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Commentary
2018: Not your typical midterm election
By Paul Rozycki

This year’s midterm election could be like most other midterms … except when it’s not. And it looks like it’s not going to be like most midterm elections.

The usual midterm election
Here’s what usually happens in most midterm elections. First, the turnout is lower than during a presidential election year. While we usually get about 60 percent of potential voters turning out in a presidential year, in a midterm we normally only get about 40 percent. Second, the president’s party normally takes a beating. In the last 75 years the party in the White House has gained seats in the U.S. House only twice during a midterm election. Third, because the president isn’t on the ticket, the “all politics is local” maxim kicks in, and most races are decided by local issues and personalities.

Why this year could be different
That’s what usually happens, and it might be what happens this year, but this year looks different for a number of reasons.

If this year’s recent primary elections are any indication, voter turnout is remarkable. In nearly all the special elections held so far, the voter turnout has been much larger than expected. Democrats have shown the largest increase, but Republican turnout is up as well. While there are a number of reasons for this, two stand out -- Donald Trump and the #MeToo movement.

Response to Trump
It’s no surprise that the response to Trump’s election has been intense and divisive. Those voters who realized that their candidate is being unfairly treated by the media and the public, are also energized and feel the need to defend their candidate. As part of the campaign to energize the Trump base, his supporters have raised the threat that if Democrats have a “blue wave” in November, Trump could face impeachment.

So even though Trump isn’t on the ballot, in a time of an “All-Trump-all-the-time” news cycle, this is still a Trump election, both for those who loath him and those who love him. Republicans, who embraced Trump to win their primary elections, face a dilemma in the general election. While the Republican base still strongly supports Trump, that base is shrinking, and many moderate Republicans and independents are pulling away from him. More than most midterm elections, this year’s has major national implications.

The response to Trump has been an even stronger motivator for Democratic voters. One local Democratic activist described the Trump effect as “the gift that keeps on giving” because of the way he drives Democrats to the polls and energizes them.

This year there is a good chance the Democrats could win a majority in the U.S. House. They only need to gain 24 seats to do so. While there is a possibility they could win a majority in the U.S. Senate, the numbers are much more challenging. The Democrats need to gain only two more seats, but, of the 35 Senate seats up this year, 26 of them are held by Republicans and independents are pulling away from him. More than most midterm elections, this year’s has major national implications.

The second difference in this year’s election is the impact of the #MeToo Movement. In response to the Harvey Weinstein scandal, and the long list of celebrities and executives who have been

(Continued on Page 6.)
Flint Ethics Accountability Board making slow moves to implement charter, no ombudsperson yet

By Meghan Christian

The City of Flint Ethics and Accountability Board (EAB) has made some progress getting organized since it first convened in August, but the body has yet to appoint an ombudsperson, one of the conditions outlined in the new city charter. During their last meeting Sept. 25, members provided updates on tasks they have been working on and discussed how to proceed to hire the City’s ombudsperson.

The EAB is a requirement of the charter adopted by voters in August 2017 by a 2-1 vote and which was to have taken effect in January. The charter calls for 11 members, comprised of one member from each ward and two members appointed by the mayor. Terms on the board are staggered, meaning each of the 11 members serve a different number of years, to ensure that there is always someone on the board with experience.

The board’s main functions include appointing an ombudsperson and hearing resident concerns. The board is empowered to hold public servants accountable per the ethical standards outlined in the charter.

This power manifests in various ways, outlined in the charter, from calling hearings to subpoena powers, should it be necessary.

Not outlined in the charter, however, are the bylaws which will govern the EAB, certain aspects of the EAB’s budget, and the specifics on how the EAB should go about hiring an ombudsperson. Fourth Ward appointee Nicholas D’Aigle, an attorney by profession, was assigned to work on the board’s bylaws and Ninth Ward appointee Eric Roebuck, a student at UM-Flint, reported on the budget so far.

Bylaws

D’Aigle gave an overview of the work he’s done so far on the bylaws, referencing the Detroit Ethics Board as a model. Mayoral appointee and member-at-large Loyce Driskell raised a concern that the EAB’s bylaws would look too similar to Detroit’s and not reflect the unique issues faced by Flint. “It’s nice to know what they’re doing, but that’s Detroit and this is Flint,” Driskell said.

“We did say we were going to tailor that information to fit Flint,” Third Ward appointee Linda Boose said.

“My whole intent with that was to get a framework together to get 11 sets of eyes on,” D’Aigle said, assuring his colleagues that they would get an opportunity to look over the bylaws and then edit together.

Budget

According to Eighth Ward appointee and Interim Chair John Daly, the EAB has more than one hurdle in terms of their budget. From a discussion he had with Chief Financial Officer Hughley Newsome, Daly reported that the EAB must first establish a line of activity in the budget.

“Even if someone was willing to give us money, there’s no place to put it in the budget, there’s no line in the budget that would be there,” Daly said. He then discussed the $250,000 line item in the City’s budget that was reserved for the Office of the Ombudsperson. According to Daly, Newsome says that money is reserved for the Ombudsperson, but Daly believes that

(Continued on Page 5.)
it “is to be reserved for expenses related to the ombudsperson.”

The EAB also touched on what kinds of things they thought were necessary for them to function. These included: an office space for them to work and meet that was removed from City Hall, at least one part-time clerical employee, equipment necessary for that person to work, general office supplies, and board member training.

“As far as very basic numbers, it’s coming out to about $150,000,” Roebuck said. “It very quickly added up,” he added.

“We’ll have to do some exploration… How the city budgets and covers those, I don’t know,” Daly said. “Before we can really seriously get into a discussion about a budget, we’ve got to get the activity for the Ethics and Accountability Board established. Then the other things is … the City has got to come up with a reasonable plan on how this money gets spent, who has the authority to spend this money,” he added.

First Ward Councilperson and Finance Chair for Flint City Council Eric Mays addressed the EAB and referenced these as reasons why he had been against the formation of the board so soon. However, he did offer his help.

“As finance chair, if y’all want an agenda on the next finance committee meeting, where we can pass a resolution to do all things necessary to set up that account, that’s easy… and we’ll put it on the agenda when you want it on the agenda,” Mays said.

**Hiring an Ombudsperson**

While all members of the EAB could agree that hiring an ombudsperson soon is absolutely vital, how to go about the process took more discussion. Some members, including mayoral appointee and member-at-large Art Evans and Boose, thought that it would be alright to use the job site already in place by the city’s HR department, especially because it would save money. “I just wonder if that money could be better spent,” Evans said.

However others, including Roebuck, thought that an outside recruiting agency might be a better option. “We’re talking about someone who is going to be making a lot of money and dealing with serious issues, I want the right person,” Roebuck said. “Spending the right amount of money to get the right person is sometimes worth it,” he added.

Ultimately, the EAB decided to start by using the city’s pre-existing site and then moving to an outside source should the first search not provide what the EAB considers a fit candidate.

Residents are welcome to attend EAB meetings, which offer an opportunity to speak. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 9 in the front City Council Committee Room located on the third floor of City Hall.

EVM Managing Editor Meghan Christian can be reached at meghan.christian22@gmail.com.
shown the door after facing accusations of sexual harassment, women have entered the political fray in record breaking numbers. Both as candidates and as voters, women have generally been more Democratic than men, and early indications are that they will be voting in greater numbers than usual. This year at least 229 women are running for the U.S. House and Senate, and 167 of them are Democrats. At least 12 women are running for governor and nine of them are Democrats. This year, for the first time in history, Michigan Democrats have nominated women for governor, secretary of state, attorney general, and the U.S. Senate. The Republicans have chosen a woman as Bill Schuette’s running mate.

The arguments for and against the straight ticket generally run along party lines. Democrats have favored it and Republicans have opposed it. Both are working for their own partisan advantage.

Those favoring the straight ticket argue that the party label is a good measure of what a candidate stands for — a kind of “brand loyalty.” This is probably more accurate today than in the past. Today if you are a conservative, traditional values, small government voter, you are more likely to find the Republican Party to your liking. Similarly, if you are a liberal who favors a more active government, favors diversity, and is open to non-traditional social values, you are more likely to prefer the Democratic Party. That wasn’t always the case, but today, in our divisive politics, conservatives and liberals tend to separate by party, with little overlap.

Ending straight-ticket voting will most likely slow down the voting process as voters pick through a long list of candidates — from governor to the State Board of Education. That delay may well discourage voters. In November, because the change is so recent, this may be a major issue for voters, and could result in both delays and spoiled ballots.

Those who favor ending the straight ticket option argue that voters should take the time to learn about all the individuals running for office — from governor, to the Wayne State Board of Governors, to individual county commissioners.
City Council Beat: mutual condemnations, calls for civility dominate September meetings

By Meghan Christian

“All I’m gonna say is: get the word out. When you hear me say I want to change the complexion of this council, and people say is it a threat, no. It’s actually what I’m going to do,” First Ward Councilperson Eric Mays said during his final comments at the Sept. 24 Flint City Council (FCC) meeting.

“If I have to go in two wards and find people in that ward and help them circulate petitions to get the number to change the complexity of the recall ballot ... and right now I’m targeting the Fourth Ward and the Ninth Ward ... that’s what I’m going to do,” he added.

The Fourth Ward is represented by Councilperson Kate Fields; the Ninth by Councilperson Eva Worthing.

“They can come in my ward if they want, but I’m going to come in theirs and work with people under the law, because I’m not going to go through this mess for three more years,” Mays said, referring to building tensions that have progressively increased among FCC members. Tensions appeared to first come to a head at the Sept. 10 FCC meeting, where both Fields and Worthing spoke out against what they said was unfair treatment they were receiving, specifically from Mays.

“Mr. Mays wants to attack certain council people...in the discussion he is attacking people ... ” Fields said at the Sept. 10 meeting before she was interrupted by Sixth Ward Councilperson and Council President Herb Winfrey.

“It’s not equal treatment to let Mr. Mays say whatever he wants and attacks members ... and then Ms. Fields is addressing it and you tell her to move on,” Worthing said at the Sept. 10 meeting in defense of Fields.

Fields and Eighth Ward Councilperson Allan Griggs were absent from the Sept. 24 meeting. While present for most of the meeting, Worthing had left by the time of final council comments.

Some residents also spoke out against the recent behavior of council members, citing name calling, personal attacks, and lack of civility as main issues. Ethics and Accountability Board Interim Vice President Allen Gilbert took it upon himself to deliver a lesson on civility to the council during his public speaking opportunity, quoting the Ethics Handbook for Michigan Municipalities:

“Civility can help set the tone for demonstrating fair and just treatment in hearings and investigations. However impossible it might be to mandate, civility might be inspired by conscientious attention to the trappings of the meeting of a public body ... or the conscious example of members of the public body itself,” Gilbert read.

“I hope that, as Council, we can restore civility. It is a very difficult environment to work in when it’s hostile, when there’s name calling,” Worthing said at the Sept. 24 meeting.

“When you look at how much anguish and struggling ... that our citizens are going through, and what they have gone through, they have a right to expect more out of us (Continued on Page 15.)

Rally the Vote

Free special screening of “JFK: The Last Speech”

Sunday, Oct. 21, 6-8 p.m., FIA Theater, 1120 Kearsley St., Flint, MI

Weeks before President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, he delivered a speech at Amherst College to break ground for the Robert Frost Library. “JFK: The Last Speech” captures this remarkable address which emphasized Kennedy’s belief in national service and the importance of the arts.

The film also details JFK’s relationship with the poet Robert Frost, who served as an emissary to Russia during Kennedy’s presidency.

Throughout the documentary, students from the Amherst Class of ’64 share how the president’s words influenced their lives. Also featured in the film are Flint residents Ted Nelson and Jan Worth-Nelson, editors of East Village Magazine, along with other Flintoids. Ted was a senior at Amherst College when JFK delivered his speech, and was inspired to join the Peace Corps.

This film is about the relevance and haunting irony that JFK’s words bring to the problems of now.

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(Any profits from DVD & book sales will be shared equally by sponsoring partners.)
This issue of *East Village Magazine* is a call to community, and a call to citizenship. Our role as Americans is to participate, to be informed, to be involved in our democracy. If we forget or neglect this shared duty, the loss could be incalculable, no matter our political beliefs, our gender, our race, our age, our religion. This November is a perfect example of the need to strive, together, for a more perfect union. Why should we vote? We asked many people and shared their answers here. Please peruse and enjoy, and mark your calendar for a day that matters: Tuesday, Nov. 6.

—The Editors

**WHY I VOTE**

If you want change you need to vote. If you don’t vote, you have no reason to complain.

Jamie Foster

**WHY I VOTE**

There are so many issues nowadays (for example) Should marijuana be legal? It’s going to be on the ballot in November. Young people have to understand that these issues affect their everyday living. I think there will be a high turnout in November. People have to understand that in a democracy, that’s what it’s all about. I get people all the time who don’t want to show up for jury duty. That’s part of your responsibility. It’s the same thing with voting. I hate to see when there’s a primary, an off-year election, and people just stay home. Look at other countries in the world and look at all the problems they have … and sometimes we take our type of government for granted.

Duncan Beagle

**WHY I VOTE**

To make some type of change, we can’t sit around any more and complain. We’ve got to get up, put our feet on the ground and do things if we want to see change. Whatever that change is, that’s up to them, but at least put your feet on the ground and let your voices be heard, by voting.

Calvin Sims

**WHY I VOTE**

“For the strength of the country. If you don’t vote, you have no say in anything. If you don’t vote, you have no voice.”

Bobby Coon

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**VOTER DEADLINES**

In person registration must be in the hands of the local clerk by 5 p.m. on:

**Tuesday, Oct. 9**

By mail, postmarked no later than:

**Tuesday, Oct. 9**

Absentee Ballot APPLICATIONS must be turned in to local clerk by 2 p.m. on:

**Saturday, Nov. 3**

Absentee Ballots must be RECEIVED by the local clerk by 8 p.m. on:

**Tuesday, Nov. 6**

Helpful information:

- vote411.org
- lwvflintarea.org
- cityofflint.com/elections
- rockthevote.org
- vote.org
WHERE: FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

WHO: CANDIDATES & ISSUES

HOW: REGISTER TO VOTE

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information.

An important component of VOTE411.org is the polling place locator, which enables users to type in their address and retrieve the poll location for the voting precinct in which that address is located. The League has found that this is among the most sought-after information in the immediate days leading up to, and on, Election Day.

Vote411.org also provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- Absentee ballot information
- Ballot initiative information with pro/con statements for statewide initiatives.
- Candidate-provided bio and responses to questions
- Election dates
- General information such as scheduled forums or links to forum videos.
- ID requirements
- Polling locations specific to voter addresses
- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms

You can also register to vote at VOTE411.org, or verify your registration status there.

Registration Deadline: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

STUDY THE CANDIDATES & ISSUES
ENCOURAGE YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS TO VOTE

Tuesday, November 6, 2018
(7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Thank you for being a good citizen!

I do vote and I vote to express my American right to give my opinion … how I feel it may work better one way or the other and to also think of the better decision for the future of the country and for the people in my family, my future family.

Eric Teachworth

WHY I VOTE
The second annual Flint Literary Festival Oct. 26-27 at the Flint Public Library will feature the first joint appearance of journalist Anna Clark and Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, along with other readings, panel discussions and a book fair.

Clark is author of *The Poisoned City: Flint’s Water and the American Urban Tragedy*. Hanna-Attisha, a Hurley Hospital pediatrician, professor and public health advocate, wrote the water crisis memoir *What the Eyes Don’t See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance and Hope in an American City*.

Clark and Hanna-Attisha’s books, both published in 2018, have been widely nationally reviewed, often together, both critically acclaimed. The authors will read from their work and talk about their writing and publication process at the festival’s culminating event on Saturday evening, Oct. 27.

Also on the program agenda are fiction writer Stephanie Carpenter, a former UM-Flint professor whose short-story collection Missing Persons won the 2017 Press 53 Prize in Short Fiction.

Two poets, Flint natives Sarah Carson, award-winning author of *Before Onstar and Buick City*, and Jonah Mixon-Webster, author of *Stereo(TYPE)* from Ahsahta Press, will appear Friday night, Oct. 26.

Both evening readings will be at 6 p.m., followed by receptions and book signings.

In addition, an after-hours open mic night will be held at Totem Books, 620 W. Court St.

Full schedule details are being finalized and will be available soon at the festival website, flintliteraryfestival.org, and on the festival’s Facebook page.

The Flint Literary Festival is a partnership between the Flint Public Library, Gothic Funk Press, *East Village Magazine* and the UM - Flint English Department.

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

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**RACE**

*Are We So Different?*

**SPEAKER SERIES**

**October**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
**Location:** UM-Flint’s Harding Mott University Center, Happenings Room, 400 Mill St. Flint, MI 48503

``Whitewashing’’: Racial Disenfranchisement in Higher Education

Panel Discussion
Dr. Ernest Emenyonu, Professor of African Studies, UM-Flint
Dr. David J. Luke, Director, Intercultural Center, UM-Flint
Thomn Bell, Director, Center for Educator Preparation, UM-Flint

**Date:** Monday, October 29, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
**Location:** Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village, 4119 Saginaw St. Flint, MI 48505

**Anthropology: Culture, Race and Health:** Unequal Health Outcomes and the Bio-Cultural
Dr. Jennifer Alvey, Associate Professor of Anthropology, UM-Flint
Dr. Daniel Birchok, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, UM-Flint

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**November**

**Date:** Monday, November 5, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
**Location:** Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village, 4119 Saginaw St. Flint, MI 48505

**Systemic Racism in Local History and Public Policy**

Panel Discussion
Dr. Thomas Henthorn, Associate Professor of History, UM-Flint
Dr. Jami Anderson, Professor of Philosophy, UM-Flint
Katherine Stanley, Staff Attorney, Legal Services of Eastern Michigan

**Date:** Monday, November 12, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
**Location:** The New Standard Academy, 2040 W Carpenter Rd. Flint, MI 48505

“Pushed Out’’:
A Review of Systemic Racism and Children in Schools
Kyona McGhee, Region 6 Offender Success Coordinator

All events are free of charge. Food will be provided at all events.

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HEALTH CARE SERVICES MILLAGE

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What every taxpayer should know about this renewal:

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This year’s midterm elections will present voters with a long list of offices, candidates, and proposals. Here is a brief summary of the key races, candidates, and proposals that you’ll be seeing in November. For more detail on all of these, and a preview of your own personal ballot, check out the League of Women Voters website Vote411.com.

The Governor
Running to replace term-limited Republican Rick Snyder and his Lt. Gov. Brian Calley are: Democrats Gretchen Whitmer and her running mate, Garlin Gilchrist; Republicans Bill Schuette and his running mate, Lisa Posthumus Lyons; Libertarian Bill Gelineau; U.S. Taxpayers Party Todd Schleiger; Green Party Jennifer Kurland; and Natural Law Party Keith Butkovich.

The Secretary of State
Running to replace Republican Ruth Johnson for secretary of state are Democrat Jocelyn Benson and Republican Mary Treder Lang.

The Attorney General
Running to replace Attorney General Bill Schuette, who is running for governor, are Democrat Dana Nessle and Republican Tom Leonard.

The U.S. Senate
Incumbent Democrat Debbie Stabenow is being challenged by Republican John James. Stabenow is running for her fourth six-year term in the U.S. Senate.

U.S. House of Representatives
Incumbent Democrat Dan Kildee is facing Republican Travis Wines for the 5th District U.S. House seat. Kildee is running for his fourth two-year term in the U.S. House. He was elected when his uncle, Dale Kildee, who served for more than three decades in Congress, retired in 2012.

State Senate
In the 38-member state Senate, two are chosen from Genesee County. Members of the state Senate serve four-year terms and are limited to two terms.

The 27th District covers much of Genesee County including the city of Flint. Incumbent Democrat Jim Ananich is facing Republican Donna Kekisis for a four year term.

The 32nd District covers a slice of western Genesee County and most of Saginaw County. Republican incumbent Ken Horn is being challenged by Democrat Phil Phelps, who is term-limited as a state representative.

The 14th District includes the southern parts of Genesee County and the northwest parts of Oakland County. Republican term-limited Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, is facing Democrat Renee Watson.

The State House of Representatives
In the 110-member state House of Representatives, five members are chosen from Genesee County. State House members are elected to two-year terms, and can serve no more than three terms.

The 34th District represents the northern parts of Flint and incumbent Democrat Sheldon Neeley is being challenged by Republican Henry Swift.

In the 48th District, which includes northern parts of the county, Democrat Sheryl Kennedy is facing Republican Al Hardwick, to replace term-limited Democrat Pam Faris.

The 49th District, representing parts of western Genesee County and the southwest area of Flint, has Democrat John Cherry facing Republican Patrick Duvendeck.

The Burton area is represented by the 50th District and incumbent Democrat Tim Sneller is facing Republican Trace Fisher.

In southern Genesee County, Democrat David Lossing is facing Republican Mike Mueller to replace term-limited Republican Joe Graves for the 51st District.

The County Board of Commissioners
Of the nine members of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners, four are chosen within the city of Flint.

In the 1st District, in the northern part of the city, Democrat Bryant Nolden is unopposed.

In the 2nd District, in central and north Flint, Democrat Brenda Clack is opposed by Green Party candidate Gina Luster.

In the 3rd District, in eastern Flint and Burton, Democrat incumbent Ellen Ellenburg is facing Republican Gerald Cross.

In the 4th District, in western parts of Flint city and Flint Township, Democrat Kim Courts is unopposed.

Judicial Elections
Voters will also elect members to the state Supreme Court, the Appeals Court, and the Circuit Courts in Genesee County. In Genesee County, four candidates are running to replace retiring Circuit Court Judges Judith Fullerton and Geoffrey Neithercut. They are Elizabeth Kelly, Brian Pickell, Chris Christensen, and Richard McNally.

University Boards and State Board of Education
In addition to these candidates, voters will elect members to the governing boards of the University of Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State Universities, and the State Board of Education.

City Council Elections
Voters in many cities and villages in the county (Cities of Montrose, Mt. Morris, Davison, Linden, and Swartz Creek; Villages of Gaines, Goodrich, Lennon, Otisville, and Otter Lake) will also be electing council members or mayors.

School Board Elections
Voters in most area school districts and Mott Community College will also be electing board members.

The Statewide Proposals
There will be three major proposals on the statewide ballot in November. Proposal 1 would legalize recreational marijuana use in the state. It would allow those over 21 to use and grow limited (Continued on Page 13.)
quantities of marijuana for their own use. It would also create a state licensing system for the marijuana business and would allow up to a 10 percent tax on sales of marijuana, which would be dedicated to various activities in the communities where the businesses are located.

Those who favor the proposal argue that it decriminalizes what is already a very common practice and allows law enforcement to focus on more important issues. They also say that it would result in greater tax revenue with legal marijuana and could lead to new businesses in the state. A major supporter is the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana like Alcohol.

Opponents fear that it would lead to greater drug use, more impaired driving, and workplace accidents if marijuana became more widespread. A major opponent is the Committee to Keep Pot out of our Neighborhoods and Schools.

Some studies in the nine states, (and Washington D.C.), that have legalized marijuana show that neither the biggest hopes of supporters, nor the greatest fears of opponents have taken place.

Proposal 2 would create a non-partisan board to draw new legislative districts at the beginning of each decade. The proposal would create a 13-member non-partisan board to draw election district lines, require public disclosure of the process, and prevent office holders and those involved in politics from playing a role in the process. The Michigan proposal is modeled after a similar one in California. It is supported by Voters not Politicians (www.votersnotpoliticians.com).

Advocates for the proposal say that it would end partisan gerrymandering in Michigan and assure that those elected more accurately reflected the real views of the voters.

Opponents argue that the process is too complex, would change too much of the state Constitution, and would give too much power to the secretary of state, who would play a major role in implementing the process. The opposition is led by the Committee to Protect Voters Rights and Citizens Protecting Michigan’s Constitution.

Proposal 3 is designed to open up the voting process and encourage more people to become involved in voting. It would return the straight-party voting option, automatically register citizens at the secretary of state’s office when applying for a license, unless the citizen declines, provide any registered voter the right to use an absentee ballot for any reason, provide for Election Day registration, and provide for an auditing process for election results.

Supporters of the proposal include the League of Women Voters, the ACLU, and the Michigan League for Public Policy, and a number of political leaders. They argue that making voting easier is a key to expanding democracy and getting more people involved in the political process. It is being supported by Promote the Vote (www.promotethevotemi.com).

Opponents argue that many of the things in proposal three are already being done, and that making voting easier might bring uninformed voters to the polls.

What’s not on the ballot?

Two other proposals seemed likely to be on the ballot, having collected the required number of signatures. One would have required a higher minimum wage in Michigan, gradually increasing pay over the next several years, and the second would have required employers to grant paid sick leave to their employees, under certain conditions. However, to block those from going on the ballot, the state legislature passed legislation dealing with the same topics. Unlike a proposal passed by the voters, a law passed by the legislature can be amended by a simple majority vote of the lawmakers. Many expect that both of the would-be proposals will face major changes in the lame duck session after the election.

Local proposals

Genesee County voters will have the choice of renewing a .99 mill tax levy for the next seven years to provide health care for uninsured residents. The funds would fund the Genesee County Health Plan, which provides health care services, through the Genesee County Health Department, for low-income uninsured Genesee County residents.

In addition to the county-wide health proposal, the cities of Davison, Fenton, Grand Blanc, Linden, and Montrose all have local proposals on their ballots, as will the Kearsley, Montrose, and Swartz Creek school districts.

Clearly there is a lot on the ballot this November. It’s worth your while to take the time to learn what’s there. And it’s most important that you vote!
**THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE**

“This Month” highlights a selection of interesting events available to our readers — beginning after our publication date of October 4. It is not an exhaustive list, rather a sampling of opportunities in the city. To submit events for our November issue, email your event to Managing Editor Meghan Christian at meghan.christian22@gmail.com by October 23.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Admission</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Small Worlds</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 4 - Oct. 6</td>
<td>6 - 10 p.m.</td>
<td>Buckham Gallery, 134 ½ W. 2nd St. 810-239-6233</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Identity</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
<td>McLaren Flint, 401 S. Ballenger Hwy. 810-342-2375</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11th Annual Beer Tasting Event: Art on Tap</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>6 - 10 p.m.</td>
<td>Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St. 810-234-1695</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First Friday Open Mic</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Buckham Gallery, 134 ½ W. 2nd St. 810-239-6233</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pure Pro Wrestling</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Flint Iceland Arena, 1160 Elms Rd. 810-845-3962</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm Election Ballot Issues with the Flint-Area League of Women Voters</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>The New McCree Theater, 2040 W. Carpenter Rd. 810-845-1767</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community Resource Day</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Noon - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Charity United Methodist Church, 4601 Clio Rd. 810-235-1523</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mary Shelley</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Noon - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Francine Flint, 401 S. Ballenger Hwy. 810-342-2375</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scholarship Workshop</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
<td>McLaren Flint, 401 S. Ballenger Hwy. 810-342-2375</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“Demolition Means Progress” Community Book Read and Discussion</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
<td>McLaren Flint, 401 S. Ballenger Hwy. 810-342-2375</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flint Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus Chicken Dinner Fundraiser</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Noon - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>McLaren Flint, 401 S. Ballenger Hwy. 810-342-2375</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“JFK: The Last Speech” Book Launch</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>5 - 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Totem Books, 620 W. Court St. 810-407-6402</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FSPA Faculty Concert</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Flint Institute of Music, 1025 E. Kearsley St. 810-238-1350</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Late Night Tailgate</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Capitol Theater, 140 E. 2nd St. 810-767-5141</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3rd Annual Smallidge Family Lecture</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Buckham Gallery, 134 ½ W. 2nd St. 810-239-6233</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rally the Vote! event and showing of film “JFK: The Last Speech”</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>6 - 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St. 810-234-1695</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flint Winter Clothing Distribution</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1225 Robert T. Longway Blvd.</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td><strong>2018 Halloween Ghosts and Goodies</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 26, 29, 30, and 31; 5 - 9 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Crossroads Village, 6140 Bray Rd.</td>
<td>Free</td>
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... Beat

(Continued from Page 7.)

when we come to do city business here,” Council President Winfrey said at the Sept. 24 meeting. Addressing his colleagues, he added, “I want you all to do better. Your citizens that elected you deserve better.”

It is not just between council members where tempers have been flaring. Resident and community activist Quincy Murphy addressed Second Ward Councilperson Maurice Davis at both the Sept. 10 and Sept. 24 FCC meetings regarding recent comments made about Murphy by Davis. The comments range from Davis referring to Murphy as a “fake activist” to down-playing Murphy’s work in the community.

“I feel that Mr. Davis is coming at me ... and at times, at his colleagues,” Murphy said. “Not one time have I ever came to this podium and personally attacked anyone … I’m asking for the same respect,” he added.

However, during the FCC meeting on Sept. 24, Davis publicly apologized to Murphy for his behavior in previous meetings. “I’d like to say to Mr. Murphy, I’m going to sit up here and apologize publically ... because one thing I am not is perfect,” Davis said. “So we just leave our differences aside because there’s too much business that needs to be handled,” he added.

“I would just like to say that I think it’s really gentlemanly of Mr. Davis to apologize for those comments,” Worthing said.

However difficult relationships among council members have been, FCC has still managed to take care of some city business. For information on appointments, resolutions and ordinances see the online version of this story at eastvillagemagazine.org

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

Flint Fresh Food Hub opens, offers expanded options for local produce

By Darlene Carey

It was fitting just a day before the fall equinox that local growers gathered to celebrate a time of harvest and Flint food distribution advocates rejoiced in the official Sept. 21 opening of the new 14,530-square-foot Flint Fresh Food Hub at 3325 E. Court St.

There is reason for the public to celebrate as well. The opening of the $1 million nonprofit food distribution center means expanded food options for residents and businesses within Flint city limits to buy locally-grown vegetables for pickup or delivery.

According to the FlintFresh website, flintfresh.com, delivery is available to Flint addresses on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Routes have been organized by zip code, as follows:

**Tuesday:** 48503, 48505, 48506  
**Wednesday:** 48502, 48504, 48507 and 48532 (within Flint city limits).

Residents will be notified and given a time window of when a crew member will be in their area. The driver will leave their box on the doorstep unless otherwise arranged, or customers can choose to pick up their box at The Local Grocer (601 MLK Ave, 48502) during business hours by selecting the “pick up at store” option when placing their order.

Customers can choose small ($15) or large ($30) boxes. Orders are due by 5 p.m. the Thursday of the week before. There are two options: Farmer’s Choice, where staff choose what goes in the box, or A La Carte where customers use a drop-down menu online and choose five fruits and six vegetables. Orders may be placed online through the website or by phone at 810-620-1902.

The Court Street facility provides a new home for the Flint Fresh Mobile Market, founded in 2016 in response to the Flint water crisis, to provide fresh produce to underserved Flint residents with little or no access to grocery stores.

More on this story is available at eastvillagemagazine.org.

EVM staff writer Darlene Carey can be reached at darcar7@hotmail.com.

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

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.
The New Generation: 
Millennials and young adults embracing politics
By Meghan Christian

According to Ruth Milkman’s analysis “A New Political Generation: Millennials and the Post-2008 Wave of Protest” in the January 2017 American Sociological Review, the media has perpetuated an idea that millennials (who range between 22 and 36 years old currently) are lazy, entitled, and less engaged overall. This was demonstrated by the 2013 Time Magazine cover story claiming millennials as the “Me, Me, Me” generation. However, Milkman finds that this is not the case.

“Defying the popular stereotypes of their generation as selfish, narcissistic, and politically disengaged, millennials have more progressive attitudes and beliefs than do older generations.” Milkman asserted. “Moreover, many of them have acted on those beliefs through engagement in social movements,” Milkman added.

These social movements have taken many forms. We have seen them in the Occupy Wall Street movement of 2011, Black Lives Matter, the #MeToo movement, and even more locally in the Power to the Polls protest held in Lansing earlier this year, just to name a few.

Not only do millennials engage in social movements, but Milkman also asserts that they, and other young people, are not as removed from organized politics as previously believed. According to numbers provided by the Pew Research Center, “66 percent of voters under age 30 cast their ballot for Obama that year, compared to 50 percent of those age 30 or over,” and then in 2016 when Bernie Sanders was running for the Democratic nomination, “72 percent of voters under age 30 cast their vote for Sanders …, whereas 71 percent of those 65 and over voted for Clinton.”

This type of political involvement goes even deeper for some here in the city of Flint. Many young people are activists and others are even getting involved in the legislative arena. Though technically too young to be considered a millennial himself, Third Ward Councilperson Santino Guerra, 20, has been incredibly active in politics from a young age and believes that young people everywhere should become engaged in local politics, especially if they don’t like what they are currently seeing from their political leaders.

Guerra spoke with East Village Magazine about his engagement in politics and any tips he had for other young people. Responses have been lightly edited for spelling and grammar only.

What first inspired you to get involved in politics in general?

I was inspired to get into politics because of the way I grew up. My father got locked up when I was a baby. I went on to be raised by a single mother who I barely saw because she was working to support my sister and me. The struggles that make or break people were the true inspiration. I grew up, in a far from perfect world, with the desire to want to help others who may be going through the same things I was. The best way to achieve this goal was through politics, so when I was old enough to get involved at 14 I started knocking doors for candidates that represent the people.

What about Flint made you want to get involved in politics?

Seeing the rapid decline in the City that I was raised in got me involved in local politics. I got involved so I could support public safety to help the citizens of Flint by reducing crime in the city. The blighted homes scattered throughout the city encouraged me to join the fight to get them knocked down. The Flint Water Crisis, became a situation where I did not want to sit on sidelines and watch the city suffer; I wanted to get in the game and move the city forward. But my biggest motivation to get into Flint politics is because of the opportunity I get to serve the people.

Do you think it’s important for young people to get involved in politics? Why or why not?

Absolutely it’s important for young people to get involved in politics. Every piece of legislation that is passed affects every generation. We all may have certain topics that are more special to us, but regardless of what the issue is or your age your voices should be heard.

Where should young people look to start getting involved? Any tips?

If young people want to get involved I would encourage them to look around the community, see what needs to change, and then change it. Find a church, club, organization, business, or politician you believe in and reach out to them ... ask how you you can help. If I can be of any assistance, don’t hesitate to contact me at 810-499-9619.

“If you don’t like the conversation, change the subject,” Guerra said. He added that residents are always welcome to attend Flint City Council meetings and voice their opinions and concerns during the public speaking portion. The next FCC meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 8 in City Council Chambers on the third floor of City Hall.

EVM Managing Editor Meghan Christian can be reached at meghan.christian.22@gmail.com.

LVI: 10 (666 issues, 6,742 pages)