

East Village Magazine

October 2025



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Commentary

Cases to watch as the Supreme Court begins a new term

By Paul Rozycki

As is tradition, the U.S. Supreme Court began its 2025-26 term on the first Monday in October.

While every year brings a host of important cases in front of the nation's highest court, this year may be more critical than ever. With a president pressing to expand the limits of executive power and a Supreme Court bench that currently has a 6-3 conservative majority, there is much to watch in the months to come.

Perhaps most pressing is the long list of cases in which appeals courts have ruled to limit President Trump's actions. At a time when the Republican majority in Congress has been unwilling to act as a check against executive power, more than a few federal courts have done so, at least on a temporary basis.

Already there are more than 300 lawsuits challenging the president's decisions in his second term, outlined by the Associated Press late last month. Though that list is likely to grow before I finish writing the next paragraph, what follows are some of the appeals court rulings, aimed at limiting presidential power, that are likely to be decided by the Supreme Court this year.

The "shadow docket"

While the current conservative majority of the Supreme Court often supports the president's actions, the administration has gone

further to gain an advantage.

In more than two dozen cases, the Trump administration has asked the Supreme Court to use emergency action, often called the court's "shadow docket," to make a quick ruling and allow actions to take place as litigation continues. This is a dramatic increase from past practice. Such cases are often heard quickly, without a full hearing or written opinion. This maneuver has allowed the administration to follow some of its contested immigration policies and dismiss some officials as the cases proceed.

In addition to the cases on the court's shadow docket, there are many others that are confirmed or could come before the court this term.

Tariffs

One major upcoming case, *Learning Resources v. Trump*, involves a decision in which the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the International Emergency Powers Act, which allows the president to respond to "any unusual or extraordinary threat" related to national security, does not allow the president to impose tariffs as he did.

As reported by CBS, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in early November to decide the limits of President Trump's ability to impose tariffs on many nations.

Birthright citizenship

President Trump's plan to end

(Continued on Page 6)



Photo of the Month: A musical break at Flint's East Street Park. (Photo by Edwin D. Custer)

When ICE hits home: Nael Shamma's story

By Daniel Vela

On August 7, 2025, Nael Shamma, a decades-long resident of Genesee County, became a target of the federal government's push for deportations.

"I picked up my coffee from Tim Horton's and drove away," he later explained to East Village Magazine (EVM). "At the turn of the light by my house some police lights came on, and I was wondering, 'What's going on? I didn't do nothing wrong.'"

That answer is something Shamma, now having spent over two months in detention at the privately-owned North Lake Correctional Facility in Baldwin, Michigan, is still seeking to understand.

Shamma pulled over, and soon his car was surrounded by multiple vehicles. He said Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents then approached him with guns drawn before he was handcuffed and taken to Detroit for processing without any explanation of why he was being detained.

In a September phone interview, Shamma, 58, said the experience made him feel like he was "on America's most wanted or something" and "it didn't make sense" when just a few months prior he had reported for his regular immigration office check in.

Shamma has been in the United States since 1973. He was born in Palestine and told EVM he entered the U.S. legally, with a green card, when he arrived here with his family at just seven years old.

Since then, he has operated, owned, or worked at several local convenience stores throughout his life in Genesee County. He also helps his wife, Christina Shamma, run her cleaning business at times.

Shamma said he met Christina, who is from Holly, Michigan, in 2003. They married in 2013 and have built a happy life over the years, raising their four children together.

In a separate interview, Christina described her husband as a hard

worker and a family man.

"We went in in May," she explained of her and Shamma's last encounter with ICE prior to his August detention. "He reported in May, and they told him everything was fine, he didn't need to do anything. And then August 7 goes around, and they do this."

As she spoke, her voice caught in her throat as she held back tears, calling Shamma "loving, caring, my best friend, the best father and grandfather."

Due to a serious crime Shamma committed in 1983 in Chicago, where his family originally settled, he has been under supervision and required to check in with ICE periodically for decades.

Shamma said he had served six and a half years for that crime, which he described as a "self-defense stabbing case," but he noted that though he'd completed prison time

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Shamma's story ...

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for his past mistake, it still leaves him vulnerable to deportation.

Shamma told EVM that he has had an order of removal since his release from prison in 1989. He explained that ICE attempted to deport him to Palestine right after his release, however Palestine would not accept him. He said there was another attempt to deport him in 2012, this time to Jordan, with the same result.

Now in 2025, after 51 years in the United States, he said he's being told that they are now attempting to deport him to Israel.

"I was born in Palestine, and they're trying to send me to Israel," Shamma said, his confusion and fear palpable even over the phone. "I don't know nobody in that country. I do not have a home in that country. I do not have no family in that country. I was born in Palestine, and there's no more Palestine. There's genocide that's happening in Palestine."

Both Shamma and his wife said he has not been in any trouble with the law since his release from prison over thirty years ago, and neither understands why Shamma has been detained and is possibly being deported to a country currently at war with the country he was born in.

According to an estimate by the Flint Alliance for Immigration Rights (FAIR), a coalition committed to collective action in support of immigrant communities across the Greater Flint region, more than 50 people have been detained by ICE in Genesee County since May 2025.

"That number comes directly from what we are seeing and hearing in the community," Lucine Jarrah and Alysia Treviño, FAIR members, said in an emailed

statement to EVM.

FAIR later clarified that the estimate came by way of a community partner in the spring, but "we know that the true number must be much higher based on what we continue to see and hear in the community."

They noted that no official data from ICE has been made available on those who have been released or deported, as the agency does not publish county-level breakdowns. However, they added "this lack of transparency is exactly why FAIR is calling for oversight and accountability."

While the total number of Genesee County residents affected by the federal push for deportations, it's believed that at least some of Michigan's immigration detentions have been supported through voluntary agreements between ICE and local law enforcement, such as 287(g) task force agreements.

According to ICE, the 287(g) agreement is a task force model that "...serves as a force multiplier by

allowing state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce limited immigration authority during routine police enforcement duties. The model allows state and local agencies to carry out immigration enforcement activities in non-custodial settings while under ICE supervision and oversight."

Here in Michigan, seven law enforcement agencies have signed such an agreement with ICE.

One of those agencies is the Metro Police Authority of Genesee County, a combination of departments and shared resources between Mundy Township and Swartz Creek. (Shamma was detained near his home in Burton, however, and Burton's mayor did not respond to EVM's request to learn whether local law enforcement worked with ICE on Shamma's detention.)

In a phone interview with Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson, EVM asked if his department had any sort of agreement with ICE to supplement or support their detention efforts in Genesee County.

Sheriff Swanson said no, nor are there any plans in the future for any agreements with ICE. He added that his department will continue working with all federal agencies the way they always have.

FAIR's representatives told EVM that an agreement like the 287(g) "creates fear and distrust, especially among families already marginalized, and discourages people from calling the police, even in emergencies. These programs have historically led to racial profiling and civil rights violations in other communities across the country, and we are concerned about similar outcomes here."

While the politics of
(Continued on Page 10)



Nael Shamma and his wife, Christina Shamma.
(Photo courtesy Christina Shamma)

Commentary ...

(Continued from Page 3)

birthright citizenship in the U.S. has already faced several complex challenges. On one level, the Supreme Court has ruled that lower federal courts do not have the power to issue nation-wide rulings, but the justices have not ruled on the overall power of the president to impose a ban on birthright citizenship.

The 14th Amendment states, “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.” In 1898, a U.S. Supreme Court decision (*United States v. Wong Kim Ark*) said that anyone born in the United States is a citizen, even if the parents were not.

After rewriting an appeal from four states, an appeals court ruled that the president’s ban on birthright citizenship was unconstitutional. That case, *Trump v. State of Washington*, is scheduled for appeal to the full U.S. Supreme Court.

Firing members of independent agencies

The president’s attempts to remove members of the National Labor Relations Board, Merit Systems Protection Board, Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Federal Trade Commission, among others, have led to court challenges from those who were dismissed.

A 1935 Supreme Court decision, *Humphrey’s Executor v. United States*, limited the president’s ability to dismiss members of many

independent agencies without cause, and a lower court cited that decision when they ruled the president’s recent dismissals violated federal law.

However, in an emergency ruling, the Supreme Court allowed the dismissals as appeals proceeded – though it recently deferred action on whether President Trump can immediately fire Federal Reserve board member Lisa Cook. According to NBC, the court instead agreed to hear oral arguments in January 2026.

As reported by Business Insider, the Supreme Court is likely to overturn the 1935 precedent or limit it greatly.

Deportations

In his attempt to deport some of those considered to be illegal immigrants, the president has relied on the Alien Enemies Act of 1798. Trump has used the act to deport Venezuelan migrants he claimed were gang members, and several lower federal courts have blocked or delayed the removals indicating that those facing deportation must receive notice and have an opportunity to challenge it.

In the case of *Kristi Noem v. National TPS Alliance*, the administration has asked the Supreme Court to withdraw the protections

for 300,000 Venezuelans and allow deportations to take place.

Gender

Gender issues are also on the table for the Supreme Court’s 2025-26 term.

The case of *Chiles v. Salazar* will decide if a state law that prohibits counselors or therapists from advocating gender conversion therapy is a violation of the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech.

A separate case, *Little v. Hecox*, will deal with the issue of transgender individuals playing in women’s sports and whether a state law that limits participation of one’s “biological sex” is a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

Elections

There will likely be cases dealing with various attempts to draw new election districts in Texas, California, and other states prior to the 2026 election, some of which I discussed in our last issue.

The case of *Louisiana v. Callais* will determine whether the creation of a second Black majority district in the state violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibits practices that diminish the voting power of minority voters.

The case of *National Republican Senatorial Committee v. Federal Election Commission* will decide whether the restriction on campaign expenditures coordination between individual candidates and political parties violates the First Amendment’s guarantee of freedom of speech.

Here in Michigan, Secretary of State Jocelyn



The Supreme Court as composed June 30, 2022 to present.
(Photo credit: Fred Schilling, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States)

(Continued on Page 7)

Commentary ...

(Continued from Page 6)

Benson joined with five other states to refuse disclosure of personal voter data such as date of birth, driver license number and the last digits of one's social security number. The Department of Justice has sued to collect the information and this case, too, may reach the Supreme Court this term.

The Environment

The Supreme Court will also decide two cases that seek to change the venue for future environmental litigation.

Chevron and Exxon Mobil have been sued by two local governments in Louisiana who have accused them of harming the state's coastal environment over the past several decades.

The two companies are trying to move the case from state court to federal court, where they expect a more favorable reception. A previous court ruling blocked the attempt to move to federal court.

In a similar move in Michigan, Enbridge is facing a lawsuit that would block it from operating an oil pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac out of concern for potential environmental harm. Enbridge is also trying to reverse a lower court ruling and move their case to federal court.

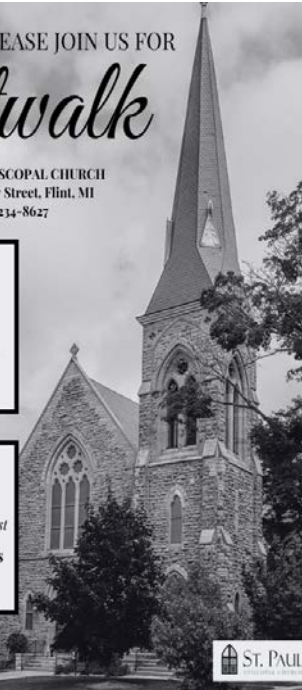
What's next?

That's only a short list of the cases that the court may be dealing with this year. Many more are likely as the current administration sends federal troops to cities, indicts political adversaries, threatens late-night comedians, and offers dubious medical advice. Regardless, with a president who is set on expanding his executive powers, this year's docket may prove impactful far beyond the Trump presidency. ●

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THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE

Below is a selection of events available to our readers, beginning after our October publication date. To submit events for our November issue, email information about your event to eastvillagemagazineflint@gmail.com by October 31.

Drag Brunch at Kew's Korner Pub

Saturday, Oct. 11 | Noon

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of food, drinks, and fabulous performances! Featuring queens Tiffany Tite, Salmon, Faux Minx & Kanary; music by DJ Wayne Michael J; and food by Bella's Concessions & Catering (included with your \$30 ticket). Doors at noon, shows at 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm. Tickets available at <https://kewskornerpub.ticketspice.com/drag-brunch>.

Kew's Korner Pub
4509 S. Saginaw St., Flint

Faculty Concert Series: Brandon Z. Smith

Friday, Oct. 17 | 7 pm

The FIM Flint School of Performing Arts presents singer-songwriter Brandon Z. Smith with "Originals & Inspirations" at the MacArthur Recital Hall. Free admission, but registration is required. Register by visiting thefim.org/faculty1ev.
MacArthur Recital Hall
1025 E. Kearsley St., Flint

Fixed by Flint

Saturday, Oct. 18 | 11 am - 3 pm

Factory Two's much-loved event, "Fixed by Flint" is back by popular demand! This free event encourages residents to come by to get items repaired (or receive help with repairing the item themselves!) rather than tossing them. Repair sign ups are open on Factory Two's event webpage, and item drop-off ends at 1 pm on event day.
Factory Two
129 N. Grand Traverse St., Flint

Musicians & Creatives Meetup

Tuesday, Oct. 21 | 5 - 7 pm

Musicians, creatives, performers, artists, writers, dancers, magicians, and everyone else invited. Get together, talk business, share new work, solicit feedback, make connections.

Hosted by Totem Books and Mister Tim.
Totem Books
620 W Court St., Flint

Harvest Fest

Saturday, Oct. 25 | 11 am - 1 pm

This free event will offer a ton of fun activities for your family - including a trunk-or-treat, face painting, balloon animals, games, a hay ride and more! There will also be a food truck available for concessions.
Hill Creek Church
5363 Hill Rd, Swartz Creek

Pink Night Palooza

Wednesday, Oct. 29 | 6 - 9 pm

Be a part of the area's most hopeful fundraiser! Over the past 17 years, through Hurley Foundation, Hurley Medical Center and Financial Plus Credit Union have raised money to help breast cancer patients access healthcare, pay bills, groceries and so much more. Funds raised will go towards Hurley Foundation's Breast Cancer Navigation Program. Tickets available at www.PinkNightPalooza.com.
Flint Farmers' Market
300 E. First St., Flint

Flint Trunk-or-Treat

Thursday, Oct. 30 | 5 - 7 pm

Get into the Halloween spirit at this free Trunk-or-Treat event. Bring the whole family for candy, games, and show off your best costumes!
Financial Plus Credit Union
G3381 Van Slyke Rd, Flint

Twelfth Night

Friday, Oct. 31 | 7:30 pm

UM-Flint Theatre & Dance presents Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" from Oct. 31 to Nov. 9. Sunday performances at 2 pm. Tickets available at tickets.
thefim.org/twelfthnight or by calling (810) 237-7333.
UM Flint Theatre
303 E Kearsley St., Flint

St. Cecilia Society of Flint

Sunday, Nov. 9 | 2 pm

The St. Cecilia Society of Flint presents a musical program including Deborah Rebecka Ash on flute, Laurence MacDonald on piano, and Carlie Tate on violin. All SCS performances are free and open to the public. Program to be followed by a reception.
MacArthur Recital Hall
1025 E. Kearsley St., Flint



Education Beat

Flint fetes first new school building ‘in over 50 years’

By Harold C. Ford

The Flint Board of Education (FBOE) celebrated the opening of its first new building in decades – formally dubbed The Cube @ Brownell-Holmes – during its regular monthly meeting on September 17, 2025.

FBOE members and other school officials assembled at the 5,000-square-foot Cube along with some three dozen members of the Flint community and others. The Cube, according to an online post by Flint Community Schools (FCS), is intended to be a “community hub for after-school programming, enrichment, and neighborhood engagement.”

The new building is situated between the recently renovated campuses of Brownell STEM Academy and Holmes STEM Middle School Academy on Oxley Drive on Flint’s northwest side.

The Brownell and Holmes campuses were recently upgraded, in part, with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to-

taling more than \$26 million. ESSER funding was established by the federal government to provide support for state and local education agencies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, FCS received more than \$150 million in ESSER funding during the pandemic. District officials previously announced that it spent all of the ESSER funding that it received.

Additionally, more than \$14 million was provided by the Flint-based Charles Stewart Mott Foundation for the Brownell-Holmes campus improvements that included:

- upgraded classrooms;
- modern athletic and recreational facilities, including football, soccer, pickleball, basketball and a track;
- new gymnasiums at both Brownell and Holmes;
- and an early Childhood Center

“Today we turned it into reality,” Terae King, FBOE trustee, chimed in.

“From just a piece of paper,” added Jeanette Edwards, president of the Brownell-Holmes Neighborhood Association.

Pamela Pugh, State Board of Education president, was also in attendance and lauded the project.

“This dynamic new community and student space ... reflects your deep commitment to innovation and

opportunity and investment in Flint’s north side,” she said.

Plaudits, launched in several directions, targeted numerous school officials and partners including the C. S. Mott Foundation, the Brownell-Holmes Neighborhood Association, the Flint-based Center for Educational Excellence, the Michigan-based Clark Construction Company, and Stan-tec, an international design and engineering company with offices in Michigan.



A view of Flint Community Schools’ newly opened “The Cube @ Brownell-Holmes” building on Oxley Street. (Photo by Harold C. Ford)

intended for children ages six weeks to five years

However, the rollout of The Cube seems to have provided FCS officials an emphatic climax to the Brownell-Holmes project.

“We are the first entity in the nation to have a Cube,” beamed Kev-elin Jones, FCS superintendent. “In over 50 years, the district has not put up a new facility.”

The Flint Board of Education is scheduled to meet on the following dates in the 2025-26 school year: Oct. 8, 15; Nov. 12, 19; Dec. 17; Jan 14, 21; Feb. 11, 18; Mar. 11, 18; Apr. 8, 15; May 13, 20; June 17. Most meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. Locations of meetings are available on the FCS website. Live and/or recorded meetings can be accessed via YouTube. ●

Shamma's story ...

(Continued from Page 5)

immigration continue to play out nationally and locally, Shamma sits in a two-man cell in Baldwin, awaiting answers about his fate.

"No matter what we're doing here, we cannot get no answers from nobody about anything," he said before speculating on his possible outcomes as a Palestinian man who may end up in Israel.

"Either they're going to put me back on supervision, or they're going to send me to a country I don't know nothing about... It's like, okay honestly, just kill me before I go then."

ICE did not respond to EVM's request to learn why Shamma had been arrested on August 7. Shamma's case also does not appear to be docketed for review in immigration court according to publicly available information from the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) at press time. ●

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FIM Whiting Auditorium



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Up next:
Wednesday, November 5, 2025

**Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries:
A Night with Jason Briggs**

7:30pm at Elgood Theatre Lobby



For more information and to purchase tickets, please scan the QR code or visit thefim.org/cherries

FIM Flint Repertory Theatre



Flint Symphony Orchestra

Pals & Parody

Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante, K. 364
Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 in D Minor, Op. 47

Enrique Diemecke music director and conductor
Pablo Diemecke violin
Alexander Mishnaevski viola



Saturday, November 8, 2025
7:30pm at Whiting Auditorium



For more information and to purchase tickets, please scan the QR code or visit thefim.org/fso2ev

FIM Flint Symphony Orchestra



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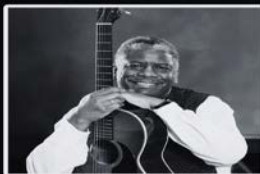


**Daniel Pearl
WORLD MUSIC DAYS**

**Saturday, October 18th
7:00 pm**

**Mott Memorial Building Auditorium
Mott Community College**

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Village Life

Too many shoes and shades of pink

By Kate Stockrahm

I have too many shoes.

Well, more honestly: I have too many things, period. Too many shoes, sure, but also too many old coffee mugs, too many mismatched pots and pans and plates and glasses, too many nearly-finished bottles of lotion I actually never liked the smell of anyway, too many sun-faded t-shirts I haven't worn since I played intramural soccer every Saturday back in Washington, D.C., too many hair accessories and allen wrenches and bottles of slightly different shades of pink nail polish named things like "Ballet Slip-pers" and "You Make Me Blush."

Too.

Many.

Things.

I came to terms with this fact while packing all of these items (and many, many others) into dozens of Bankers Boxes, suitcases, and plastic totes late last month – the wholly unsatisfying preparation for an impending move.

And if you've ever moved you've likely also hit that moment in the packing process where you're frustrated, tired, and overwhelmed and think simply "I should just burn all of this stuff and start fresh... maybe in Alaska" – but this realization wasn't that. It was a revelation.

Until this packing process, somewhere between a pair of silver cowboy boots (for a bachelorette party in Austin last March) and the sixth and seventh bottles of pinkish polish ("Machu Peach-u" and "Mauve It"), I was sure I'd been living rather minimally.

After all, I'd had to.

I'd had to live minimally not only because I wasn't exactly swimming in money while plopping around

high-rent cities throughout my twenties (I mean truly, a \$1,600/month studio on the west side of Harlem – before utilities!?) but because having to move nearly once every year meant there wasn't a lot of time to accrue possessions.

I'd ended up leaving my first place after college because my roommate, Duarte, met his now-wife on their morning Metro commute just a few months after we'd moved in. (It was literally a Hallmark movie situation, how could I be upset when he didn't want to renew the lease?)

My second place was with great

treasure.

There was also an apartment near H Street that I shared with an eccentric, messy couple who never stopped fighting; the basement walk-up where my friend left me her last Pop-Tarts package and a sticky note that said "Welcome Home! I like it here." when I moved in the day after her; and the ever-rotating cast of characters (and cats) that called different rooms of 117 R Street home because the lease terms were always unclear.

But now here I was, in late September 2025, holding a discontinued nail polish called "Petal Pink" and a flip-flop without its mate in the living room of my 1920s-era Flint apartment and wondering how I became the kind of person with all this *stuff*.

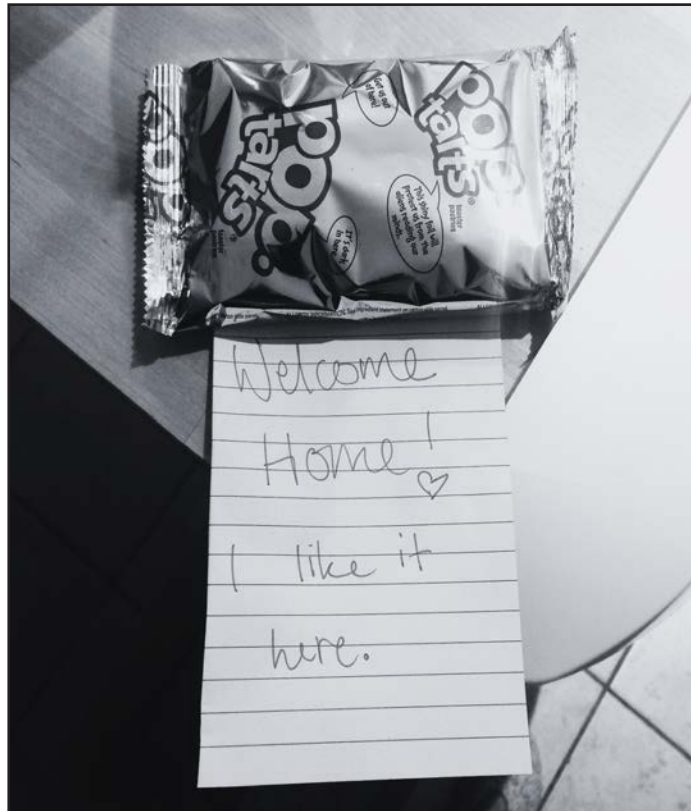
And just as I started contemplating how much it could really cost me to move to Alaska instead of paying a Carriage Town mortgage, I realized what all of these boxes really meant.

I'd found home.

Granted, it's a home where I do have too many shoes and – clearly – shades of pink nail polish. But I have these too-many things because I stayed here, in Flint, in this same apartment, for more years than I have ever stayed anywhere else in my adult life.

So while I do need to purge myself of some (or maybe most) of these possessions in my new home in Flint, I think the real takeaway is that it *is* home.

And I'm so glad to have found it. ●



The welcome home Pop-Tarts generously left for me by a former roommate in June 2015. (Photo by Kate Stockrahm)

friends who turned out not to be great roommates. At least I'd only had a small bedroom there, so that move consisted of just a few suitcases, my first pair of Toms slip-ons (I have four now), a few pieces of art, and a mat-