

East Village

Magazine

April 2018



*Photograph by
Edwin D. Custer*

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



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.

RE/MAX
Real Estate Team
Independently Owned and Operated

FREE Home Warranty

*Flint's Resident
Realtor — The Name
Trusted in More
Neighborhoods*

(810) 234-1234



Ryan Eashoo



T
O
T
E
M
B
O
O
K
S

Books
Music
Cafe

STOP

Tu-Th: 10am-6pm
 Fr-Sa: 10am-7pm
 Su-Mo: Closed

Ph.: 810-407-6402
 620 W. Court St. Downtown Flint

VIETNAMESE CUISINE

Located inside the Flint Farmers' Market

BATTISTE'S

TEMPLE DINING ROOM

PUBLIC WELCOME

Serving Downtown Flint since 1947

Luncheon Monday-Friday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

All Occasion Catering

235-7760

Willow's Garden
JUICE BAR

FLINT FARMERS' MARKET

Open:
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

~ wine ~
craft beer
& more...

at the Flint
Farmers' Market

Healthy Home
Cooking!

810-235-1968
Flint Farmers' Market

MUSIC at St. Paul's

Artistic Director G. Donald Kaye Presents
FINAL SEASON



JEFFREY WALKER

Harpsichord
Renaissance and
Baroque

Sunday, Apr. 29, 2018
3:30 PM

BARON FENWICK

Piano

Byrd First Prize 2015
"Born to dazzle!"



Sunday, Jun. 3, 2018
3:30 PM

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

Best Margaritas!
Full Service Bar

SORIANO'S

Mexican Kitchen

• Carry-Out available • Family business since 1999
 PH: 810-339-6975 - 836 S. Saginaw St.
 web: sorianosmexicankitchen.com

107 W. Kearsley St.
Downtown Flint
Open Monday-Saturday

Facebook.com/consolidatedbarbershop

Support community journalism!
For tax deductible easy giving, go to:
eastvillagemagazine.org



East Village Magazine

Vol. LVI No. 4 April 2018

Founder **Gary P. Custer**

Editor **Jan Worth-Nelson**
 Managing Editor **Meghan Christian**
 Editor-at-Large **Ted Nelson**
 Copy Editor **Danielle Ward**
 Reporters **Jeffery L. Carey**
Dylan Doherty
Harold C. Ford
Patsy Isenberg
 Columnists **Jan Worth-Nelson**
Teddy Robertson
Paul Rozycki
 Business Manager **Casey Custer**
 Photographer **Edwin D. Custer**
 Poet **Grayce Scholt**

Distribution Staff

Director: Edwin D. Custer. **Staff:** Kim Bargo, Jane Bingham, Helen & Jacob Blumner, Connor Coyne & Ruby Coyne, Casey Custer, Marabeth Foreman, Andrea Garrett, Charlie & Linda & Patrick & Terrance & Christan & Jillianne Goldsberry, Ingrid Halling & Bob Thomas, Robert Jewell, Andrew Keast, Carol Larzelere Kellermann, Stephen Kellermann, Jo Larzelere, Bill & Carol Leix, James & Lillian & Livia Londrigan, Mary LeRoy, Alan & Julie Lynch, Aron McCormick, Ron & Mary Meeker, Robert & Nancy Meszko, Mary & Jeff Mintline, John Moliassa, Ted Nelson, Edith & John Pendell, Dave & Becky Pettengill, Lucia Rodriques, Julian Rodriquez, Mike Spleet, and Karen Wilkinson.

Board of Trustees

- Jane M. Bingham • FaLessia Booker
- Edwin D. Custer • Jack D. Minore
- Paul Rozycki • Robert R. Thomas
- Jan Worth-Nelson, ex officio

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

Website: eastvillagemagazine.org
 E-mail: eastvillage@sbcglobal.net

Layout by Ted Nelson. Printing by Riegle 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.

© 2018 East Village Magazine

Commentary The GCD Election: Small election, surprising turnout

By **Paul Rozycki**

It must be a Flint thing.

If you want people to do something, tell them you can't do it. Make it difficult. Make it too easy and they will ignore you.

Consider some recent elections in Flint.

On one hand, in the last few years, an election to choose the members of the city council and the mayor was held on the usual Tuesday, when we expect elections to be held. Polls were open from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m. and there were places to vote in each of 62 precincts in the city, all fully staffed and ready to go. Absentee ballots were easily available in the usual places with little problem. The media gave significant coverage to the candidates and their campaigns.

The result? We were lucky to have a 10 percent turnout.

On the other hand, the Genesee Conservation District (GCD) recently held an election for three of its five board members, who govern the rather obscure (until now) organization. The election was held, not on a traditional Tuesday, but on a Thursday. Polls were not open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. They opened at 11 a.m. and closed at 2 p.m. And there weren't 62 Flint, or 239 county, precincts as voting locations. There was only one place to vote — Asbury United Methodist Church on Davison Road. Absentee ballots were available, but there were many complaints about how to obtain them and how quickly they were mailed out. Voters could also cast their ballots if they choose to drive out to the Conservation District headquarters on Elms Road. The media coverage of the election was all but zero.

The result? In the end, over 500 people voted. True, it's a small fraction of the 332,000 voters in all of Genesee County, but this was an election that drew fewer than 50 people the last time it was held.

Surprising turnout

So what happened?

While the numbers hardly equaled a presidential year, the turnout was remarkable for such a little-known board under such limited voting conditions. Voting just before noon on Thursday, March 22, I found the parking lot to be nearly full, candidates passing out voting cards at the door, and a fair-sized line to vote once I got inside. I expected to find a half

dozen people and an empty parking lot.

Why did voters show up?

So why did it happen this way?

I'm guessing it was two things. Trees and the sense that someone was trying to rig the system.

As reported in past issues of the *East Village Magazine*, trees, or the trimming and cutting of trees, has been a hot-button issue for the neighborhood for the past several years. Several neighborhood meetings documented the many trees that had been cut down and removed, sometimes over the objections of homeowners. And many of the complaints about cutting down healthy trees were directed at the Conservation District. Serious questions were also raised about the contracts for trimming the trees. As a result, several members of the College and Cultural Neighborhood Association (CCNA) put together a slate of candidates to run for the board and challenge some of their policies and practices. Two individuals, Mike Keeler, CCNA president, and Andy Everman, went door-to-door in the neighborhood, handing out voting cards and campaigning as if a congressional seat was at stake.

A second reason may have been the feeling that, justified or not, the election was planned to keep voters at home. Scheduling an election on a Thursday afternoon, for three hours, at only one location, seemed designed to discourage voters. While absentee voting was an option, the process was, at best, clumsy, with many prospective voters not receiving their ballots on time, and others complaining that last-minute changes to emails and phone numbers made it difficult to obtain an absentee ballot at all. CCNA Vice President Sherry Hayden and Mike Keeler sent out an email to CCNA residents with the subject "The GCD doesn't want us to vote," documenting some of the problems and frustrations in emailing or calling for an absentee ballot. They gave detailed directions on working around the barriers.

The turnout may be a reflection of the commitment of the CCNA to our neighborhood and our trees and a way of showing our commitment to the beauty of the trees. It may also have been a reflection of the frustration with so much of the political process today, where one's vote seems to matter so little, and trust in the system has faded, on all levels of government. It may

(Continued on Page 11.)

Cover: Shh...Sneak peek at the FIA (l-r) "Daisy Chain," Kari Russell-Pool, gift of Claire White; "Via," Martin Blank; "Featherhead #6," Richard Jolley



Photograph by Edwin D. Custer

Photo of the Month: Spring daffodils

Confluence of efforts on the “spine of the city” changing Flint River narrative

By Jeffery L. Carey, Jr. and Jan Worth-Nelson

Demolition of the crumbling Hamilton Dam on the Flint River downtown, now underway, has brought together numerous community, scientific, and engineering efforts in a process affected and propelled by the water crisis and part of a longer-term dramatic change in the narrative of the waterway that some have called “the city’s spine.”

The removal of the 98-year-old structure is part of a multi-faceted riverfront restoration project estimated by some sources at \$38 million — work supported by the C.S. Mott Foundation, the Hagerman Foundation, the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Department, and the Flint River Watershed Coalition, all tapping the passions of an ardent group of community members who love to kayak, fish, hike, and birdwatch along the river’s 142-mile course.

Community support for the river work has been strong and growing. The Flint River Corridor Alliance (FRCA) recently merged with the Watershed Coalition, a move heralded by representatives from both sides to maximize opportunities to be “better stewards” of the revitalization occurring on many fronts, according to FRCA board president Kathleen Gazall.

The restoration includes the removal of the

Hamilton Dam and the Fabri Dam just down river from the Hamilton Dam. There are also goals, according to the Flint River Watershed Coalition’s General Statement on Dam Removal, for future work and development on both the Thread Lake Dam and the Goodrich Dam replacing them both with “a more naturalized structure that allows for fish passage.”

The Hamilton Dam “has been my white whale — the thing if I can get rid of it, I can retire,” Rebecca Fedewa, executive director of the Watershed Coalition said in a recent presentation to a FACT (Flint Action Community Action Team) Community Partners group.

“It’s a terrible, ugly, dangerous dam, and now it’s coming down” — the gratifying culmination, she described, of more than a decade of work by the Watershed Coalition, and many other key community players.

Water crisis and the river narrative

Those efforts, ironically, were propelled forward by the water crisis, which led to mistaken characterizations nationwide of the river as toxic and polluted — an assessment not supported by the facts of a waterway which has in recent years been demonstrating a comeback.

A key piece of evidence, in addition to the

noted presence of herons, eagles and other healthy flora and fauna, is twice-yearly sampling for “benthic macroinvertebrates” at 35 sites. These are “pollution-intolerant critters,” Fedewa said, living in sediments on the bottoms of rivers, creatures which would not survive in a polluted stream. Healthy counts were found in 20 out of 35 sites, she said.

In January 2016, fed up with inaccurate attributions of the crisis to the river, Fedewa started an “It’s not the river” (#itsnottheriver) campaign to combat the negative stereotypes, attempting to explain repeatedly that the lead poisoning came from corrosive effects within the pipes, not the river itself.

In her presentation to the Community Partners, Fedewa repeated the statement posted on the Watershed Coalition site: “The Flint River is a vibrant ecosystem that supports a wide array of wildlife, from eagles to ospreys, from walleye to small mouth bass, and cadisfly to water penny. The City of Flint drinking water crisis has cast the river in a negative light, but we have the data that shows this is not the case.”

She said the river offers “the best wall-eye fishing in the State of Michigan,” and notes there are at least four eagle nests

(Continued on Page 5.)

... River

(Continued from Page 4.)

underway this year.

The Watershed Coalition has applied for a National Water Trail designation from the Department of the Interior, for river trails extending along 86 of the river's 142 miles.

Engineering work remains

While the Hamilton Dam removal is exciting, Fedewa said, there is still much that needs to be done, as the project has not been fully specced out. The initial phase of the project will only remove 1.4 feet of the dam. During the interim step, steel sheet piles and rocks have been put in place to help regulate the flow of water.

While many are anxious to see the Hamilton Dam removed and whitewater rapids built into the Flint River, there still are concerns that with the dam's removal will come the release of toxic sediments behind the dam left behind by decades of industrial pollution.

Asked what precautions are being taken so that the silt is not disturbed and released down river, Fedewa noted the massive remediation effort completed by Consumers Energy upriver of the dam last summer to remove the contaminated sediments and a large portion of the contamination further down in the ground.

"Some contaminants remain deep beneath the surface, but they have been capped to the

Sediments impounded

Paul Bucholtz from the Remediation and Redevelopment Division of the MDEQ, confirmed that, "the bulk of the sediment directly behind Hamilton Dam has been remediated." He also described how there will still be a significant impoundment or trapped sediment in the slow-moving water upstream of the dam.

This, Bucholtz stated, would prevent moving a significant amount of sediment from

Photo by Jeffery L. Carey, Jr.



Backhoe removing rubble from demolished south quarter

upstream of the Consumers project at this time. "That would come with the full removal/restoration project and will need to be managed accordingly," he added. "There will be some bottomlands exposed through this initial drawdown, but given the narrow/steep

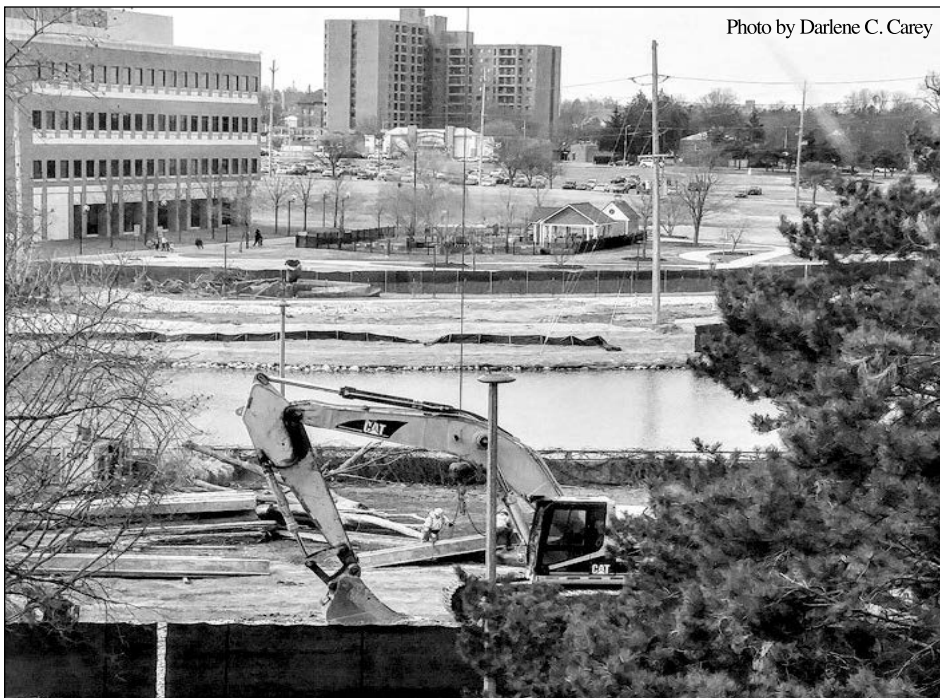
Testing expected to continue

Regarding the benthic macroinvertebrates testing, Fedewa said, "If we see a noted decline at a site, we follow up with further testing and notify the county and the state."

While this massive endeavor takes place in Flint, the Flint River Watershed Coalition continues its broader focus on Lapeer, Genesee, Shiawassee, Saginaw, Oakland, Tuscola, and Sanilac counties that make up the Flint River Watershed.

Through projects such as "water quality monitoring, the GREEN environmental education program, the Flint River Paddling Program, and annual Stewardship Day activities," the Coalition moves toward its vision, "that all people should have access to the river for recreation, swimming, and fishing as well as the economic value it provides to our communities."

EVM staff writer Jeffery L. Carey, Jr. can be reached at jlcareyjr@hotmail.com. EVM editor Jan Worth-Nelson can be reached at janworth1118@gmail.com.



Workers removing steel frame from Hamilton Dam

satisfaction of the MDEQ (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality), and we are given assurances that the site is now safe for removal of the dam."

nature of the impoundment, that area is expected to be fairly minimal."

In a report titled, American Rivers, The Ecology of Dam Removal — A Summary of

Unclassified ads

For Rent. Studio apartment. Clean, partially furnished, washer & dryer, all bills paid. Walking distance to UM-F & MCC. \$450 per month. Call 810-235-0021. Leave message.

"Glass is light" in stunning FIA additions opening April 21

By Jan Worth-Nelson

The ribbon-cutting at 10:30 a.m. April 21 for the Flint Institute of Arts (FIA) blockbuster new wing, galleries, and studios will be the climax of a story rivaling the best door-stop novel.

It is about a middle-aged woman's third marriage to a furniture baron named Glass, and how, maybe on a whim, she started collecting ...glass. And it's about how she became a respected and passionate expert.

It's about a condo in Atlanta stuffed with millions of dollars of art.

It is about a famous Royal Oak art dealer who thought the "greatest single-decade collection of studio glass ever assembled" might tempt the FIA.

It is about FIA Executive Director John Henry's sleepless nights, having fallen in love with 142 pieces of glass bought for the FIA, with no place to put them.

It's about a climate-controlled storage unit on Dort Highway.

It is about a building project and monumental set of decisions for the FIA, the state's second-largest art museum, now in its 90th year.

It's about how those decisions unfolded simultaneous to the city of Flint's worst crisis in decades, asserting a parallel narrative not in conflict with the turmoil, many key players believed, but a hoped-for redemption in the middle of it.

It is about the primal elements of earth, air, fire, and water, all combining in a material so common to everyday life that we hardly realize we see through it.

It is about Flint's long and colorful history as a place of "makers" — and how industry through the past century here has always also birthed artists who find the materials and machinery at hand irresistible.

And it is even about C.S. Mott Foundation President Ridgway White's grandmother, in a way, the late matriarch of one branch of the Mott family, namesake of the Isabel Foundation, which made the acquisition of a world-class collection possible.

"More great art!"

In summary, as John Henry summarizes it, exuberantly, it is about "more great art!" as the FIA opens its Contemporary Craft Wing, state-of-the-art glass and ceramic studios and demonstration space.

The April 21 opening will be followed by a weekend-long family-friendly celebration featuring tours, lectures, and demonstrations.

The \$10 million-plus project adds thou-

sands of square feet of gallery space, the chance to see art-making in progress, and the addition of new FIA Art School glass-related classes — all expanding opportunities for artists and art students in the fifth largest museum-connected art school in the country.



Photo credit: Douglas Schaible Photography

William Morris, *Zande Man*, 2001

The 11,000-square foot Craft Wing contains three galleries.

One features about 100 pieces from the Sherwin and Shirley Glass glass collection, purchased by the Isabel Foundation and on long-term loan to the FIA. The collection features 88 artists from 16 countries and, according to Henry, establishes Flint as one of the pre-eminent centers for contemporary glass art in the Midwest.

Another features selections from the Dr. Robert and Deanna Harris Burger Collection of more than 200 contemporary ceramic pieces. Deanna Harris grew up in Flint and took classes at the FIA in the 50s, according to Kathryn Sharbaugh, FIA director of development.

Also in a starring role is a more than 250-item paperweight collection built around a major contribution from the late Viola Bray that alone can boggle the eye.

In addition to the Craft Wing, on April 21, the FIA opens 3,900 square feet devoted to glass: a hot shop, cold shop, flameworking studio, sculpture studio, and demonstration space.

In the demonstration space, equipped with gleaming reheating and annealing

ovens, there is stadium seating for 90 visitors. A \$100,000 grant from McLaren Hospital will facilitate free glass-blowing demonstrations in the studio every Saturday for the next three years.

Those facilities will be available for local artists, and both Kettering University and the UM-Flint are expected to rent space, along with expanding programs of the FIA Art School itself.

The "Glass glass" story

Sherwin Glass started Farmers Home Furniture in Atlanta, which grew into a nationwide chain and made him a multi-millionaire. A legendary philanthropist and collector, he died in 2005. His third wife, Shirley, continued the glass collection and commissioned works that pleased her. Then she died in 2009, leaving disposition of the art to furniture company executives. Eventually the whole collection, mostly acquired over only 10 years, went up for sale.

That year, 2009, John Henry got a call from a Royal Oak art dealer, Ferdinand Hampson, a world-renowned glass art dealer, who had worked with the Glasses and knew that they had collected many great works of art.

Hampson also knew the FIA had a special interest and history with glass and ceramics — from the museum's huge Edmund Lewandowski mosaics, built into the original structure in 1957, to its Viola Bray-based paperweights, to the 2009 installation of an enormous Dale Chihuly chandelier, and even harking back to the Vehicle City's industrial past, which brought with it Flint "makers" devising Faience tiles in the backyard of AC Spark Plug.

Hampson says an original pool of 140 potential museum recipients, eventually came down to five, and then, John Henry says, after six years, to two. Finally the other party dropped out, and the ball landed in the FIA's court. They approached the Isabel Foundation.

The Isabel Foundation steps up

Devoted primarily to Christian Science causes, the Mott family's religious tradition, the Isabel Foundation, named for the late Claire White's mother — the daughter of Harding Mott — also has supported the arts and culture. For example, it previously brought a notable Great Lakes art collection

(Continued on Page 7.)

(Continued from Page 6.)

to the FIA.

Henry and Kathryn Sharbaugh, along with Tiffany Lovett, president of the Isabel Foundation [Mott Foundation CEO William and Claire White's daughter and Ridgway White's sister] flew to Atlanta to check it out.

What they found were two adjoining condos stuffed with glass.

"They were under tables, on the floor — it was so cramped we could barely walk around," Sharbaugh recalls. Considering the importance of light to glass art, at first the group was a bit disheartened.

But then they traveled to the Glass mansion, a huge estate on the outskirts of Atlanta, where the space and light gleamed through some of the most dramatic items.



Photo credit: Douglas Schaible Photography

Albert Young, *Ulysses*, 2000

"We all started smiling," Sharbaugh said. They could see the possibilities.

So began negotiations between the Isabel Foundation and representatives of Glass's furniture empire. Sharbaugh and Henry confess they still are not sure how much the Foundation paid, but say the collection has been appraised for "many millions."

"We were in a very good spot at a very good time," John Henry recalls — not only in financial terms, but in the quality and relevance of the art — a reflection of an explosion of contemporary work in glass around the country and world in the late 20th century and early 21st.

Creating space for all that new art

Once the purchase happened, however, the next problem was creating space for it. That began another challenge for Henry and Sharbaugh — making the case for a massive

building project. Henry said he endured some sleepless nights as he and Sharbaugh shaped their arguments.

Once again the Mott Foundation came through, providing \$8.5 million as part of a \$17.5 million capital campaign. Ground was broken on the new wing in summer of 2016. It includes not just the galleries but a new 7,500-square-foot basement with more storage space.

The wing has 41-foot ceilings and 21-foot corridors featuring recessed skylights and custom cabinetry all designed to enrich the visual qualities of the glass and clay.

In the meantime, the furniture company wanted the glass collection gone. So the whole collection was crated up and moved to Flint in three-and-a-half tractor-trailers, Henry said.

Since the new wing was far from ready, the collection was tucked into a storage unit on Dort Highway, where it stayed for two years.

"It had to be climate controlled," Sharbaugh says — "It's glass — it can't get hot, it can't get cold." And of course glass can break.

Eventually, as the new wing progressed, the collection was sprung from its Dort Highway hideaway. For two months, another wing of the FIA had to be closed so that photographer Douglas Schaible could capture the works.

All this moving and documenting was no small matter. One piece weighs more than a car. One playful glass fork is 9 feet tall — it once stood in Shirley Glass's kitchen. Many have delicate branches and complex protruberances. (The images are reproduced in a stunning book, *The Glass Glass Collection*, published by the FIA.)

Glass is earthy but "other worldly" too

So what is it about glass?

"There's something very special about glass," Henry said. "It's unique, approachable."

"Glass is light," he writes in the *Glass Glass* book, quoting artist Jaroslava Brychtova. "While glass seems to be an ordinary material (we use it every day and it surrounds us), its property of transparency lends it an other worldly presence, because it can be looked through, yet remain solid."

And observers can see it being made, Henry continues: "It's fire, all the earth elements. When it's being made, within minutes, it's in its finished form — that heat, that beautiful color."

"Humans are comfortable with glass," Sharbaugh adds. "We understand the material — it's part of daily life."

"It's ubiquitous in our world, and we're all qualified to be critics," Henry said.

The FIA hired Brent Swanson of Detroit last year as the glass programs manager to run the hot shop and related studios. A graduate of Detroit's College for Creative Studies and long-time glass artist and teacher, he says it's an honor and a dream job.

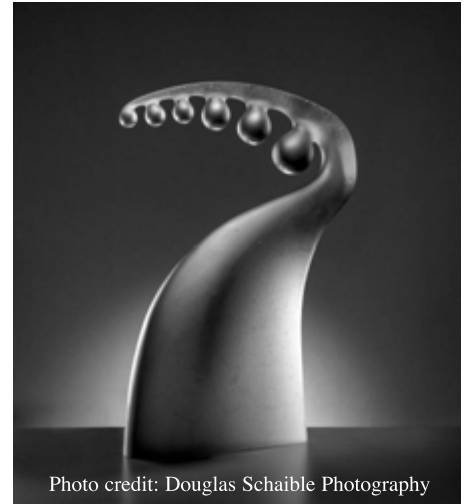


Photo credit: Douglas Schaible Photography

Vladimir Klumpar, *After Rain*, 2007

"The real beauty of this place is that [Contemporary Craft] gallery, in conjunction with live demonstrations — and the ability to see what's happening," Swanson says. "I can pull from those ideas and demonstrate those techniques and people can go back and forth" to see how it's made in the here and now.

"This is really going to rejuvenate people's view of Flint," Henry predicted. "It will demystify Flint to the outside world, especially people who have never been here" — another part of Flint's story not always evident in mainstream media coverage.

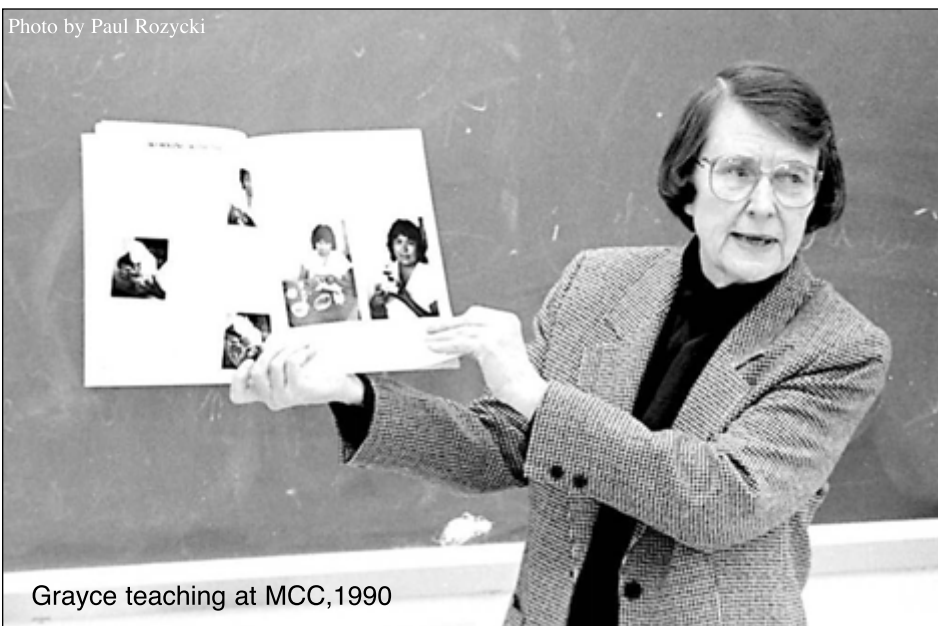
For the Flint community itself, the new developments open more opportunities for making art "available, approachable and accessible to all," according to FIA communications and marketing manager Chene Koppitz.

The FIA is open seven days a week, with free Saturday admission covered by Huntington Bank. Its overall 175,000 square feet houses 25 galleries, a sculpture courtyard, 15 studios and a theater. It hosts more than 160,000 visitors annually.

The FIA is located at 1120 E. Kearsley St., in the Flint Cultural Center. More information about the April 21 opening and FIA hours is available at flintarts.org or at 810-234-1695.

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

Photo by Paul Rozycki



Grayce teaching at MCC, 1990

Editor's Note: After our friend, teacher, neighbor and poet Grayce Scholt died at 92 on March 11, we wanted to commemorate her remarkable, brilliant life by sharing some of her work. All five poems reproduced here are from her last collection, *East of Everywhere* (Friesen Press, 2017). Many poems in that collection originally appeared in *East Village Magazine*, and she gave it the title she did because of *EVM* founder, the late Gary Custer's pretense-defusing explanation of why he named the magazine *East Village*: "Everybody lives east of somewhere." That always amused Grayce, who had an unerring taste for candid, skeptical and even jaded world views. But she never lost her eye for gorgeous Mother Nature, nor her ear for just the right meter — her lines are full of music — all in the service of luscious elegies for the brevity and beauty of life. Her physical voice is silent now, but the poems she left behind are a rare and beloved legacy. We've interspersed the poems with remembrances from friends and former students, celebrating and mourning her influence and loving zest.

—Jan Worth-Nelson

BLOOD MOON

Some say the moon
will be so close to earth tonight
that when earth slips
in between the moon and sun,
that blood will run.

I hope they're wrong
that moon blood's an abrasion,
just a scrape between celestial skins
that heals, that wounds are sealed
before the dawn
and wars are only
remnant scars
and gone.

"Grayce had an endless capacity to take delight in life — that which she took and that which she gave to us in her poetry."

—Teddy Robertson

*"I'm sorry to hear of her passing. Her poetry was a lovely part of *EVM* for me."*

—Elizabeth Perkins-Harbin

"Ah, such a wonderful, vibrant soul."

—Linda Moxam

"Everyone who took part in her 'kiddy lit' classes at Mott College will severely miss her."

—Jim Harrow

Grayce In Memory & 1925

WE KNEEL IN OUR FINE CHURCHES

We kneel in our fine churches
praying for forgiveness
for a sin we didn't commit,
though they're plenty
that we did, I guess.

I know I never drove
a nail into His hand, His foot
I never held a hammer
never wanted to,
and yet somehow
they say I'm full of it
and that He had to die
to save my soul
from what
I'm still
not sure.

It's all about a garden party
if I've got it right,
a scene so green and bright
till someone just like me
took one small bite
of one small apple
from a tree
and that was
Sin.

I do recall a serpent
lounging in the grass
whose singing was
so fair that all
that I could hear was
taste! it's ripe!
it'll be all right
I hear it still.

So now I sit here
in this pew,
but in the strangest way
I know it's why
I kneel and pray.

It's all because
of that damned apple
from the knowledge tree
that poisoned me
that day.

Scholt

Appreciation

2018

"Grayce had an immense impact on many of us in her years of teaching children's lit classes. I'm so glad to have had her influence in my life. I will miss her."

—Michele Salerno Talarico

"What a beautiful legacy she has left behind. I'm very sorry for this loss of her and her beautiful talent with words as art."

—Martin W. Jennings

CRANES AT TWILIGHT (At the Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Michigan)

Marble markers cross,
re-cross the rolling hills
green surrounded by
the shimmering blue of
Fagan Lake. The road
that winds between the
Avenue of Flags that hang
so still, is wet
with rain that fell
an hour ago, or was it
tears that fell that tell
of lives that cry in
awful silence of the night
without an ear to hear;

from somewhere near
two sandhill cranes appear
like sentinels that stalk
in solemn lurch; they
walk and walk and
walk and walk,
the patch of red
upon their heads,
the smirch
that signifies
the terrible shed
of blood.

THE TRUNK

As we were gathering
our dear Grandpa's clothes
to donate to Goodwill,
his suits and shirts
and ties that Grandma
chose for him to wear to church,
we found a trunk,
behind the attic door
bound with straps,
Pandora's box perhaps?

And then, Oh God,
a sheet,
a hood,
a pointed hat.

Today, we're at
the oil drum
in our backyard,
we're burning trash;
we stuff the sheet—hood—hat,
the awful offal of a past
we couldn't believe
into the flames,
the plumes.
We're trying oh-so-hard
to turn the past to ash
but oh,
the smoke
the stink
the fumes.

"Grayce's poetry saw me through a frigid period in my life. I shall be forever grateful for her words. As Grayce demonstrated, words matter."

—Bob Thomas

ODE FOR A MUTT

If I could write a poem
sufficient for a wet nose,
neck ruff, tail loft,
spray of pee
from a leg lifted
on our maple tree,
I would.

But who can say
what should be said
about a best-bud, never bred
for shows, but "just a mutt"
who knows my touch,
my smell, my look,
so when we
peer into each other's eyes,
at least for then
we know that
life is good,
in spite of all
the evils
men devise.



Grayce with dog
friend Nick

Flint City Riveters, women's full-tackle football team, open season April 7

By Dylan Doherty

Yes, women can play football, Louise Ogadinma declares. And not only can they play — a number of women in Flint *want* to play. That hardy corps of athletes have found an outlet in the Flint City Riveters (FCR), a full-tackle women's football team playing its 2018 season opener April 7 against the Columbus Vanguard at Columbus.

The first home game will be April 14 against the Toledo Reign at Kearsley High School, 4302 Underhill Dr. in Flint, where the team regularly plays. Full schedule information is available at rivetersfootball.com. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. for a 6 p.m. kickoff.

Ogadinma, 28, of Detroit, is the Riveters' owner. She said the team began in 2015, when former players for Detroit Pride, a team from the United States Women's Football League (USWFL), decided to create their own team based in Flint. Ogadinma herself wanted to start a team based in Flint. It was the height of the water crisis, and she and Pam Parker, FCR co-owner and a Flint resident, thought they could bring something



positive to the city. They are now part of the Women's Football Alliance (WFA).

According to Ogadinma, FCR provides something unique for young women in Flint that was missing: the opportunity to play tackle football. Before the Riveters, women from Flint with a yen for tackle football had to either play for Detroit Pride, the Detroit Dark Angels, or the West Michigan Mayhem (from the WFA and based in Kalamazoo).

The announcer for FCR, Fernando Amaya, is also the announcer at Kearsley, where his

son attended high school. Because Kearsley has a lot of women interested in football and has a prominent football team, Amaya suggested to Parker they choose Kearsley for their home field. Ogadinma met with the athletic director of Kearsley, who agreed to FCR playing there.

On the team's Facebook page, Amaya said, "I feel having the Riveters at Kearsley will give our girls and other girls, in Flint and Genesee County, a great opportunity to do something other areas can't: to compete like the guys in a sport that I love."

The Riveters' record in the first half of 2016 was 0-8, but things got better in 2017, with the team pulling in three wins and five losses.

In addition to owning the team, she has played the last two seasons as offensive tackle. She is a personal trainer and founder of Lulu Fitnez, described on the website as "a fitness community for women."

In preparation for the 2018 season, FCR already has recruited new players. Women as

(Continued on Page 14.)

We're ready to welcome you to our new digs...

WOODSIDE CHURCH

FOR NOW, SHARING SPACE AT

727 EAST STREET

IN CENTRAL PARK



*FROM COURT ST: N on Chavez, E on Third, S on East.

*FROM CRAPO: W on 2nd, S on Avon, W on 3rd, S on East.

PARKING IN THE REAR; CHILDCARE PROVIDED

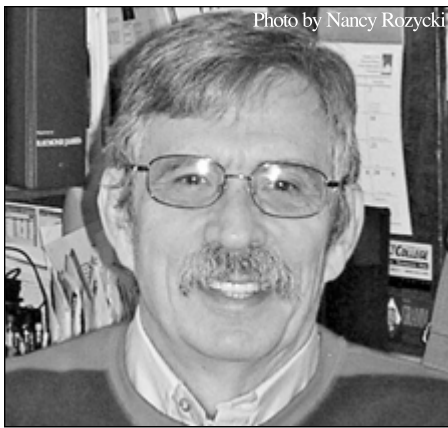
Whatever your story, you are welcome at Woodside Church!

WWW.WOODSIDECHURCH.NET | 810-767-4911 | PO BOX 1109 (727 EAST STREET) FLINT MI 48501

EVM columnist wins "Liberty Bell Award"

By Jan Worth-Nelson

East Village Magazine's political commentator, Paul Rozycki, has been named the Liberty Bell award winner of 2018 by the Genesee County Bar Association. He will be honored at the annual Law Day dinner April 27 at the Masonic Temple. According to Bar Association Executive Director Tatilia Burroughs, the Liberty Bell Award was established to recognize "non-lawyers whose service strengthens the effectiveness of the American system of freedom under the law and encourages respect for the American legal system." The award started in Genesee County in 1962 and has been adopted by other bar associations across the country, she said.



Paul Rozycki, Liberty Bell Award winner

Burroughs said the award honors local citizens "who have contributed in an exemplary manner to his/her community and by his/her conduct, served to advance the administration and cause of justice in the community."

Rozycki, 73, arrived in Flint in 1969 on

the day of the moon landing, he recalls — and retired after 42 years as a political science professor at Mott Community College (MCC). His first career was in journalism at the DeKalb Daily Chronicle and he has always kept his hand in, advising the MCC Post, the student newspaper, for five years. His monthly columns in *East Village Magazine* attract positive responses and many online hits.

In his columns, Rozycki says, "I try to avoid making them read like a poli sci lecture and yet convey some important information about a local political issue, with a bit of humor if possible."

He sees interesting similarities between teaching and journalism. "If you're teaching you are saying 'Here's something that should be relevant and important to your life, whether it's political science, psychology, English poetry, chemistry or welding.' In a similar way, a journalist is saying the same thing, whether it's a riot in Iran, a White House scandal, the baseball scores, the weather or the price of gas at the local station."

A regular on the Tom Sumner radio show, Rozycki is often sought after for insights on local politics on TV for local media and for the League of Women Voters. A member of the MCC Bruin Club and the Greater Flint Arts Council, Rozycki has taught photography at MCC, the UM-Flint and the Flint Institute of Art and exhibits his art photography in local galleries and the Flint Art Fair.

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

... Election

(Continued from Page 3.)

have been a way of making a difference, if only in a small way, on a modest issue. And it may reflect the real possibility that people can mobilize in a positive way when they are given the opportunity, even on the most local of issues, and even when there are significant obstacles.

The winning candidates

Winners were Kristen Miner for a single-year term and Caroline Kellogg and Erin Caudell, both serving four-year terms. Most surprising was incumbent Everman's loss by three votes. Everman ran what was probably the most active campaign of all the candidates. He offered his thanks to those in the CCNA for turning out to vote. The victory of Kellogg and Miner gave the challengers, backed by Keeler and Hayden, two of the five votes on the Conservation District Board. They had hoped to win three of the five seats.

Reaction to the election results

In a follow-up email Keeler and Hayden said, "Although our neighbors took two out of three seats, their board majority will still set the agenda. We hope that with two people from the neighborhood on the board, our concerns will be taken seriously."

Angela Warren, Genesee Conservation District administrator, responded to the election of the new board members saying, "I have every confidence that the newly elected Board members' interests, backgrounds, and skills will positively impact the mission of the Conservation District. In the coming months, board and staff will review responses to the Natural Resource Assessment Survey available now on our website at genesecd.org. Responses from the survey help the Conservation District prioritize efforts and direct resources toward the most important natural resource needs of the county."

This election may be a good example of the old maxim that "all politics is local" and how local issues can motivate voters in unexpected ways.

It may be a sign of things to come.

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

EAST VILLAGE MAGAZINE & FLINT AREA PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

Present

Community Conversation on the Netflix Series "Flint Town"

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

5:30 pm

Flint Public Library
1026 E. Kearsley Street
Flint, MI

MODERATOR

Jan Worth-Nelson, Editor, East Village Magazine

PANELISTS

- Officer Brian Willingham, City of Flint Police
- Isaiah Oliver, President and CEO, Community Foundation of Greater Flint
- Monica Galloway, Flint City Council
- Connor Coyne, Writer, Publisher of Gothic Funk Press



Light Refreshments will be served



Sponsored by: Baker College of Flint; Flint Community Schools; M-Live Media Group/The Flint Journal; Flint Public Library; Genesee Intermediate School District; Kettering University; Mott Community College; The Flint Club; and University of Michigan-Flint

COLLEGE CULTURAL
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
cenaflint@sbcglobal.net

Neighborhood Watch meets Thurs.,
Apr. 19, 7-9 pm, MCC's RTC Auditorium
Members meet Thurs., May 17, 2018
7-9 pm in MCC's RTC Auditorium

“Enough is enough,” Flint protestors declare in March for our Lives

By Jan Worth-Nelson

Under the watchful eye of the statue of nonviolence guru Mahatma Gandhi at Willson Park March 24, participants at a rally organized by twin 17-year-old Powers High School students brandished protest signs and chanted “Enough is enough” in solidarity with the Washington, D.C., rally and an estimated 800 other rallies around the country calling for an end to gun violence.



Hazel Cooper of Flint

Deven and Nikhil Mukkamala organized the noon event, which drew about 275 people including students from at least five area high schools — 25 from Powers alone. It featured speeches by Mayor Karen Weaver, State Representative Sheldon Neeley, State Senator Jim Ananich, and U.S. Congressman Dan Kildee.

The rally was a “huge success,” Deven said after the event. “We were very surprised by the overwhelming dedication of the audience, standing in sub-30 degree temperatures for hours for the sake of our students.”

He thanked the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students, whose response to the murders of 17 at their school on Valentine's Day triggered what increasingly seems to be a nationwide movement.

A fact sheet passed out at the rally noted that guns are now the third leading cause of death for American children. Compared to other high-income countries, American children 5-14 are 14 times more likely to be killed with guns. For American youth 15-24, the probabilities are even more brutal: their chances are 23 times more likely.

The Mukkamala brothers hope their generation can change those numbers — and their efforts already are making waves.

Deven Mukkamala said his group has

received a \$5,000 grant from the March for Our Lives organization, and plans to use it “to continue to advocate for policy reform and to help make schools safer through awareness campaigns and drills.

“It’s really awesome to see the impact that the youth of my generation can have on public policy around the world — not only here but across the world, people are rallying for common-sense gun policy — and rallying to keep our kids safe,” Deven Mukkamala said.

He added he was most pleased with the diversity of the Willson Park audience: “people of every age, color and sex came out,” he said. “It just goes to show that there’s more that unifies us than separates.

“It’s so awesome how much people care about actually influencing society and actually creating change.”

“One of our goals is to make politics personable,” his brother Nikhil said, “to realize this is bigger than what’s happening on TV — to encourage healthy discourse and to encourage people to talk to their politicians.”

An emotional Congressman Dan Kildee called out the names of the mass shootings of Columbine, Sandy Hook, Pulse Nightclub, Las Vegas, and now Parkland, noting, after each one, “it felt like that was the moment of change. Each one of those times, Congress took a moment of silence. Followed by days of silence, weeks of silence, months of silence.”

After each tragedy, Kildee said, “What did we get from Congress? NOTHING. Americans are not safe, children are not safe in their schools, and the Congress of the United States does NOTHING. Why? Not because the American people don’t support change, because they do. The majority of Americans know we can do these things: we can do background checks for everyone who purchases a gun, we can ban high capacity magazines ... We can take up my bill (introduced in October 2017) to ban bump stocks.

Leading the chant of “enough is enough,” Kildee added, if his politician colleagues aren’t willing to do something about the nation’s gun violence, “they should be looking for another line of work.”

Deven and Nikhil’s father, physician Bobby Mukkamala, watched with pride as his sons piloted the rally’s agenda.

“It’s exciting,” he said. “Every generation has an issue that seems to galvanize them.

For my parents, it was the Vietnam War. For this generation it’s a more domestic issue that’s rallied them around this cause.” He said while he had helped facilitate the event,



Zoe and Arlo Simmerman of Fenton

his sons “really ran with it.”

“It’s really an opportunity for like-minded people to come together,” he added. “It’s an uphill battle, the way Lansing is now, but this is an issue that’s worth fighting for, even if it falls on deaf ears for the moment. You can’t stop an activated populace,” he said.

Many of shivering on the hillside agreed.

Hazel Cooper, 88, of Flint, said she attended the rally because, “I have two great granddaughters that go to school and I’m concerned about them. I’m here for all the children.”

Lois Snow, 77, of Owosso, said she came to the rally “because of this Trump and the way he is.” Her daughter, Margaret, 54, said “I just realized that assault rifles are not something that we need to have — I own a shotgun myself and I would gladly register it and pay taxes on it. It makes no sense that my sister-in-law has to pay taxes on her fast boat but I don’t need to register my gun.”

Zoe Simmerman, 15, from Fenton High School said, “I don’t think it’s right that a group of 17 kids can be shot by one person and we’re allowed by just buy a gun out of nowhere. It’s time for a change.” Her brother Arlo Simmerman, 18, said he came to the rally to advocate for the ban of assault weapons for public use.

“We’re here to protest guns,” Daniel Agar, 24, Flint, a recent grad of UM-Flint, declared simply. Sierra Dennis, 21, graduating this spring from UM-Flint added, “We just want change — it’s disturbing what’s happening in this country and it’s been going on too long. We shouldn’t have to wait any longer.”

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

The shape of water for Flint's children

By Harold C. Ford

For the past four years, Flint's populace — particularly its most vulnerable members, children five years and younger — have been immersed in a whirlpool of scientific, social, legal, and political judgments about the severity and scope of its water crisis. Since the switch to Flint River water on April 25, 2014, the pronouncements of pundits, politicians, lawyers, citizens, celebrities, and scientists have shaped public perception about the city and its water.

Then came the most recent contribution from the scientific community, to some a blockbuster set of findings which could alter or confuse the Flint water crisis end-game strategy as the city wrestles with yet another historic upheaval.

Study shows blood lead levels at historic lows for Flint children

A study by a Hurley Medical Center physician published in *The Journal of Pediatrics* March 13 reported that blood lead levels (BLLs) for Flint children were at a historic low. Those with BLLs equivalent to or greater than five micrograms per deciliter fell from 11.8 percent in 2006 to 3.2 percent in 2016. Five micrograms per deciliter is the minimum level at which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend intervention.

One statement in the report stood out: blood lead levels of Flint's children "did not meet the level of environmental emergency."

Responding to the report, Mona Hanna-Attisha, the much-honored Flint-based physician also practicing out of Hurley, acknowledged in a March 29 op-ed in the *Detroit Free Press*, "Flint's blood lead levels are not the worst in history nor even the worst in the country."

It was Hanna-Attisha's work at Hurley that revealed a spike in children's blood lead levels after the city's water source was switched to the Flint River in 2014. "It is important to understand that ... screening procedures...were inadequate to document the extent of Flint's lead-poisoning problem," Hanna-Attisha wrote, concluding, "How many children have to be poisoned for something to become an environmental emergency?"

The Hurley study found that "Overall, from 2006 to 2016, there was a 72.9 percent decrease in the percentage of children five years or younger with BLLs" at or greater than the federal intervention level. Further, the study found a 50.6 percent decrease in the mean (or average) BLL.

The lead author of the report, *Blood Lead*

Levels of Children in Flint, Michigan: 2006-2016, was Hernan F. Gomez, a pediatric care physician at Flint's Hurley Medical Center (HMC). "I think it's fantastic news," he told the *Detroit Free Press*.

Six additional health professionals signed on with Gomez as authors of the report. Data for the study was provided by Flint's HMC, "the major single source that analyzes pediatric BLLs in Flint."

The report concluded that "public health efforts to reduce BLLs of young children in Flint have been effective over the 11-year period studied."

"This is a direct result of lead abatement efforts and citizens following warnings to use filters, bottled water, and have their water tested ..." Gomez wrote

Between 2006 and 2016, the study analyzed 15,817 blood samples from Flint children. Those studied had a median age of 2.4 years; 52 percent were male. From 2013 to 2016, 88 percent of the children were insured through Medicaid. "Children insured by Medicaid ... are typically at greater risk of lead poisoning," according to the report.



More broadly, the report recognized an "overall decline of the BLLs in Flint, and the State of Michigan, during the 11-year study (as a) result of more than a half century of successful major public health initiatives to reduce lead exposure in the U.S." Measures cited include:

- Lead-based Poisoning Prevention Act, 1971;
- phase out of leaded gasoline, 1973;
- additional measures to reduce dust lead loadings on windows and floors;
- Lead and Copper Rule, 1991.

However, the research also found that the 11-year overall trend of annual decreases in Flint's youngest children was interrupted by spikes in BLLs in 2010-2011, "and again during the exposure to Flint River water in 2014-2015."

Author Jamie Lincoln Kitman wrote in the March 20, 2000, edition of *The Nation*: "Children are the first and worst victims of (lead); because of their immaturity, they are most susceptible to systemic and neurological injury, including lowered IQs, reading and learning disabilities, impaired hearing, reduced attention span, hyperactivity, behavioral problems, and interference with growth."

"For children, about 70 percent of lead is stored in bone," according to the website *Lead Action News* authored by Brian Gulson and Fred Salome. "This lead is not simply stored away in bone forever, but moves in and out as the body functions normally."

And lead stored in bone causes even more problems, according to the website *KidsHealth*. "Lead can interfere with the production of blood cells and the absorption of calcium that bones need to grow healthy and strong. Calcium is essential for strong bones and teeth, muscle contraction, and nerve and blood vessel function."

BLLs in Flint children during 2015-2016 were very similar to those found in other children in Michigan and the United States as a whole. In fact, the Hurley report found that other "Michigan counties have not fared as well as Flint." Five Michigan counties had greater percentages of BLLs during the 2015 Flint River water switch year: Jackson, 5.1 percent; Lenawee, 10 percent; Mason, 6.5 percent; Menominee, 5.1 percent; Kent, 6.6 percent. And the city of Detroit, 7.5 percent.

Flint water spills over into Flint schools

The Gomez study made the news just as the Flint Community School District was struggling with its own decisions — about supplying water to its student population as water tests improve, about the costs of supplying bottled water, and in the face of ongoing public distrust of Flint's water system.

At a Jan. 3 press conference, then-Superintendent Bilal Tawwab, who has since departed, confirmed reports that the water in Flint schools was not being tested. "Our water is not being tested currently and our water is not being consumed either," he said. "We will continue to secure bottled water for our students until the medical and health community has undoubted assurance the

(Continued on Page 14.)

... Water

(Continued from Page 13.)

water from the tap is safe to drink.”

Tawwab responded to multiple press reports that Flint Community Schools (FCS) resisted efforts by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to test the water in Flint schools. “The district has not and will not refuse any request from the state to test water in our buildings,” he declared.

Tawwab called for a “robust protocol” to include: “detailed water monitoring; maintenance protocol and schedules; guidance on flushing of pipes; filters replacement and maintenance ... ; technical assistance; both regulatory and independent oversight to insure such protocols are sustained by associated state, local, and school system entities.”

Tawwab was joined at the press conference by Flint Mayor Karen Weaver and Dr. Lawrence Reynolds, a member of the Flint Water Interagency Coordinating Committee. “We must have a comprehensive plan,” Reynolds urged. “The plan must be piloted. There must be data to be reviewed.”

“We’re rushing a plan,” Reynolds told *EVM*. “Doing a one-shot test ... as if it was gonna’ solve all the problems is the same process that got us into this crisis almost 1,350 days ago.”

“Water processing and distribution is a very complicated process,” Reynolds warned. “They are trying to apply ... home testing techniques to large buildings. There’s so many variables in a nonresidential facility (like a school building).”

As of Jan. 12, the MDEQ had not yet begun to test the water in Flint schools. A press release reported that: “Discussions are ongoing between state, city and Flint Community School officials regarding a plan to conduct extensive flushing and testing in the schools.”

On Jan. 20, the MDEQ announced that it would begin testing the water and flushing lines in Flint schools.

On Feb. 13, the MDEQ announced that: “More than 92 percent of schools tested as well as if not better than federal standards for bottled water. Of the 705 unfiltered water samples tested, 97.2 percent of the samples were at or below the 15 parts per billion (ppb) federal lead action level, 96.2 percent were at or below 10 ppb, 92.6 percent were at or below the 5 ppb bottled water standard and lead was not detected in 66.7 percent of the samples.”

On March 22, the MDEQ announced that it “has completed its three rounds of sampling at all 13 Flint Community Schools Buildings, which began on Jan. 20. More than 90 percent were at

or below 5 parts per billion (ppb) for lead, which is the federal standard for bottled water.”

At its March 7 meeting, it became clear to FCS Board of Education members that supplies of bottled water were disappearing while the budget for its continued supply into the 2018-2019 school year was uncertain at best.

Tawwab bluntly told the board, “We’ve got some (bottled water), but not enough to cover the entire district.” Contributions by Absopure, the Crim Fitness Foundation, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, and others are drying up. Much of the water for Flint students is currently supplied via five-gallon water dispensers.

The cost of supplying bottled water to Flint students was estimated to be \$8,200 per month or nearly \$100,000 annually. This led board member Antoinette Lockett to wonder why city and state government should not play a financial role in supplying water to Flint students. “It’s not a condition that we created within our operations,” said Lockett.

“The city is responsible for this situation concerning the water,” charged board member Carol McIntosh. “The board should possibly appeal to the mayor and the city to see if maybe they could assist us.”

Flint’s most vulnerable distrust the water

In the meantime, the truth of the matter is that the Gomez study may, or may not, serve to diminish the deep level of distrust among Flint citizens about their water — as reported in the March 2018 issue of *East Village Magazine*.

A December 2017 survey conducted by the FACT/Community Partners group tapping 2,000 of the city’s most vulnerable residents indicated that many remain suspicious of tap water, have not tested their water for lead, are not confident in their use of filters or don’t have one, and yet are attempting to follow guidelines for protecting their children and the elderly.

Large majorities of survey respondents believe the State of Michigan should continue providing bottled water, faucet filters, replacement cartridges, water delivery, water bill assistance, and mental and physical health services.

It seems, in short, that the complicated narrative of Flint’s water crisis is still being written.

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



... Riveters

(Continued from Page 10.)

young as 16 can join (with parental consent) and there is no maximum age limit — the oldest player being 50 years old. “As long as you have that passion for the game,” Ogadinma said.

To raise funds for FCR, the team runs car washes, bowling fundraisers, and pizza fundraisers. They also sell apparel through Fan Cloth, a team apparel fundraising site, and get a percentage from each purchase. The players are not paid, and are charged a fee to cover uniforms, travel, and use of the field.

FCR are looking to secure bigger sponsors, Ogadinma said. Currently, Flint Iceland Arena sponsors a couple hours of practice. They also have approached ELGA Credit Union and Genesys Regional Health Center as potential sponsors. Ogadinma notes the Chicago Force, another women’s tackle football team, is sponsored by Budweiser and that sponsorship opportunities are a matter of connections.

Just as concussions have become a frequent talking point and concern in the NFL, FCR also aims to be sure their players take proper precautions to prevent head injuries. Ogadinma says that FCR has a medical staff at games to evaluate players and make sure they are able to play. In addition, they promote players letting coaches know if a player can’t play.

Along with playing football, FCR players involve themselves with charities and volunteering in Flint. They collaborated with #HashtagLunchbag to provide lunch for the homeless in Flint in Sept. 2016, donating 500 bananas and packing 500 lunches.

According to Ogadinma, this not only benefits the community, but the football players as well. “It’s important to give young women an outlet,” Ogadinma said. Instead of “doing stuff they shouldn’t be doing,” they are “gravitating towards our community. More people in the U.S. and world see how we are trying to give back.”

FCR has not received any pushback or backlash, but individual members have encountered stereotyping. “Guys don’t understand why women want to play football,” Ogadinma said. Those stereotypes are why it’s important to have a women’s football team in Flint, she said.

More information on the team, along with the game schedule, is available on Facebook @flintcityriveters, or at www.rivetersfootball.com.

EVM staff writer Dylan Doherty can be reached at dylancdoherty@gmail.com. EVM Editor Jan Worth-Nelson contributed to this report. She can be reached at janworth1118@gmail.com.

THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE

“This Month” highlights a selection of interesting events available to our readers — beginning after our publication date of April 5. It is not an exhaustive list, rather a sampling of opportunities in the city. To submit events for our May issue, email your event to Managing Editor Meghan Christian at meghan.christian22@gmail.com by April 24.

Space School

All Month
Mon. - Thurs. 4 p.m.
Thurs. - Sat. 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Sun. 4 p.m.
Longway Planetarium,
1310 E. Kearsley St.
810-237-3400
Admission: \$4-\$6

Explore how astronauts prepare for space in their underwater training habitat.

Queen Light Show: “From Mercury with Love”

April 5 - 7, 12 - 14, 19 - 21, 26 - 28
8 p.m.
Longway Planetarium,
1310 E. Kearsley St.
810-237-3400
Admission: \$4-\$6

A dazzling light show featuring 10 of Queen’s greatest hits.

Flint Youth Film Festival Free Filmmaking Workshops

April 5, 12, 19, and 26
4:30 p.m.
Flint Public Library,
1026 E. Kearsley St.
810-730-1590
Admission: Free

Intended for middle school and high school students who are planning on entering films into the July 2018 Flint Youth Film Festival.

“Flint Town” Panel Discussion

April 10
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Flint Public Library,
1026 E. Kearsley St.
810-730-1590
Admission: Free

Co-sponsored by *East Village Magazine* and the Flint Area Public Affairs Forum, come and join a moderated panel discussion about the Netflix series. Moderated by EVM Editor Jan Worth-Nelson. Panelists: Brian Willingham, Monica Galloway, Connor Coyne.

Sierra Club: Could You Go Vegan?

April 11
6:30 p.m.
Mott Community College Prael Center,
Genesee Room, 1401 E. Court St.
Admission: Free

Considered going vegan, but have reservations? Come hear from Katie Thrushman, a registered dietitian at Hurley Medical Center, discuss this diet and its effects on the environment. Recipes will be available for those interested in trying some out.

Euchre Tournament

April 13
6:30 p.m.
St. George Orthodox Church,
5191 Lennon Rd.
810-732-0720
Admission: \$5

Come play euchre. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Flint School of Performing Arts Faculty Concert

April 13
7 p.m.
Flint Institute of Music,
1025 E. Kearsley St.
810-238-1350
Admission: Free

Celebrating World Voice Day, enjoy an evening of song. Held in MacArthur Recital Hall, a reception will follow the concert.

Friends of the Flint Public Library Spring Used Book Sale

April 18-21
2 - 7 p.m.
Flint Public Library,
1026 E. Kearsley St.
810-232-7111

Come browse books, vinyl, VHS, DVDs, CDs, and more! Most items \$1 or less. On April 20, books will be half price, and on April 21, they are \$5 a bag and the bags will be provided.

Forbidden Broadway

April 19
8 p.m.
The Whiting,
1241 E. Kearsley St.
810-237-7333
Admission: \$25

A hysterical roast of Broadway featuring impressions, hilarious song parodies, and more.

From Lens to Eye to Hand: Photorealism 1969 to today

Exhibit: April 21 - Aug. 12
Gallery hours noon - 5 p.m.
Flint Institute of Arts
1120 E. Kearsley St.
810-234-1695
Admission: \$7

A reexamination of photorealism and the use of the camera as a foundation of expression, as well as the groundbreaking artists of the time.

Bluegrass Jam and Stage Show

April 28
6 - 10 p.m.
Armstrong Middle School,
6161 Hopkins Dr.
810-736-5332
Admission: By donation

Enjoy some bluegrass music as Michigan musicians perform.

Village Life

In Memoriam: Grayce Scholt, 1925-2018

On the death of a poet

By Ted Nelson

Grayce Scholt, *East Village Magazine's* iconic poet for many decades, died on Sunday, March 11, 2018. She was 92 years old. A service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, May 25, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Grayce's poetry regularly appeared in the darkened space directly below. Most would see the blackness as a representation

of her absence, her passing — certainly a valid metaphor. I also see that, and something more. It is the inkwell of Grayce's heart, where all the drops of inky blood that were her poems reside.

Shortly before her death, my wife and I visited Grayce at the hospital. We saw her just a few hours after the doctors had communicated the bad news of her condition. When she saw Jan enter, Grayce's first words were, "Well, Jan, I'm not gonna make it." Simple words, spoken calmly but with a soft undertone of frustration. From her lips to our hearts.

We were glad for her lucidity, glad for the few moments of grace when her pain was dulled, but not her brain. Precious moments. Mostly, the talk was of poetry, as you would expect when two poets (Grayce and my wife) get together. Grayce was angry and upset that her disease had robbed her of the time she needed to complete the two books of poetry she was working on. "It's a dirty trick ... it's a dirty trick," were the words she used to express her exasperation and chagrin.

At one point in our conversation I asked Grayce who her favorite poets were. I was surprised when she mentioned Dylan Thomas, who was also one of mine. Over the course of my life, I have memorized many of his poems. I asked if there was one in particular that she liked, and she quickly responded with "Out of the Sighs," one I knew quite well. "Would you like me to recite it?" I asked. She nodded "yes."

As I spoke the poem I noticed her lips moving in synch with mine. I could not curb the tremor in my voice as I uttered the last two lines:

"For all there is to give I offer:
Crumbs, barn, and halter."

She smiled wanly as I finished, our eyes locked in silent embrace.

Words mattered to Grayce. Words were the tools of her art, the palette of symbols that she wielded with skill, wisdom, and passion. Her mission was the mission of poets through the ages — to give insight, bring comfort, call to arms, celebrate wonder, prick conscience, explore dark-

ness, and, in general, be a gadfly of the soul.

We mourn her loss. She was loved. She was a family member, a friend, a colleague, a fellow citizen, and a cherished human being.

When a poet dies, there is an added dimension to the loss. Poets, along with all our artists, hold a special place in society. They are the midwives of our vision and values. Their legacy is to our spirit. As President John F. Kennedy said in his last public speech, "When power leads man to arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations." Poetry speaks truth to power.

For many of us, poetry is prayer. It is the solace we seek from pain, the comfort from confusion, a shard of warm light in the cold darkness. It is the genuflection we make to the unknown.

When it came to poetry, there was a fierceness in Grayce. It was apparent to all who knew her well. She had things to say and an exquisite way of saying them. She was a master at spreading delicate petals of hope through the existential gloom. She had the intense inner passion for expression that animates the work of all great artists. And she was not finished. Not ready to go.

In the end, she lived up to Dylan Thomas' poignant plea for resistance to the final hush:

"Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

Grayce now lives in our hearts, her poems a legacy of brilliance that can never be extinguished.

EVM Editor-at-Large Ted Nelson can be reached at mainegame@icloud.com.

Editor's Note: This tribute to Grayce represents Ted Nelson's first contribution in writing to East Village Magazine. It is a poignant reality that just as the relationship between Grayce and Ted was deepening, cancer took her. Their love of language and their gusto for life was a joy to see and share, and we are sorry it was cut off too soon.



GRAYCE SCHOLT
1925 - 2018

