio Avenue, three blocks from her dad’s job at AC. Her brother walked to Washington School and Wray caught the bus to ride the mile or so to Whittier, and then Central High School.

At Whittier Wray played trombone in band and orchestra. She joined the school camera club, too. Later in life, she was mentored by local professional photographers Barry Edmonds and Joe Kalush. On a camera club field trip to WTAC radio, popular disc jockey “Sleepyhead” Ted Johnson quipped that her last name (Funsch) sounded like “a mouth full

of peanut brittle.” Wray vowed to change her surname for show biz. And she did.

At Central High, Wray joined the drama, stagecraft, and Shakespeare clubs and pursued her other passion, American history and politics, by serving in a model U.S. Senate.



Bobbi Wray with Teddy Robertson

Young musicians at Central bonded at Band Camp held at Pero Lake in Lapeer County. “We learned to play and march at the same time, and drilled for half time shows, all day every day. I still have lunch every month with band mates from those days — Grant Hamady (Class of ‘56) was a drummer, Pat Graff (Class of ‘58) played xylophone.” Wray was rank leader for the trombone section her junior and senior years.

Wray’s theatre break came in 1959. The *Flint Journal* published a call for apprentices at a summer stock company called the Musical Tent. Set up on North Saginaw Road near the Dort Highway/Vienna Road split, the Musical Tent was the real thing: an Actors’ Equity company.

The season that year opened with “Can-Can” starring French singer from the Jack Paar show, “Genevieve.” Other shows followed: “Li’l Abner,” “Damn Yankees,” “Show Boat” with Andy Devine, and “Silk Stockings” with Don Ameche.

Acting, music, building sets — Wray did it all and loved it all.

Bill Lamb’s downtown record store

When money troubles cut short the 1959 Musical Tent season, Wray got her first full-time job selling records at the Bill Lamb Record Shoppe, located at First Street and Brush Alley, across from the Mott Foundation Building. In 1960, the Record Shoppe was a mecca for media people. Wray reels off the names — “Jerry Schroeder, general manager at WKMF, a station for big band music and local news, and

Jim Melton a WKMF disc jockey. People from WBBC (where Bill Lamb worked at the time) and WFDF came into the shop, too.” Wray met news stringers Jim Rush and Doug Smith, freelancers who provided news stories on a contract basis for WJIM-TV.

“They couldn’t always get to stories, so when they found out that I was a photographer, they let me help them. Since I worked days, I was available nights to cover news,” she recalls.

In 1961 Wray became WKMF’s traffic clerk, typing program logs — the schedule of commercials, public service announcements and program times that guides announcers. “I compiled a daily news letter with headlines of local and national news, a sports summary and a weather note distributed to various restaurants and drug stores in the morning, as well as information for the night disc jockeys for their news inserts. I didn’t start writing the copy right away, but I attended city council meetings regularly and went to accident scenes and gathered information for Jim Rush and Doug Smith.

Undeterred by danger

She worked part-time as a stringer and landed one of her first film assignments: covering President Kennedy’s 1962 mid-term campaign in Michigan for Channel 6, WJIM. Later that November she was an election night correspondent for NBC. In 1967, undeterred by danger, she covered the threat of spillover in Flint from the July Detroit riots. After seven-plus years in radio and TV, Wray became a full-time reporter/photographer for WNEM TV 5 News in 1968 — the first female reporter/photographer doing a regular news beat in the state. She was hired the same year was Hugh Semple, the first African American reporter statewide in Michigan.

Wray and Semple became partners, taking turns behind the camera and reporting. Sifting through a stack of professional photos, she finds what she’s looking for — two great smiles with bulky camera equipment. Colleagues called the pair “the Dynamic Duo.” Wray wryly comments, “and when we got to an incident scene, people didn’t know who to talk to — the black man or the woman. They weren’t sure who was in charge.”

“TV 5 was a very exciting job, different every day. I covered all kinds of stories — accidents, fires, council meetings, board of

(Continued on Page 7.)

... Wray

(Continued from Page 6.)

education, state government ... I visited the Police Department, Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police Post, and listened to police monitors. The worst stories involved the death or serious injury of children. I really liked every aspect of the job — getting the story first and right was very satisfying. I always strove for accuracy.”

Interviews with famous people

Wray did interviews too: astronaut James Irwin, candidate Jimmy Carter, scientists Carl Sagan and Werner von Braun, and David and Julie Eisenhower.

The most dramatic change during her TV news years, Wray said, was the increasing number of women in the news end of broadcasting in the early 70s, perhaps because they started accessing the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) established in 1965.

“I wasn't even aware of the EEOC when I was trying to get hired full-time at TV 5 back in the 60's,” she said. The station owner wouldn't allow the news director to hire me — no women in the production areas of the station with all those men. Somehow it was okay if I worked as a stringer and was in those very production areas all the time,” she adds tartly. “Not until the station was bought by Meredith Corporation in 1968 was I officially hired full-time.”

And then there was equipment, the tools of a camera pro. “When I started we used 16mm Bell and Howell hand-held cameras, the spring-driven kind used by combat photographers in World War II. We shot black and white film that came in 100 ft. rolls.

“A news conference meant sound-on-film camera that weighed about twenty pounds and had a separate sound box with lots of wires to the camera and the microphone, plus a heavy tripod,” she says. “In the early '70s the film gear got motorized and more portable. Then electronic news gathering came on the scene and the gear got heavy and cumbersome again.”

On a dare, she wing walks

In the late 1970s, Wray took up another passion: flying. Hooked as a kid after a Piper Cub plane ride at Lost Creek Sky Ranch, she resolved that “when I could finally afford flying lessons, I would learn to fly. After I earned my license in 1977 the guys at the flight school told me I could earn flight time by teaching ground school, so I continued studying and got

my ground instructor's permit.”

Wray volunteered with the air show publicity staff and got to fly with the Blue Angels at Bishop Airport before an air show. “We did loops, rolls, inverted flight and a high speed run up the shore of Saginaw Bay before executing a ‘carrier landing’ maneuver back at Bishop.



Wray with members of the Experimental Aircraft Association and a B-29 bomber flown into Bishop Airport. At left, Howard Warren; with hood, Ernie Harbin; at right, Jerry Zerbe.

On a dare from her TV-5 partner Hugh Semple, Wray did a wing walk with aerobic stunt pilot, Joe C. Hughes, on his Super Stearman biplane. “We were belted to a stanchion on the wing and our feet were in footpads. Centrifugal force kept us in place.” Was she afraid? “Well, yes,” and her eyes light up, “but it was fantastic.”

But even with an established career and an exhilarating hobby like flying, Wray decided she wanted more and left broadcasting.

To explain it, she cites drastic changes in the 1980s when “Reaganomics and deregulation were affecting many areas, including the broadcasting industry. Broadcasting ‘in the public interest’ became a thing continued by only the old-time ethical owners,” she explains.

“Even they had to start paying attention to the ‘bottom line’ and the expense to present real news and important information,” she says. “It bothered me that news was becoming more aimed at exploiting emotions than providing important developments in local government. More emphasis went to ratings and less to the original concept of news programming as broadcasting in the public interest.”

The dumbing-down was just too much. Wray recalls a news director who once said, “I'd rather see pictures of ducks on a pond than a talking head!”

“It didn't matter that the talking head was saying something important that affected people's lives,” she laments.

On to UM-Flint, law school, court

After years of sporadically taking college classes — sometimes while working three jobs — Wray decided to get serious about

her undergraduate degree at UM-Flint.

“My love was history, so I went for it, taking a whole bunch of history, philosophy and sociology classes, until I graduated in 1990 and left broadcasting,” she says.

Her next step, law school, seemed natural, she says, because “the law offered a way to get to help people in a more direct, hands-on fashion. I approached it as a continuation of my history degree — law is really just the study of legal history.”

After passing the bar exam, Wray worked as associate attorney with David Nickola, handling divorce cases and appointed criminal defense. “The divorce cases drove me crazy,” Wray says. “When the magistrate in Mt. Morris division of 67th District Court resigned, I took the job and served as a magistrate for eleven years.”

Still following the law, neighborhood

Atop the tallest pile on the table rests James Madison's Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787. The book is flagged with notes. Wray is at work on an article for the Genesee County Bar Association's bi-monthly newsletter, “Bar Beat.” She worries about the rumored presidential pardon for Sheriff Joe Arpaio and the consequences for law in our republic.

We are both retirees now, neighbors in Mott Park, where Wray is an ardent supporter of the Mott Park Blight Squad. So I ask how she feels about Flint, its stresses and signs of hope. With the detail of a journalist and measure of a lawyer, Wray reflects,

“I've lived in Flint most of my life. I've watched it grow to nearly 200,000 with almost the highest per capita income in the country, I've watched it fall apart through no fault of the people who live here, but because jobs left and the tax base left. I love the people of Flint who have not given up and are still working hard to reinvent us. The closing of factories has had the benefit of cleaning up the air and keeping snow white for more than two days. The diversification of the economic base through expanded educational and medical facilities and the business incubators gives me hope for the future.”

EVM columnist Teddy Robertson can be reached at teddyrob@umflint.edu.

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“Property Portal” opens up city info

By Dylan Doherty

Flint residents have a new way to find and report information about properties in the city, from ownership to demolition status to building conditions, thanks to a new website that went live Aug. 21.

The Flint Property Portal, (flintpropertyportal.com) enables users to search for property information, submit property and maintenance updates, and view an interactive map of Flint. It was developed by The Genesee County Land Bank Authority and the City of Flint, who also operate it.

Users can search properties on the website by parcel number or address and learn their parcel numbers, owners, occupancy status, building condition, and zoning designation. They also can find out about community property maintenance, Land Bank buildings for sale, and which properties are publicly owned.

Residents also can report property conditions and send a message to the Land Bank and city of Flint about mowing the grass, removing trash, or boarding open windows.

The impetus for creating the Flint Property Portal came from Flint residents themselves who wanted more transparency, according to Kevin Schronce, lead planner for the city of Flint.

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... Privatization

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zation. Yet, on the other hand, Flint’s water crisis was triggered by governmental employees, and some of those who played the biggest role in exposing it were outside of the traditional governmental organizations that deal with water.

What services should be privatized?

The list of governmental activities that have been turned over to private corporations or businesses is long and complex. Some activities are rarely a government function, such as light and power companies. (Though Holland Michigan is considering developing a city sponsored broadband service.) Others are more diverse, where sometimes they are governmentally run, other times not, such as garbage collection.

Recently, with the growth of charter schools, many private companies have entered the K-12 education field. Many specialized services have been privatized in schools; buses, school lunches, medical testing, janitorial services, and sometimes substitute teaching. Some state and local governments have privatized highways and parking meters. Some cities have privatized the operation and maintenance of their parks. New York’s Central Park is one example. Some states have privatized public airports, animal shelters, lotteries, parking garages, emergency call centers, and child welfare programs.

The list is long and complex and there are many private/public partnerships that combine both government and private interests. On the national level many non-combat functions in the military have been privatized, such as supplying food, transportation, and embassy security. Recently, there was a proposal to have a private army take over the fighting in Afghanistan. So far, that idea seems to have been discarded.

On the state and local level, certainly one of the most troubling privatization areas has been in the area of criminal justice. Michigan has had several major scandals with private companies providing food in prisons, leading to a series of lawsuits.

When it comes to police protection, privatization raised particular concerns. Only fully authorized police officers have the full power to arrest citizens. (There is a limited power where a “citizen’s arrest” can take place, typically only when a major crime takes place in the presence of the person making the arrest. There are also significant legal risks for a citizen in those circumstances.)

Should East Court/East Village hire private security?

We all know that private police or security personnel are used in many circumstances. Shopping malls have their own “mall cops” as do some stores, schools, and factories. But as discussed in the recent College Cultural Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting (see Kim Owen’s EMV article for more detail) should the East Court/East Village neighborhood consider hiring D.M. Burr to provide additional security for us? Their service would cost about \$500 a year for each home that chose to participate. As the number of participants increased the hours of protection provided would increase. But D.M. Burr is not a police agency and does not have the power to arrest that a police officer does. Only the limited “citizen’s arrest.” Currently, the Woodcroft neighborhood in the Miller Road area uses Burr for added security and they have seen a decrease in crime.

As the issue is discussed there are several questions we need to answer for ourselves:

- 1) Will the services be worth an extra \$500 per house, when we have the city police, Mott police and our Crime Watch?
- 2) Would the hours that Burr patrolled be enough to make a difference?
- 3) Would that same amount of money (in taxes) be better spent to hire more Flint officers?
- 4) Would Mott Community College be willing to increase their patrols with a similar amount of money?
- 5) Are the Woodcroft residents satisfied with the service they have received? Could we expect the same kind of service?
- 6) Would enough of us sign up to make it worthwhile?

The proposed contract with D.M. Burr is available for examination. It’s a six-page document that lays out the responsibilities of the company, the costs to residents, and the nature of the security protection it offers the College and Cultural Neighborhood. We should examine it both in terms of what it includes and what it doesn’t. It’s an important decision for our neighborhood and deserves a critical review.

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

MUSIC at St. Paul’s

Artistic Director G. Donald Kaye Presents
FINAL SEASON



XIAO WANG
Violin
(Byrd Competition: First Prize 2017)



Hyekung Sia Lee
Piano

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017
3:30 PM

BRENDA PORTMAN
Organ

“A favorite returns!”



Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017
3:30 PM

South Saginaw at Third Street
\$10 Friends of Music, \$5 Students
(810) 569 - 1545

COLLEGE CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
www.ccnafint.org

Members meet Thurs., Sept. 21, 2017
7-9 pm in MCC’s RTC Auditorium

Neighborhood Watch meets Thurs., Oct. 19, 7-9 pm, in MCC’s RTC 1301

THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE

"This Month" highlights a selection of interesting events available to our readers — beginning after our publication date of Sept. 7. It is not an exhaustive list, rather a sampling of opportunities in the city.

"The Lovers"

Rom-com about a couple sparking something new in their long relationship. First film in the Friends of Modern Art film series.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Friday, Sept. 8 and Saturday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, 2 p.m.	Film Admission: \$4-\$6	Flint Institute of Art, 1120 E. Kearsley St.

Tendaji Talks: Immigration and the Undocumented

Sponsor: Flint's Neighborhoods Without Borders. Talks help Flint community understand local issues and impact of racism.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Tuesday, Sept. 12, 6 p.m.	Talk - Admission: FREE	Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St.

CHEA Adult Skill Center — Open House

For relocation of the skill center. Provides private tutoring services to ages 25+ in basic math, ESL courses, and GED prep.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Thursday, Sept. 14, 5-7 p.m.	Open House: Admission: FREE	Center for Higher Educational Achievement 1920 Maryland Ave.

Michigan Adaptive Golf Pro Am Scramble

18-hole, 3 par format scramble. Teams of four must have one golfer that has a disability. Call 342-5560 for more information.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Friday, Sept. 15, 8 a.m.	Golf: Pre-registration fee of \$45 required by Sept. 4. Fee includes golf w cart and hot dog.	Swartz Creek Golf Course, 190 Hammerberg Rd.

Kidney Cancer Support Group of Michigan — Call 810-762-8226 for more information.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Wednesday, Sept. 20, 1 p.m.	Support Group: Admission FREE	Genesys Hurley Cancer Institute, 302 Kensington Ave.

"Dawson City: Frozen Time"

Part of a new film series about film history, this documentary is about a collection of silent films found in the Yukon territory.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Thursday, Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, 4 p.m.	Film Admission: \$4-\$6	Flint Institute of Arts 1120 E. Kearsley St.

Ennis Center for Children's Fifth Annual Bowling Fundraiser

Food & fun night to benefit children in foster care system. Tickets include 2 games of glow bowling, shoe rental, one pizza, & 1 pitcher of pop per lane. Plus door prize drawings! Call or email Lydia Seale at 810-396-1415 or lydia.seale@enniscenter.org for more info.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Friday, Sept. 22, 6 p.m.	Fundraiser—\$20 per person	B's Bowling Center, 750 S. Center Rd.

Flip FabriQue: Catch Me

An acrobatics show that incorporates humor. Sure to be a unique event. Call 237-7333 for more information.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Tuesday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.	Performance: Admission: \$25 - \$35	The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Donate blood. Call 810-513-0224 for more information.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Thursday, Sept. 28, Noon	Blood Drive	Lamb of God Lutheran Church, 2051 W. Maple Ave.

Jazznite: Enjoy a night of jazz performed by Pat Cronley and friends.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Thursday, Sept. 28, 5 p.m.	JAZZ — Admission: FREE	The White Horse Tavern, 621 W. Court St.

"A Quiet Passion"

Part of the Friends of Modern Art film series, this drama follows the childhood of Emily Dickinson.

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
Friday, Sept. 29 & Saturday Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.	Film: Admission \$4-\$6	Flint Institute of Art, 1120 E. Kearsley St.

**Community Outreach and
Resident Education**

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- ✓ Nutrition Information
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**“Helping heal my community.”
Hired Flint Resident**

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Volunteer Distributors Wanted

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

Support community journalism!
Donations to EVM are tax deductible.
Go to eastvillagemagazine.org for easy giving.

Pipes replaced so far in Flint: 3,505

Source: August 28 press release from Kristin Moore, public relations director, City of Flint

Lead-tainted service lines at 2,606 homes have been replaced so far in Phase 4 of the city’s FAST Start program, which aims to replace pipes at 6,000 homes in 2017. That brings the total of residential pipe replacements so far to 3,505, with numbers changing every day.

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

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

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

Unclassified ads

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

Village Life: *Flint moves beyond ghosts as autumn whispers in*

By Jan Worth-Nelson

It's a lovely cool morning, clear and fresh, reminding me of why it's good to be in the Midwest. It feels like the first day of fall, the light turning slightly mellow, even though it's only the first of September, and I'm up early going next door where new tenants are moving in today to what was our first home on Maxine.

The empty house looks beautiful to my sleepy eyes, a classic Flint colonial with warm wood floors, big square windows, a black and white kitchen, a built in niche here and there and an attic trap door with a rickety sliding ladder that could whack you dead if

you don't watch out. In the upstairs bathroom, aquamarine Flint faience tile remains, in the bathroom and walk-in shower where I had some of the best showers of my life. Some were with my husband — there was room for both of us in late middle-aged affection, soaping down the other's familiar and beloved body. Some were in moments of exhaustion, including one when I decided, the water pelting away tears, that it was time to retire. Some just delivered everyday pleasure, hot water reliable and soothing, simply a

dreams, whatever frustrations and obstacles, says things like "Flint makes you tough." Or "we are resilient." Or, repeatedly, "it's the people here who make this place."

I've never been a person of answers. Singed by people who thought doubt was a sin, I've always avoided those who are sure of themselves. But we need them. Some people are working at answers, people wrestling with progress in the 12th floor of the Mott building and in the embattled chambers of city hall and in the renovated Dryden Building and under St. Paul's ochre domes.

The rest of us, less sure but finding ourselves in the world we're in day after day, also are trying to help however we can, believing in the Golden Rule and trying to be good people. Trying to do our part. This is a town where lots of people do their part. We're too ornery not to keep moving on, the "how" always evolving

Mother Earth helps. Need I mention that the sun comes up and the moon shimmers behind the silver maples and the leaves are starting to turn and I saw a V of geese flying south already?

And how about that eclipse Grayce Scholt captures in her poem on this page? At Longway Planetarium, a couple of hundred people, parents and children, put on our funny glasses and let ourselves be awed and ate ice cream bars in the odd dusk-like shade together. We took pictures of each other and forgot about our troubles. Did you see that? All the pictures of people looking up? In the videos, there was a steady stream of wonder. I loved all the "Wow!" and "Oh my god!" and "It's happening!" All we had to do was be there and watch.

I know, I know, just watching isn't enough. But it's something to be good at: paying attention, after all, is a serious calling.

In the meantime, moving on and moving in is happening right next door. A whole crew of Flint fixers we love have helped us scrub floors and wash windows and change light bulbs and add fresh paint and dig out and repair a flummoxing ruined old drain. The new tenants are carting in their stuff right now and they're young and hopeful and have a rescue dog named Oscar.

And that old house gleams and, dare I say it, gives off some mighty good karma. It's not all ghosts around here as autumn whispers in.

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

ECLIPSE (For Nancy) By Grayce Scholt

**They thought a serpent or a dog
or a whole pack of wolves were
gobbling up the sun, but what
did ancients know? Today we have
the truth of things, that such
phenomena are there for us
to measure, see though pin holes
in a box, solar glasses, shades
that shield us from the blind.**

**So when the moon blacked out the sun
were you among the millions who
looked skyward, oohing, aahing
at the sight?**

**I watched just long enough to see
the eerie shadows on my neighbor's
fence, but not to hear the silence
of the birds.**

**I'd already seen on CNN
our darkened sun sore bitten,
ripped apart by hounds of hell,**

**I had already heard the dragon's mouth
chomp, chomp away the light,
the light.**

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



Chambered nautilus on the sidewalk

moment to savor being alive.

That was before the water crisis, when showers turned into danger, suspicion, anger, fear. Thinking about that now, I let a surge of wrath wash over me. And a question that always bothers me pounds at me again: how does a person move on? How does a community battered by trouble move on? It's not like this is a new question — It's THE Flint conundrum, the reality of Flint that continually makes us both a cautionary tale and also — Lordy, could we really pull this off? — a template of recovery.

We are a town of grief and guilt and tedious corruption and betrayal — a town with many ghosts in the brownfields. My husband says the cleared lots of the East Side, where green grass blankets the chewed-up debris, are not gardens: they're tombstones. On Dupont Street they paint fake windows and doors on abandoned houses to trick the scappers. We get by.

We are also a town of stubbornness and surprises. This is a town that has hatched risk takers and pioneers, and, as the water crisis demonstrated, tenacious resistance to injustice.

I've been interviewing people lately for Dan White's "Flint Folks" photo project, and it comes out again and again: everybody, from whatever walk of life, whatever hopes and