

# East Village Magazine

April 2022



Photograph By

*Edwin O. Carter*



Produced by  
**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM INDIANAPOLIS**

Supported by  
Applegate Chevrolet NARTEL FAMILY

**HOT WHEELS RACE TO WIN**

**SLOAN MUSEUM AT COURTLAND**

Speed, power, performance ...  
be part of a dynamic race team  
working with the most famous  
toy vehicles on the planet—  
**Hot Wheels®!**

Buy tickets at [SloanLongway.org/HotWheels](http://SloanLongway.org/HotWheels)

**February 5 through May 15, 2022**

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

**BARBER CONSOLIDATED**

107 W. Kearsley St.  
Downtown Flint  
Open Monday-Saturday  
[Facebook.com/consolidatedbarbershop](https://www.facebook.com/consolidatedbarbershop)

**Healthy Home Cooking!**

Steady Eddy's Cafe  
810-235-1968  
Flint Farmers' Market

**ADVERTISE WITH US**

Advertising in East Village Magazine is a great investment for your business, cause, or tribute — and also helps support independent community journalism.

**EAST VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

CREPES. COFFEE. SEASONAL MENU. DIETARY FRIENDLY.

**FLINT CREPE COMPANY**  
555 S SAGINAW ST FLINT MI 48502

CHECK OUT THE FULL MENU @ [FLINTCREPE.COM](http://FLINTCREPE.COM)

**The TOM SUMMER PROGRAM**

Live: Weekdays 9 to noon  
Stream it: [tomsummerprogram.com](http://tomsummerprogram.com)  
Radio: WFOV 92.1 FM in Flint  
Archived: Episodes & Podcasts

**HELLO Spring**

Please see our website and Facebook page

**East Village Magazine**  
[www.eastvillagemagazine.org](http://www.eastvillagemagazine.org)  
for many more stories from Flint!

**TOTEM BOOKS**

Books Vinyl Cafe

Tu-Th: 11am-7pm  
Fr-Sa: 10am-6pm  
Su-Mo: Closed

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

**MaMang VIETNAMESE CUISINE**

Located inside the Flint Farmers' Market

**RE/MAX EDGE**

**FREE Home Warranty**

Flint's Resident Realtor  
The Name Trusted in More Neighborhoods

Ryan Eashoo  
(810) 234-1234  
[www.RyanEashoo.com](http://www.RyanEashoo.com)

**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.

**East Village Magazine**

Vol. LIX No. 3 April 2022

Founder Gary P. Custer

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

#### Distribution Staff

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

#### Board of Trustees

• FaLessia Booker • Edwin D. Custer  
• Robert MacDonald • Paul Rozycki  
• Jan Worth-Nelson

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

Website:  
[eastvillagemagazine.org](http://eastvillagemagazine.org)

E-mail:  
[eastvillagemagazineflint@gmail.com](mailto:eastvillagemagazineflint@gmail.com)

Layout by Patsy Isenberg. Printing by PrintComm Inc., 3040 S. Dye Rd., Flint, MI 48507.

*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.

© 2022 East Village Magazine

## Commentary *Flint's I-475 freeway and race: A concrete barrier, or a road to reconciliation?*

By Paul Rozycki

A therapist trying to analyze Flint's attitude towards race might use the term bipolar.

On one hand, Flint was the first major city to choose an African-American mayor, Floyd McCree. It passed one of the first open housing ordinances in the late 1960s, after a community sleep-in at City Hall. A Republican governor came to support the effort. It's been the home of the United Auto Workers (UAW), historically one of the more progressive unions in the nation. In contrast to many cities, Flint avoided major conflicts during the Black Lives Matter movement, when the county sheriff responded to a request from civil rights activists to "walk with us" during the summer marches in Flint and Genesee County.

Yet, on the other hand, Flint has been categorized as one of the most segregated cities in the nation. In the early and mid-twentieth century, homes built for GM workers by the Modern Housing Corporation included restrictive covenants prohibiting sales to any but white residents. Many city parks were assumed to be open to whites only. Banks and finance companies commonly 'redlined' parts of the city to limit mortgages in minority areas. Entertainment at the old IMA, in downtown Flint, had a program for whites early in the evening, and one for Blacks around midnight. Today, the Flint City Council can rarely get through a meeting without some racial bickering between council members. Before the 1970s, Black residents were generally limited to living in

two areas of the city—the St. John Street area in the north, and Floral Park to the south.

#### The I-475 freeway

That racial divisions in Flint and Genesee County have been revealed in a thousand ways over the years, but one of the most visible has been the creation of the I-475 expressway, that runs through the city, just east of downtown. Built in the early 1970s, it runs from the Grand Blanc area in the south, through the city of Flint, and joins I-75 well north of the city, in the Beecher area.



**I-475 corridor downtown Flint**  
(Photo by Tom Travis)

#### Building I-475

Plans to run an expressway through the city of Flint began in the early 1960s, as General Motors and others sought to connect several GM plants, and divert the industrial traffic from city streets. While there were several options

(Continued on Page 6.)

Cover: Sculptures of Billy Durant and J. Dallas Dort on Water St.

# Education Beat

## Linda Boose to fill vacant Flint Community School's Board seat

By Harold C. Ford

Linda Boose was selected March 15 by the Flint Board of Education (FBOE) to fill a seat vacated a month ago by Adrian Walker.

The decision came after two rounds of interviews lasting nearly 2.5 hours, with five members of the board – Danielle Green, president [Green was removed as president March 23 after an alleged assault against Treasurer Laura MacIntyre, with Joyce Ellis-McNeal installed as president See EVM online for full details], Joyce Ellis-McNeal, vice-president; Laura MacIntyre, treasurer; Allen Gilbert and Chris Del Morone, trustees, voting unanimously for Boose. Trustee Carol McIntosh was absent.

Walker, then-board treasurer, left to take a position in Michigan state government.

Candidates for the vacant board seat included Boose, Estella Simpkins, Ezekiel Harris, and Raymond Hall. Boose and Simpkins advanced from a first round of six questions to a second round of five questions.

### Candidate profiles

**Boose:** Boose attended Flint Community Schools (FCS). She graduated from Mott Community College and the University of Michigan-Flint where she majored in Health Care Administration. She taught briefly at Whittier Middle School. She worked for the Michigan Department of Health, based in Flint. She is the parent of three children that all attended Flint schools.

**Simpkins:** Simpkins is the parent of two children who attended and graduated from Flint schools. She served former Flint Mayor Karen Weaver in an executive administrator

position; she served as personal assistant to Pamela Pugh, former chief public health advisor for the City of Flint. She is currently head adviser to Crescent Moon Fraternity, a local masonic organization.

**Harris:** Harris was born in Flint and attended Flint schools until his middle school years when he transitioned to Carman-Ainsworth. An executive director position with the nonprofit MACC Development drew him to Detroit. Ramifications of the COVID epidemic led him to return to Flint, “to the city that we love.” At 29 years, he told *East Village Magazine* (EVM), “There aren’t too many people my age moving back.”



Newly appointed Flint School Board member Linda Boose  
(Photo by Harold Ford)

**Raymond Hall:** Hall attended Flint schools and graduated from Flint Northern. He has two daughters in Flint schools. The publicly free-spirited Hall worked as a laborer.

### Selection process

Candidates’ responses were ranked on a scale of one to ten (ten the best) with the candidate(s) accumulating the highest point total moving

forward. Critics of the process have suggested that calculating the numbers can advance a candidate preferred by a minority of FBOE members.

Contrary to recent past practice, point totals awarded each candidate by FBOE members were not announced to the public. [Note: To achieve brevity, only the responses of the two finalists, Boose and Simpkins, to the second round of questions are represented below. The responses are edited for purposes of clarity and brevity.]

### 2nd round questions

1. Working effectively with other school board members and the superintendent requires skills in communication and decision-making. How do you see yourself working with other members of the leadership team? What is your vision for education in this community?

2. Do you understand the term ‘community benefit agreement’? How could that benefit the school board?

3. What would you do to ameliorate the school-to-prison pipeline in the Flint School District?

4. How many FBOE meetings have you attended? When was the first? When was the last?

5. Identify a recent board decision you felt strongly about. Describe how you would balance community concerns, student needs, state and Federal law, staff considerations, and your personal values and beliefs to determine how you would vote on the issue?

### Boose’s responses

1. “I can work at a high capacity ... I respect each person’s opinion ... I do not hold grudges ... It takes a team ... the superintendent, staff,

(Continued on Page 5.)

## Hiring Boose ...

(Continued from Page 4.)

the board, students, and the parents ... My vision is to have a holistic approach dealing with individual minds, body, and intellect ... for the kids to have a complete understanding of how their skills and education will form their future.”

2. “To get all the community partners ... to make an agreement to support and serve ... in partnership with the schools. It’s an agreement between the schools and the community partners.”

3. “They (students) get lost in the system ... drop out ... and end up in the juvenile system. (Boose noted that most of her clients at the Department of Health and Human Services had no more than a 9th grade education.) They (students) get lost in the system and drop out ... The kids have nowhere to go ... (The schools) have to make sure they have a curriculum in place ... to instill in the kids how important it is to finish their education and what the benefits are ... A lot are not getting parented at home ... Some families have barriers ... The schools are the first line of defense ... They can even start at preschool ...”

4. Boose said the first FBOE meeting she attended in-person was in the 1998-99 school year; the last was when Lawrence Watkins was the superintendent (2013-2015). She’s attended, virtually, a few meetings since then.

5. “All of those areas are important ... You have to weigh out the pros and cons in each situation ... The staff, the students, and parents are the most important ... The parents are the ones who choose the schools to send their children to ... Student needs are very important ... They (decisions/votes) have to line up with what the school district needs ... You have to go by state and Federal law ... You have to make sure your decision is not unlaw-

ful ... My values and opinions would be last ...” [Note: Boose’s responses above are a synthesis of her public interview responses and subsequent comments made to EVM.]

### Simpkins’ responses:

1. “I think it is very imperative that the school board be in contact with their local community, especially the parents ... and to be part of the decision-making process when it comes to their curriculums, the health, and different things that are concerns of the school board ... The school board should also have a desire to move the students into the 21st century with their education ... and bring in programs that will address their behavioral issues the kids have, like neurological assessments ... free physicals. (Ms. Simpkins continued by addressing the impact of the water crisis and COVID pandemic on the educational achievement of FCS students.)”



Estelle Simpkins  
(Photo by Harold Ford)

2. “I have ... it could really benefit the school board. (It’s) where the community would have some kind of contract or agreement ... where they can work hand in hand ... You want to have the community involved in different things the school board is doing (such as) the need for demolition of some schools, the need for building of other schools. The

community is affected by anything you would do so you want to have an agreement ... with whomever you might contract with ... The decision is threefold; you’ve got to have the community ... the board ... local contractors ... on the same page.”

3. “I just hate the terms the pipeline thing ... to eliminate it ... It’s going to have to be something that’s very inclusive to include psychologists for students ... physicians ... a police force that would understand all children aren’t bad ... We would have to have ... special judges that could see through the exterior of that child to really get at the cause of what’s causing them to get into the situation that they’re in ... We (should be) putting more money into schools, teachers, counselors ... We have a lot of school-to-prison pipeline parents ... parents are acting out too ...”

4. “I’ve only attended two but they were wide apart.” [One was “two weeks ago” and the other “about 15 years ago.”]

5. “It was the building of this new school over in the culture district ... I felt like many of our inner-city kids was not going to have an opportunity really to attend it because of where it was located and ... only a certain number of kids could go there ... and they had to have a certain scholastic IQ ... most of the children were going to be discriminated against ... That school was for the ‘other kids’ and not the inner-city kids ... Right now, we don’t have candidates in position that are in favor of the inner-city schools. It seems it always goes to the parochial schools ... charter schools ... private schools ... and the inner-city kids seem to get the tail end of the stick ...” [The reader should know that Flint Cultural Center Academy is a public charter

(Continued on Page 7.)



## I-475 ...

(Continued from Page 3.)

available, the final plans took the new highway through a major Black neighborhood, the St. John Street area.

While some considered the area to be in need of urban renewal, the freeway became a means of removal. In spite of any problems that existed in the St. John neighborhood, such as industrial pollution, some have labeled it “the Black Wall Street” for Flint. Because of discrimination elsewhere in Flint, the St. John Street neighborhood was where most African-Americans did their shopping, visited restaurants, and sought entertainment. In his book *Demolition Means Progress* Andrew Highsmith wrote that the I-475 project ultimately increased Black poverty and segregation. He said that the rate of Black home ownership fell from 50 percent to 15 percent after the highway was built.

There were several reasons for choosing the St. John Street route, all linked to race. From an economic point of view, a low income neighborhood was a less costly path than clearing out a more upscale area. Taxes were low, as were property values. From a political point of view, the push back from a minority neighborhood was likely to be less intense than from another middle class area. The reaction from residents of the Central Park area, west of Central High School, was one reason the expressway wasn’t placed there.

### The promise of urban renewal

When the I-475 highway was first proposed, in a 1963 report from the Michigan State Highway Department, titled “Freeways for Flint,” it was promised as an urban renewal project for the St. John Street community. Those promises, and the advent of open housing



**MDOT public information meeting held at The Whiting March 22**

(Photo by Paul Rozycki)

laws, led many residents to initially support the idea, according to Andrew Highsmith. However, the implementation of the highway project, and urban renewal, led to a dramatically different outcome.

Flint passed an open housing law that prevented formal segregation, when the residents did find new housing it was often in neighborhoods that were still informally segregated, or in public housing within the City of Flint,



**Citizens view large maps at a MDOT meeting**

(Photo by Paul Rozycki)

The I-475 project was delayed by federal budget cuts and rising costs of the Vietnam War in the mid-1960s. But since everyone knew that the St. John Street area was soon to be taken for the expressway, all but routine maintenance was deferred, and home values declined. During this time, the Flint City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting anything but the most essential repairs and improvements to property in the area. As a result, residents’ property was purchased at low prices, and those forced out often lacked the funds to find good housing elsewhere.

The expectations of racial integration were also dashed. While

rather than in the suburbs. With some variation, the Floral Park community to the south, faced similar challenges.

A 2017 report issued by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission titled, “The Flint Water Crisis: Systemic Racism through the Lens of Flint” came to the following conclusion about the impact of the I-475 project on Flint’s Black community:

“In the end urban renewal caused more harm than good. Flint’s vibrant African American communities had been razed, the good along with the deteriorated and overcrowded. The existing urban culture was erased. In its place are freeways, a

(Continued on Page 7.)

## I-475 ...

(Continued from Page 6.)

theme park, and other underused facilities that, like Flint’s water system, were built for people and businesses who largely are no longer there.”

Flint’s experience was not unusual. Many cities, as they built freeways and tollways, often found that, under the banner of urban renewal, it was easier to put the concrete pathways in low income, minority communities. It was economically cheaper, and it was politically less contentious.

The highways got built, but the promised urban renewal never quite happened. Often the relocation of residents led to continued segregation rather than integration. Often that relocation destroyed the personal connections that developed among neighbors. And all too often, the new highways separated racial communities, and made it easier for white residents to move out of the city, and commute from the suburbs.

### What’s next for I-475?

In light of all the history of I-475, the State of Michigan is developing plans to rework Flint’s urban highway. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is planning a \$300 million project that will redesign I-475 from Bristol Road to Carpenter Road. The project could begin in the spring of 2024 and could free up as much as 30 acres of land for development downtown. Today as the future of the highway is being reconsidered, residents are being asked to offer their views on its future.

It has held public meetings, and invited comments from the public in the hope that the errors of the past won’t be repeated. A meeting on Tuesday, March 22 at The Whiting presented the proposals, and heard comments from the public about the future of the highway in Flint and Genesee County.

At the well-attended meeting, several major proposals were presented, including four options for the future of I-475.

The first was to do nothing, leave the highway as it is.

The second, was a modest modification of the existing freeway, with four lanes and some updates.

The third option was a reduced footprint freeway, cutting it back to four lanes, with other modifications.

And the fourth option was to create an urban boulevard in the downtown, with connections to the urban grid.

During the question and answer period, several who lived in the area raised questions about the noise level of the freeway. Others supported the idea of a bike path and provisions for walkers in the downtown. Several hoped that whatever plan was finally adopted would be successfully maintained in the future. Some raised the issue of the impact of the freeway on their neighborhoods.

In addition to the public meeting, comments from the public can be submitted by mail, an online comment form, e-mail, or phone.

As reported in Tom Travis’ *EVM* story of March 8, the meeting at The Whiting is available on line at [bit.ly/I475OnlineMeeting] until April 4. Public feedback to MDOT can be also be given through email at MDOT-I475@Michigan.gov or by calling (517) 335-4381. Mailed comments should be directed to Monica Monsma, MDOT Environmental Services Section, 425 West Ottawa St., P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Mi. 48909.

Whatever the final design of the highway, boulevard, or parkway, the real question is “Will this be a road that leads to racial reconciliation in Flint?”

To help answer that question, be sure to make your voice heard.

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

## Hiring Boose ...

(Continued from Page 5.)

school with membership open to all students in the state of Michigan and that enrollment was determined by a lottery system. Articles about the FCC Academy have been published previously by *EVM*.]

*East Village Magazine* October

2021: Flint Cultural Center Academy survived COVID, construction and start-up challenges to make it to third year

*East Village Magazine* March

2019: Flint Cultural Center Academy details highlight

*East Village Magazine* October

2018: “Hire local,” union picketers urge at Flint Cultural Center Academy site: FCCC: “We did.” Contractor: “We are local.”

*East Village Magazine* June

2018: Ground broken for Flint Cultural Center K-8 charter school, C.S. Mott commits \$35 million, FCS said no

### FBOE meetings

Meetings of the FBOE are posted online at YouTube; a full reproduction of both rounds of interviews with all the candidates on March 15, 2022 should soon be accessible there.

The next meetings of the FBOE are April 13 (Committee of the Whole/COW) and April 20 (regular meeting). Much of the board’s work is done at COW meetings and then ratified at regular meetings a week later. Meetings typically start at 6:30 p.m.

At present, meetings can be accessed virtually via YouTube; visit the FCS website for details. Meetings can be attended in-person at ALA (Accelerated Learning Academy, formerly Scott School), 1802 S. Averill Ave., Flint, MI 48503.

*EVM Education reporter Harold C. Ford can be reached at hcford1185@comcast.net.*

# Sports Beat

## Beecher and Grand Blanc nearly repeat as state champions

By Harold C. Ford

Genesee County comprises about four percent of the state's population (roughly 400,000 of 10 million people), but two local school districts

– Beecher on the north side of Flint, Grand Blanc on the south side – currently claim 50 percent of the boys state championship basketball teams. Both schools won state titles a year ago in March 2021.

And both teams were steam-rolling their way to possible repeat championships in the annual Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) boys basketball tournament before losses at Michigan State University's Breslin Center in East Lansing.

In Division 3 (D3), Beecher (22 wins, 21 losses) was bounced from the tourney in the semifinals by Schoolcraft (23-2) on March 24 by a 55-39 score.

Grand Blanc (21-5) lost to Warren De La Salle (19-7), 67-58, in the championship game on March 26.

Tickets for Pistons games at Detroit's Little Caesars Arena, in contrast, run \$24 to \$576.

### Steamroller statistics

Beecher and Grand Blanc collectively eliminated ten MH-

SAA opponents on their way to the state semifinal contests in East Lansing.

Beecher outscored five

Bucs, bested New Haven (76-48) in a quarterfinal game to move on to the semifinal in East Lansing.

The MHSAA playoffs are one-and-done: losers go home, their season ended; winners move on.

Grand Blanc outscored its five tourney opponents 356 to 253. That's an average winning score of 71 to 51. The Bobcats put Lapeer (78-42) and Oxford (66-32) out of the tournament at the District level. They ousted Carman-Ainsworth (65-58) and Pe-

toskey (80-61) in Regional competition. In its quarterfinal contest, Grand Blanc eliminated Detroit Catholic Central (67-60) to get to the semifinal in East Lansing.

### Losing and winning

The boys basketball programs at both Beecher and Grand Blanc each had to adjust to a significant loss –both named Williams – as they entered the 2021-22 season.

Beecher's most successful basketball coach ever, Mike Williams, took his coaching talents to a new position at Davison High School at the start of the 2021-22 school year. Last year, Williams coached the Bucs all

(Continued on Page 9.)



Beecher cheer team and basketball team during national anthem before quarterfinal game with New Haven (photo by HC Ford)



Beecher coach Marquis Gray rallies his team during timeout. (Photo by HC Ford)

opponents in the MHSAA tourney by a collective points margin of 376 to 183. That's an average winning score of 75 to 37. In the first-round District competition, Beecher ousted Vassar (80-17) and Reese (72-41). In the second-round Regional contests Beecher beat Hemlock (76-47) and Marlette (72-30). The Buccaneers, or

## State Champions ...

(Continued from Page 8.)

the way to a D3 state championship game victory over Iron Mountain (53-52).

In D3 (or Class C prior to 2019), Williams led the Bucs to six state championships in the past nine years the MHSAA tournament had been held. The tourney was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic.

Altogether, the Beecher boys basketball program has claimed nine state championships (1976, 1985, 1987, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2021) and has been runner-up four times (1986, 2000, 2003, 2008).

Grand Blanc lost its best player from last year's state championship team. Tyson Williams, 2021 Associated Press D1 Player of the Year, transferred to the Chicago area's Thornton High School. Despite the loss of Williams, Grand Blanc coach Mike Thomas has his team headed back to the Breslin at MSU.

### Beecher's "David" vs. Grand Blanc's "Goliath"

Prior to the state tourney, on March 3, D3 Beecher traveled to D1 Grand Blanc for a much-anticipated matchup of state champs witnessed by some 3,000 fans. Grand Blanc prevailed by a 68-57 score giving Beecher only its second loss of the regular season; the other had been administered by Detroit King, then the top-ranked team in D-1.

Michigan's four basketball divisions are based on a school district's student population. D1 schools have the largest student

populations, D4 schools the least. In Michigan, there are about 186 schools in each of the four divisions.

Grand Blanc has the largest student count in Genesee County at nearly 8,000 students; Beecher is way down the list with about 650. Nonetheless, only five players at a time get onto the basketball court and the Beecher community is certain it's found a formula for success in boys basketball.



Beecher coaches, l-r: Jarell Brown; Ronnie Jenkins; Henry Jamerson; Spencer Eason; Marquis Gray; Stacey Watson (athletic director, right) (Photo by HC Ford)

### Success

Knowledgeable Beecher fans point to the coaching tandem of Mike Bedore and Moses Lacy in the 1970s and 1980s as the launchpad for the school's successful basketball program.

In 1976, Bedore led the Bucs to its first state championship ever with a win over perennial powerhouse River Rouge (80-76), a program built by the legendary Lofton Greene. Eventually, Lacy took the helm and led the Bucs to two more championships in 1985 and 1987.

Three Beecher grads were asked by *East Village Magazine* to

reflect on the reason(s) for the success of their alma mater:

- Marquise Gray, Beecher boys basketball coach: "All of us (basketball coaches and athletic director) are Beecher grads; so this program, the school, the community holds a special place in all our hearts ... All of us are doing what was done for us and that's giving back."

- Lance Sumpter, Beecher High School principal: "Our kids have that fight in them. The legacy in the district is amazing, and the boys know that when they put that Beecher red on, they have to bring Buc pride, intensity, character, and determination onto the basketball court."

- Tim Smith, class of 1983: "We've always had excellent basketball teams, somewhat of a dynasty ... It's our athleticism and our speed, our defense. Our press has always been our bread and butter."

Mike Thomas, boys basketball head coach, is sowing similar seeds at Grand Blanc. He told ABC12 that he purposely created a difficult schedule at season's start "to challenge our guys ... to see what they were made of early ... The guys stepped up to the challenge."

Thomas said, "I'm a guy that doesn't really care about the first 20 games ... March is around the corner (however) and we wanted to make sure we created as much momentum ... as possible."

EVM *Sports Beat* reporter Harold Ford can be reached at [hc-ford1185@gmail.com](mailto:hc-ford1185@gmail.com).

**Village Life ...**  
(Continued from Page 16.)

**“Hey, we can’t let this go.”**  
– MPRA member Tom Saxton

MPRA President Tom Saxton, a retired Women’s soccer coach at Michigan State University, recalled when the golf course closed and the club house was abandoned in 2009. He said the golf course lawn had gone to seed and it would have been a million dollar project to restore the grounds.

Saxton recalled a neighborhood meeting soon after the golf course closed. The city was under emergency management at the time. “We were all standing around here like, hey we can’t let this place go,” said Saxton.

That moment, Saxton said, planted the seed for folks to start meeting and form the non-profit Mott Park Recreation Association (MPRA).

“Not a lot of attention was given, initially, to the club house building. Some work was done to keep it from falling in disrepair. Chad and other residents have really been the catalyst in trying to getting something bigger going over the last year,” Saxton said.

**Break-ins, vandalism and arson motivate residents**

A few things coincided that, “made it seem like it was just the right time. One of the things was the club house at Pierce Park burning down, another incident was a bunch of kids breaking into this building and breaking a bunch of windows. Those kinds of events help me to realize the building was either going to go downhill or be improved. It wasn’t going to just stay neutral,” Schlosser said.

Wiggins said she came forward about that time and suggested it be

made into a community center and offered her help.” A former program coordinator/director of the former Pierce Center, Wiggins has years of experience in working with senior citizens and youth.

She said she dreams of the club house becoming a place for the community to enjoy the atmosphere and relax — especially for inner-city children to be able to take advantage of the facility.



**Mott Park Recreation Area.**  
(Photo by Tom Travis)



**From inside the club house the windows overlook the beautiful 70-acres of parkland..**  
(Photo by Tom Travis)

“I don’t want it to become a wasteland,” she said.

Wiggins recalled Forest Park now called Max Brandon Park, in Flint, that used to have “a craft house.” It was a place for children to come year-round to learn and do crafts including potter with the kiln that was located in the craft house. Wiggins said she hopes this club house in Mott Park can be the same thing for children in this neighborhood.

Schlosser said one of the first things he worked on was outside lighting. He worked with fellow Mott Park resident Denny Gardner to get the lighting surrounding the building and the grounds up and running. “We

needed to brighten things up.”

Saxton noted the group has been in “crisis mode the last year because we were afraid once the heat’s gone the pipes will freeze.”

The group has made many improvements in just the last year. A \$25,000 grant from the The Community Foundation of Greater Flint paid for a new roof, two new furnaces and two new air conditioners. Kettering University donated \$1,300 for a new garage door.

An anonymous donor gave \$2,600 to replace 11 broken windows. Saxton added that about seven years ago the CFGF gave the MPRA a grant to for all new windows.

Schlosser estimated about \$30,000 has been invested in the MPRA club house “and a whole lot of sweat equity by volunteers.” Not all the volunteers are Mott Park residents or even Flint residents. While EVM talked with the MPRA group a Grand Blanc resident, Jayne West was volunteering her time to paint a small utility room.

Schlosser, Wiggins and Saxton listed more than 20 residents, by name, from Mott Park and Glendale Hills who have volunteered doing work around the facility including plumbing, painting, clean-up, including Kettering students and local fraternities have helped out.

Volunteers also maintain the maintenance building, the bridges, fencing, trash disposal and security system for the property, according to Saxton.

Saxton has been on the MPRA for the last decade. “Our mission is attached to the whole property and we see this [the club house renovation] as a great addition,” he said.

“Our mission is to maintain and enhance this space from a golf course to a multi-use recreation space for community use.” Saxton said the annual flotilla ends in Mott Park each

(Continued on Page 11)

**Village Life ...**  
(Continued from Page 10.)

year noting that the group members are “tied into the Flint River Watershed as well.”

Some of the “multi-uses” for the property and club house are the disc-golf course that goes on all-year round, the designated Monarch Butterfly Waystation by the Monarch Joint Venture Association, bird identification classes for kids, sledding, residents walking their dogs, walkers and runners, trails in the woods. One neighbor wants to teach a Judo class.

The MPRA annually hosts the Turkey Trot, the oldest continuously run foot race in Michigan. “It’s not exclusively a disc-golf course, it’s more,” Saxton added.

“We plan on positive, construction activities where neighbors can meet each other and we can figure out how to work together to solve prob-

lems,” Schlosser said. “Having a physical space to do that will make a lot of difference. And maybe resolve some issues like when people only communicate through social media this will be a place and an opportunity for people to communicate face to face.”

**Future neighborhood tool shed planned**

In partnership with the Neighborhood Engagement Hub, a neighborhood tool shed is planned to be opened out of the basement. Neighbors will be able to borrow lawn mowers, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, things they need to take care of their yards.

“We’re trying to lower any barriers that people might have to being able to taking care of their property. We want it to flourish,” Schlosser said.


A big goal this year is to address a problem water flow issue, Schlosser said. The MPRA needs to get water flowing away from the

club house and towards the creek, he explained.

Schlosser said while the building is close to being ready to open, the MPRA is waiting for City Council to approve a lease with the city. The resolution to approve that lease was on the council’s agenda in recent weeks. Last week the council voted to move the resolution back to committee where it’s now stalled until it can be moved back to a council meeting.

According to Schlosser the lease agreement will call for the MPRA to maintain and care for the former golf course property and club house. A rental facility fee schedule is in the works and the MPRA hopes to be able to rent the club house and the property for neighborhood meetings, open houses, weddings and other events.

EVM Managing Editor Tom Travis can be reached at [tomntravis@gmail.com](mailto:tomntravis@gmail.com).



**MOTT** COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Presents The Ballenger Eminent Persons Lecture Series**

**The 1619 Project**

Wednesday, April 13, 2022  
7 pm • Capitol Theatre

For tickets:  
call 810-237-7333 or visit  
<https://tickets.thewhiting.com/9500>

**This event is free and open to the public**



# **\$9.6 million in federal funds coming to Flint area organizations, Kildee announces**

*By Tom Travis*

Support for a North Flint food cooperative, assistance for affordable housing and blighted property demolition, training for school nurses, criminal justice reform, funding for more critical care hospital beds, and creation of a science and technology student mentoring program are among Flint-area initiatives set to benefit from \$9.6 million of federal funds approved this week.

The appropriations are part of a \$1.5 trillion spending bill to keep the federal government operating through the end of 2022 fiscal year.

U.S. Representative Dan Kildee announced in a press release that 10 Community Project Funding requests from his district will receive the additional funding. The community project funding requests are scattered throughout Kildee’s Fifth congressional district which includes the city of Flint, Genesee, Saginaw and Bay County.

The trillion dollar federal funding package also provides \$13.6 billion to support Ukraine as it defends itself against Putin’s unprovoked war.

## **Why only 10 Flint-area projects?**

According to the press release the Congressional Appropriations Committee created a new opportunity for Members of Congress to direct federal resources for certain projects with demonstrated community support. Each member of Congress can submit up to 10 projects for consideration.

All 10 of Kildee’s community project funding requests passed the House yesterday.

The 10 projects that passed the House include:

**\$650,000** to the North Flint Reinvestment Corporation to help build the North Flint Food Market, a consumer-owned cooperative that will operate as a full-service grocery store. The new market aims to improve access to affordable, fresh and locally sourced produce for Flint residents.

“The North Flint Reinvestment Corporation is delighted to receive much-needed funding to support construction of the North Flint Food Market,” said Pastor Reginald Flynn, project manager of the North Flint Reinvestment Corporation. “I, along with the member-owners of our food cooperative, am grateful for the advocacy, hard work, and determination of Congressman Kildee and his staff to ensure residents have expanded access to healthy food in North Flint’s Pierson Road corridor, which has been identified by the USDA as a food desert. We are elated!”

**\$1,500,000** to the Genesee County Habitat for Humanity for the Flint Home Improvement Fund to assist Flint residents make home upgrades, including furnace and hot water heater replacement, roof replacement or repairs, kitchen and bath upgrades, deck and porch replacement, new siding and other home upgrades to address health and safety issues.

“This funding will enable us to implement a holistic strategy to neighborhood improvement by directly investing in the families who live here. It will give homeowners in the City of Flint access to critical capital for home improvements, who are often left out of traditional lending

and federal resources,” said Thomas Hutchison, Executive Director of Genesee County Habitat for Humanity.

**\$650,000** to Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village (SBEV) to create a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education program for students at SBEV’s north Flint after school center. This will be done in coordination with Berston Field House’s youth mentoring program for young adults ages 11 to 17.

[This will bring a] “transformative impact on our organization and the youth we serve on a daily basis. Through his vision and support, SBEV has been able to continue to serve our community through our program foundation of academics, art, and athletics,” said Maryum Rasool, Executive Director of Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village.

“With these funds we will be able to expand our much-needed mentoring program,” said Bryant Nolden, Executive Director of Berston Fieldhouse.

**\$5 million** to the Flint Registry, which continues to play a critical role in the city’s recovery, identifying individuals exposed to lead during the Flint water crisis and connecting them to critical health care and other resources to improve their health and development.

“Successfully delivering this funding increase for the Flint Registry this year will help the Registry fully operate and support those impacted by the Flint water crisis for many years into the future,” said Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, director of MSU-Hurley Children’s Hospital Pediatric

*(Continued on Page 13.)*

## **\$9.6 Million ...**

*(Continued from Page 12.)*

Public Health Initiative.

**\$1 million** to the Genesee Intermediate School District to create a school nurse training pilot program. “The pandemic has further highlighted the need for school-based health services. This funding will help fill important gaps in our community, bringing much needed support in the form of school nurses to Genesee County schools and leading to better health outcomes for students now and into the future,” said Dr. Steve Tunnicliff, Genesee Intermediate School District Superintendent.

**\$1.45 million** to Hurley Medical Center to purchase 46 new critical care beds.

Hurley Medical Center, a public and non-profit teaching hospital, is requesting **\$1.436 million** to purchase 46 new critical care beds for their critical care units. Hurley Medical Center is an independent, 443-bed public safety-net hospital located in the city of Flint, Michigan, according to Kildee’s website.

**\$750,000** to the Greater Flint Health Coalition to establish and expand a Community Information Exchange, which would improve mental health crisis prevention and treatment for residents.

“Expanding local capacity to increase access to care and navigation of community health resources is a critical step to provide opportunities for improved health outcomes and mental health needs of our residents,” said Kirk Smith, President & CEO of Greater Flint Health Coalition.

**\$1.75 million** to the Genesee County Land Bank Authority and the Bay County Land Bank Authority to demolish 65 of the most hazardous vacant properties, based upon community input, and three vacant and abandoned former school buildings.

“Blight is an environmental justice issue. Vacant and blighted structures attract dumping and other criminal activities, create health and safety risks to residents and depress the value of surrounding homes and businesses,” said Michael Freeman, Executive Director of the Genesee County Land Bank Authority.

“Eliminating hazards in neighborhoods and commercial corridors is the first step to restoring value to neighboring homeowners, creating opportunities for residents to build wealth through homeownership and creating new opportunities for equitable investment and improvements in areas that have experienced significant hardship over the past few decades.”

**\$768,000** to Genesee County, including the Office of Genesee County Sheriff and the Genesee County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, for a collaborative partnership to create the Genesee County Justice Partnership for Reform to help reduce criminal justice costs, reduce recidivism, and build a stronger local economy by helping formerly incarcerated individuals secure jobs.

“When you’re serious about fixing a broken system, give the people hope and a sense of value and watch what happens!” said Chris Swanson, Sheriff of Genesee County.

“This funding will allow us to provide reform to the local justice system through a restorative justice model which will help bring true justice to victims, reduce recidivism among offenders, address generational incarceration issues, and help offenders get on the right track in life and become productive citizens,” said David Leyton, Genesee County Prosecutor.

“We are excited for these multi-million-dollar investments into our community that will have a transformational impact and will pave the

way toward building a brighter future for Genesee County,” said Dominique Clemons, Chairperson for the Genesee County Board of Commissioners.

**\$600,000** to Presbyterian Villages of Michigan to create a workforce training program that will build a pipeline for direct care workers at McFarlan Home and Court Street Village senior living homes in Flint.

“This will also be a significant step in transforming the field to attract and support young leaders well into the future,” said Roger Myers, President and CEO of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan.

**\$348 million** for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to protect the Great Lakes from dangerous chemicals like PFAS, combat harmful algal blooms and protect against invasive species, such as Asian carp.

“Continued funding for Great Lakes Regional Initiative (GLRI) is essential for our drinking water, our fish and wildlife, and our economy,” said Dr. Mike Shriberg, Great Lakes Regional Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation.

“As the World leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation, Ducks Unlimited (DU) has successfully restored over 80,000 acres throughout Michigan, benefiting wildlife and people alike ... This investment into Michigan’s wetlands and associated habitats will help accelerate the conservation work that Michiganders expect,” said Kyle Rorah, Regional Director of Public Policy of Ducks Unlimited.

“Michigan’s annual \$2.3 billion recreational fishery is an asset we can’t afford lose,” Trotter said. “This GLRI money will help us cross the finish line on invasive carp, address nutrient levels in Lake Erie and clean up toxic hotspots that are poisoning to our fish

*(Continued on Page 15.)*



# THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE

A selection of events available to our readers is highlighted — beginning after our publication date of April 4. It's a sampling of opportunities in the city. To submit events for our May issue, email info about your event to [pisenber@gmail.com](mailto:pisenber@gmail.com) by April 26.

## Capitol Theatre Live Shows

Saturday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.  
From radio to live stage, Rickey Smiley will perform alongside comedian Corey Holcomb.  
Tickets: \$80 to \$90  
Wednesday, April 20, 8 p.m.  
Yonder Mountain String Band, Colorado-based jam-grass quintet, will perform.  
Tickets: \$30 to \$50  
(30% discount for Genesee County residents)  
The Capitol Theatre  
140 E. 2nd St., Flint  
810-237-7333  
For more info visit [capitoltheatreflint.com](http://capitoltheatreflint.com).

## The Whiting

Saturday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Enrique Diemecke conducts the Flint Symphony Orchestra with Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1 (Winter Daydreams).  
Brandon LePage featured on Flute.  
Tickets: \$17.50 to \$58  
(30% discount for Genesee County residents)  
The Whiting  
1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint  
810-237-7333  
For more info visit [thewhiting.com](http://thewhiting.com).

## Flint United Basketball Club

Sunday, April 10 at 3 p.m.  
Flint United vs. London Lightning  
Dort Financial Center  
3501 Lapeer Rd., Flint  
810-744-0580  
Tickets: \$16-\$40  
For more info visit  
[exploreflintandgenesee.org](http://exploreflintandgenesee.org)  
or [facebook.com/flintunitedbasketball](https://facebook.com/flintunitedbasketball).

## Stockton House Museum Tour

Saturday, April 16, 1 to 4 p.m.  
Tour the restored post Civil War Mansion built in 1872 and learn of its history.  
Stockton House Museum  
Cost: \$5 adults, \$3 6-17 yrs old, Free under 5  
720 Ann Arbor, Flint  
For more info visit  
[stocktonhousemuseum.com](http://stocktonhousemuseum.com).

## Easter Egg Hunt at For-Mar

Saturday, April 16, 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
For all ages and abilities this old-fashioned Easter egg hunt is a hunt for eggs as well as cabbage and onions for natural dyes.  
Dress for the weather.  
Pre-registration is required by April 15.  
Cost: \$5 per person  
For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum  
2142 N. Genesee Rd., Burton  
810-736-7100  
For more info visit [geneseecountyparks.org](http://geneseecountyparks.org).

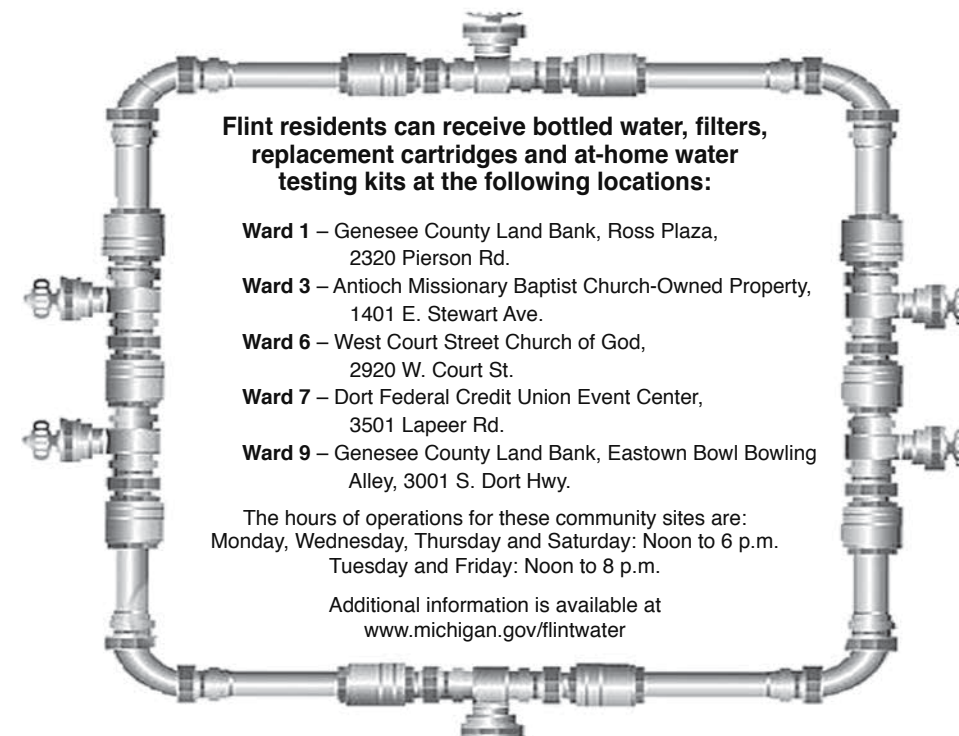
## Jazz Ensemble Concert

Monday, April 18, 7:30 to 9 p.m.  
UM-Flint Dept. of Fine and Performing Arts students will perform jazz style music.  
Theater is at 327 E. Kearsley St., Flint.  
For more info including ticket prices contact Audrey Beauchesne at 810-766-6723 or email [abeauche@umich.edu](mailto:abeauche@umich.edu).

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

## April's FOMA Film Series

Fridays (7:00 to 9:30 p.m.)  
Saturdays (7:00 to 9:30 p.m.)  
Sundays (2:00 to 4:00 p.m.)  
April 1-3, "Licorice Pizza"  
April 8-10, "Parallel Mothers"  
April 14-16, "Julia"  
April 22-24, "C'mon C'mon"  
Tickets: \$7 General Admission, \$6 FIA Members, \$5 Film Society Members  
Check ahead for mask requirements.  
Flint Institute of Arts  
1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint  
810-234-1695  
For more info visit  
[flintarts.eventive.org/films](http://flintarts.eventive.org/films).



**Flint residents can receive bottled water, filters, replacement cartridges and at-home water testing kits at the following locations:**

- Ward 1** – Genesee County Land Bank, Ross Plaza, 2320 Pierson Rd.
- Ward 3** – Antioch Missionary Baptist Church-Owned Property, 1401 E. Stewart Ave.
- Ward 6** – West Court Street Church of God, 2920 W. Court St.
- Ward 7** – Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center, 3501 Lapeer Rd.
- Ward 9** – Genesee County Land Bank, Eastown Bowl Bowling Alley, 3001 S. Dort Hwy.

The hours of operations for these community sites are:  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday: Noon to 6 p.m.  
Tuesday and Friday: Noon to 8 p.m.

Additional information is available at  
[www.michigan.gov/flintwater](http://www.michigan.gov/flintwater)



## MUSIC IN THE HEART OF THE CITY 2022 CONCERT SERIES

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**APRIL CONCERT**  
**Sunday, April 24**  
**4:00 Organ Master's Recital**  
**Matthew Benkert**

**Admission:**  
**\$10 Adults, \$5 Students**  
**Free to MCC or UM**  
**students with ID**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**711 South Saginaw Street**  
**Flint, Michigan 48502**  
**810-234-8637**  
*Artistic Director: Holly Richardson*

**COLLEGE CULTURAL**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
*Sign up to get notices of meetings at*  
**[ccnaflint@gmail.com](mailto:ccnaflint@gmail.com)**



## Unclassified Ad

### Apartment for Lease

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

E-mail [ecuster@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ecuster@sbcglobal.net) or write:

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

## \$9.6 Million ...

(Continued from Page 13.)

and wildlife,” said Amy Trotter, executive director of MUCC (Michigan United Conservation Clubs).

**\$520,000** to the Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity and the Bay County Habitat for Humanity to undertake critical home repairs, including energy systems and roofs for veterans and low-income households.

In the press release Kildee said, “Democrats and Republicans came together to pass a long-term government funding bill that will help grow our economy and lower costs for mid-Michigan families. I am proud that this legislation includes funding for local economic development projects that will make a real difference in mid-Michigan, growing our economy and strengthening our neighborhoods.”

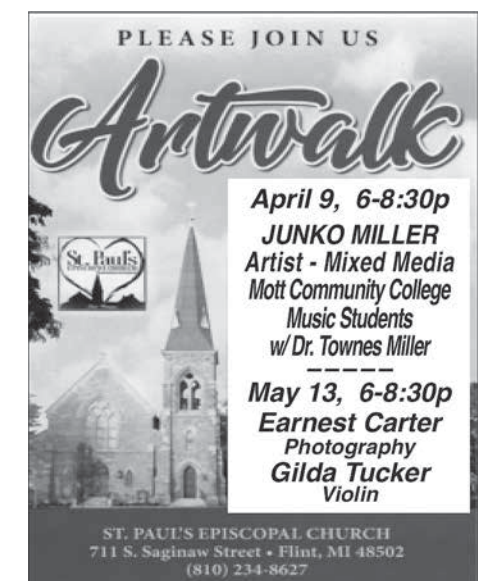
“I am also pleased that this legislation increases funding for the Flint Registry, protecting the Great Lakes and supporting the Ukrainian people. In Washington, I will keep working to bring resources home to mid-Michigan.”

EVM Managing Editor Tom Travis can be reached at [tomntravis@gmail.com](mailto:tomntravis@gmail.com).



(Photo by Mike Naddeo)

Visit the Genesee County Health Department website at: [www.gchd.us/coronavirus](http://www.gchd.us/coronavirus) for information on COVID testing, COVID vaccination and COVID information and statistics.





## Village Life

# **Residents in historic Mott Park neighborhood come together to rejuvenate clubhouse and grounds**

*By Tom Travis*

**“I**t just takes one person to have that vision or to have that love for their community. And that one person must be brave to step out and take the bull by the horns. It just takes one person and then they’ll gravitate and get other people involved. Even in a bad neighborhood, it takes just one person,” said Mott Park Neighborhood resident, Gennois Wiggins.

“And I would add that it starts with one person,” added another Mott Park resident, Chad Schlosser who works in campus ministry at UM-Flint.

Mott Park Recreation Area (MPRA) residents are aiming for a Saturday, June 25 grand opening of the freshly painted and renovated Mott Park clubhouse, located at 2701 Nolen Dr. Flint.

Schlosser, who’s been leading the renovation effort over the last year, said the grand opening will include live music, food trucks and lots of festivities.

The MPRA is a registered non-profit governed by a board which includes: President Tom Saxton, Treasurer Bob Knox, and members Cal Chase, Denny Gardner, Paul Grasso, Chris Monk, Schlosser and Jack Stock.

Mott Park neighborhood residents have worked on the historic golf course since 2010. Since the course’s closing in 2009, residents have been tending, mowing and caring for the former 9-hole, 70-acre parkland. According to the MPRA members, more than 200 hours of volunteer hours annually provide

for the maintenance and upkeep of the property.

“Something that’s been amazing to me in the last year is how many people and organizations want to play a role once we had an idea and a plan towards doing something like this,” Schlosser said. “The Mayor’s office, the Parks and Recreation Department, Keep Genesee County Beautiful, Communities First, The Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Habitat for Humanity, Kettering University — so many different organizations have contributed.”



**MPRA President Tom Saxton (left), Gennois Wiggins (center) and Chad Schlosser (right) inside the recently renovated Mott Park club house**

*(Photo by Tom Travis)*

EVM sat down with a group of MPRA members to listen to their story of renovating the Mott Park club house.

### **Neighborhood projects “need to be driven by locals” – Schlosser**

About a year ago, locals began thinking seriously about bringing the club house back to life. It had sat vacant and boarded up since 2009, according to Schlosser.

He suggested that projects like the Mott Park Recreation Association

(MPRA) and the club house renovation “need to be driven by locals.”

Describing himself as a “community organizer,” Schlosser said he sees himself as connecting different organizations with the MPRA.

“These organizations want to know what neighbors want to do. They’re not going to come in and just do something. So when residents and neighbors want to do something, there is a lot of support out there.

That’s where people, I think, feel alone and these are insurmountable challenges. I can’t fund this and do this by myself. But we figured out who can help, who can play a role. It

takes one person to start and be inspired,” Schlosser said.

### **Clubhouse renovation means “crime prevention”**

Schlosser said he sees the MPRA and the club house activities as “crime prevention.” “We can’t go out and stop people from committing crimes. But we can help to create a healthier

environment for all residents in our neighborhood and that helps to prevent people from making bad choices. You give them opportunities to do things that are constructive,” he explained.

The MPRA listed top crime concerns for Mott Park as break-ins, shootings, traffic and speeding issues.

“Once you have programs for children, in a building, they take ownership. So once a child believes this is theirs, they’ll look out for you, they’ll call the police,” Wiggins added.

*(Continued on Page 10.)*

**LIX: 3 (707 issues, 8,004 pages)**