

# East Village Magazine

May 2026



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## Commentary

### ***With funding changes, can the vote on the county art millage prove that ‘art brings us together’?***

*By Paul Rozycki*

**F**or the last eight years, Genesee County residents have received free or reduced-cost admission to the area’s major arts and cultural institutions and performances thanks to a countywide arts millage. This year, they will vote on whether to continue that practice...with a few changes.

This Aug. 4, the county’s Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment millage is back on the ballot.

The millage was approved in 2018 and currently provides support for many arts organizations within the Flint Cultural Center, including the Flint Institute of the Arts (FIA), Flint Institute of Music, Sloan Museum of Discovery, Longway Planetarium, and FIM Whiting Auditorium. Funds are also given to the Floyd J. McCree Theatre, Berston Fieldhouse and the Greater Flint Arts Council (GFAC) – with GFAC further distributing funds to a number of other arts organizations throughout the county.

The funding has allowed Genesee County residents to visit the FIA and Sloan Museum for free and offers large discounts on many other local cultural activities.

The new arts millage would be .93 mills, a slight reduction in the .96 mills approved in 2018, and estimates, according to reporting from MLive, are that the new millage would cost the average

homeowner about \$9 a month and generate about \$12.5 million annually.

Currently, the arts millage is administered through the Flint Cultural Center Foundation, with the great bulk of the funds going toward Cultural Center institutions. While free admission and other arts millage benefits are open to all Genesee County residents, not just those living in Flint, several county commissioners expressed misgivings about the current funding process.

So, at its March 18 meeting, the Genesee County Board of Commissioners voted to have the millage dollars flow through them rather than the Flint Cultural Center Foundation, alone. Though details are still being finalized, at the time of the vote the Commission still planned to work with or consult the Foundation in order to allocate funding, should the new millage be passed later this year.

As approved, the renewal would change the funding process when the new millage (if passed) takes effect in 2028.

The discussion around the millage’s fund distribution began last year when Delrico Loyd (D-Flint), Chair of the County Commission, showed concern over how the funds were being allocated. He said that some of the area’s smaller cultural organizations deserved a larger voice and more money, particularly Berston Field

*(Continued on Page 6)*

**Cover:** A springtime view of Gilkey Creek. *(Photo by Edwin D. Custer)*



**Photo of the Month:** Trillium Grandiflorum in bloom. (Photo by Edwin D. Custer)

## Sports Beat

### ***Flint City Bucks ready for regular season after exit from U.S. Open***

*By Harold C. Ford*

**A**fter exiting the 2026 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup with a 1-0 loss to Detroit City Football Club in April, the Flint City Bucks are readying for their regular season start on May 30.

The Bucks' opening match will take place against Kalamazoo FC, starting at 7 p.m. at Kettering University's Atwood Stadium near downtown Flint. But before Flint's USL2 soccer team takes to the pitch, here's a quick recap of the Bucks' Open Cup play and 2026 recruiting and roster thus far.

#### **Detroit knocks Flint from U.S. Open**

The Bucks won their first match of the U.S. Open Cup, a single-elimination tournament with a \$1 million purse, in a 2-0 win over Forward Madison FC on March 19 at Grand Blanc's Don Batchelor Stadium.

That glory was short-lived, however, as Flint lost its next game 1-0, on a goal by Detroit City FC's

Alex Dalou at the 40-minute mark of the first half, also played at Don Batchelor.

The tight match between the I-75 rivals was the fourth time the teams have faced off in the Open and the first since Le Rouge (now Detroit City FC) became a professional club.

Detroit edged out Flint in terms of possession, 55 percent to 45 percent, and put four shots on goal of 13 taken. Flint countered with two shots on Detroit's net of nine taken. Detroit City FC was eliminated from the tourney at its next match on April 14, losing 2-1 to the Chicago Fire.

The 2026 U.S. Open will last seven rounds, one less than usual so as to not overlap with the FIFA Men's World Cup schedule. The cup competition breaks after May quarterfinals until mid-September semis, with a championship match scheduled for October 21.

#### **Building a roster**

Ahead of the Cup, East Village Magazine (EVM) caught up with Flint City Bucks President Costa Papista to talk about the team's winter roster-building in preparation for the 2026 season.

As EVM reported then, Flint began play on March 19 with an 18-man roster that included players from four continents (Europe, African, and both Americas), six countries in addition to the U.S. (Denmark, Ireland, Liberia, Ghana, Columbia, and Canada), and three states other than Michigan (Ohio, Kentucky, and Texas).

At the time, Papista credited the organization's people with its overall recruitment and season-on-season success.

"We've got great people," Papista said. "The secret sauce is the

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## Flint City Bucks...

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people.”

He named several Bucks personnel, including Gary Parsons, Director of Coaching and Player Personnel; Paul Doroh, Head Coach; Dan Duggan, the Bucks’ CEO and Chairman; and Assistant Coaches Nick Deren and Mali Walton.

Flint City’s 2026 recruits hail from 14 institutions of higher learning including seven in Michigan (Dearborn, Detroit Mercy, Madonna, Oakland, Western Michigan, Michigan State, and Michigan) and seven in other states (Akron, Bowling Green, Cornell, Fairfield, Florida Atlantic, Northern Illinois, and Oral Roberts).

“These are the best collegiate players from around the country that we assemble,” Papista said. “Many of them are the captains and the best players of their collegiate teams.”

The club president noted that the Bucks have scouts “all over the country,” but the team has also earned

the trust of college programs over the years, which bolsters the organization’s continually successful recruitment.

“They trust us to send their best because they know we’re going to develop them the right way,” Papista said of the college programs the team works with. “We’re not going to burn them out or overplay them. We’re not going to send them back injured.”

Beyond the Bucks’ people and reach, though, Papista credited Flint itself as being one of the draws for recruits.

“We do lots of team bonding from day one, as soon as the players arrive, so the team is able to jell very quickly,” Papista explained. “We’re at the Farmers Market twice a week for lunch ... the guys love it.”

He also called the Bucks’ relationship with the University of Michigan-Flint, which houses players each summer, “fantastic” and noted that it ensures the team can easily learn and navigate the city.

“The guys can just walk to the stadium,” Papista said. “A lot of the guys don’t have cars.”

Ultimately, though, the Bucks’ reputation is why the club president believes players come – and come back – to play for Flint.

“Because the team has done so well over the years, and we’ve had so many players get drafted by Major League Soccer, players want to be here.”

### A very successful franchise

This year marks the seventh season that the Bucks’ franchise has been headquartered in Flint.

Founded in 1995, the team began play as the Mid-Michigan Bucks, based in Saginaw. In 1996, the team changed its name to Michigan Bucks, moved to Plymouth in 2004, then to Pontiac in 2008. They began play as the Flint City Bucks in May 2019.

Papista explained that Atwood

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Atwood Stadium in Flint, Mich.(Original image by Balcerhouse, CC BY-SA 4.0, accessed via Wikimedia Commons)

## Commentary ...

(Continued from Page 3)

House and the McCree Theatre. While the millage passed eight years ago with 40,019 voters supporting it, there were also many opposing it: 36,278 to be exact.

That outcome revealed a sharp division within different parts of the county. Back then, voters of Flint, Grand Blanc, Fenton, Clio, Linden, Mt. Morris approved the millage and voters in every precinct in the cities of Montrose, Davison and the townships of Argentine, Atlas, Clayton, Forest, Gaines, Montrose, Richfield, Thetford and Vienna opposed it.

As recently reported by MLive, those divisions still exist in 2026.

When the commission discussed the proposed arts millage renewal at its March meeting, it was commissioners Martin Cousineau, (D-Thetford Township), Brian Flewelling (R-Davison), and Shaun Shumaker (R-Fenton Township) who said more of the funds should

be available for their constituents in the out-county areas and that many voters in the out county don't visit the Cultural Center institutions often enough to justify the tax.

If passed, Shumaker suggested that in the timeframe before the new arts millage takes effect, a committee composed of representatives from the Cultural Center and County Commissioners could make recommendations to the board for future allocations of funds.

As reported by awarded institutions on Genesee County's website, in FY 2024 millage funding was allocated in the following manner:

- Flint Institute of Arts: \$2,108,826
- Flint Institute of Music: \$4,807,870
- Flint Institute of Science and History (Sloan Museum and Longway Planetarium): \$2,262,421
- The Floyd J. McCree Theatre: \$530,838
- GFAC reported distributing \$500,000 in millage funds to 24 area arts organizations through

its Share Art Genesee Program, as well as receiving an additional .01 mill in funding (\$113,185) the year prior to support GFAC programs through the year.

- Berston Fieldhouse's posted reports for 2024 did not list the amount of millage dollars awarded, but later reporting by MLive cited that Berston received "roughly \$567,000" in 2025.

While there is some controversy over the current funding procedure, the millage does offer benefits to all county residents.

As outlined on the millage's website, all Genesee County residents receive free general admission to Sloan Museum and the FIA; 50% off Longway Planetarium admission; 30-50% off tickets for FIM live performances and programs – including those at FIM Capitol Theatre, FIM Whiting Auditorium, FIM Flint Repertory Theatre, and FIM Flint Symphony Orchestra; 10% discount on classes and \$20 registration fee waived at FIM Flint School of Per-

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Sloan Museum of Discovery, one of multiple Genesee County arts millage recipient organizations. (Photo by Paul Rozycki)

## Commentary ...

(Continued from Page 6)

forming Arts; access to events, programs and activities at more than 20 Genesee County nonprofit arts organizations sponsored by GFAC; free arts and crafts and performing arts programming, fitness and sports activities, and community programs at Berston Field House; up to 60% off tuition at Creative Expressions Dance Studio, also at Berston; and low-ticket prices for live performances and free documentary screenings and youth programs at the McCree Theatre.

The same website also outlines some of the economic benefits that the arts bring to Genesee County – citing a 2022 report by Americans for the Arts outlining \$54.9 million spent by arts organizations; \$74.6 million in audience spending at arts events; and \$19.8 million in tax revenue for local, state, and federal governments for the fiscal year. The site also quotes local arts educators' and community leaders' support for the millage, including Community Foundation of Greater Flint President and CEO Dan Kildee, who said, "The Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment Millage is a powerful investment in our shared future."

The millage vote in 2018 was a win for the arts in Genesee County, but it was close and revealed area divisions, both over the funding allocation process and who it benefits most. While final details of the new proposal are to be worked out in the future, the hope is that by including elected county commissioners in the process, the support will be there for the future of the county's arts millage.

One of the new branding statements from the FIA is "art brings us together." Let's hope that can be true for everyone in Genesee County even with divisive election year politics. ●

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# THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE

*Below is a selection of events available to our readers, beginning after our May publication date. To submit events for our June issue, email information about your event to [eastvillagemagazineflint@gmail.com](mailto:eastvillagemagazineflint@gmail.com) by May 31.*

## **The Soul of Etta James**

Friday, May 8 - Saturday, May 30  
"The Soul of Etta James" will play every Friday at 7 pm & Saturday at 2 pm and 7 pm. Come hear about the tragic and triumphant life of Etta in this much-anticipated musical, told from the viewpoints of her two sons. Visit [thenewmcreetheatre.com](http://thenewmcreetheatre.com) for tickets or visit our box office.  
New McCree Theatre  
4601 Clio Rd., Flint

## **Flint Farmers' Market Pavilion Opening Day**

Saturday, May 9 | 9 am - 5 pm  
Let your market crew know that the opening day of the Flint Farmers' Market outdoor pavilion is Saturday, May 9! Join us for a day filled with fresh produce, handcrafted artisan goods, flowers & more.  
Flint Farmers' Market  
300 E. First St., Flint

## **Levitt AMP Music Series: Phil Dunny**

Tuesday, May 12 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
The Levitt AMP Music Series is back. Join us for an evening of live music featuring Phil Denny, performing smooth and contemporary jazz and R&B. Hailing from Lansing, Phil brings a signature saxophone sound that blends soul, groove, and energy. This is a free event. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and friends for a relaxed and enjoyable night in the heart of Flint.  
Totem Books  
620 W Court St., Flint

## **Improv Night**

Wednesday, May 13 | 6:30 pm  
Where the comedy is made up, but the fun is absolutely real! Check in for a night of unscripted hilarity as Alligator Hotel, Buckham Alley Theatre's resident improv troupe, takes the stage for another round of fast-thinking, character-breaking, audience-powered comedy. Every scene starts with your suggestions, and from there, anything can happen.  
Flint Eagles 629  
2149 N. Dort Hwy., Flint

## **Painting with a Twist**

Saturday, May 16 or Sunday, May 17 | 2 pm  
Pick your day and come vibe with us! Join us either day for a full Paint & Sip experience with local artist Christina Berry! What's included: step-by-step guided painting; all supplies; and food. Take home your own masterpiece! Tickets \$40 at [kewskornerpub.ticketsspace.com/kews-painting-with-a-twist](http://kewskornerpub.ticketsspace.com/kews-painting-with-a-twist)  
Kew's Korner Pub  
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## **Mott Park Garage Sale Weekend**

Saturday, May 30 to Sunday, May 31 | 9 am - 5 pm  
Neighborhood wide sale with rummage sale at the Mott Park Clubhouse. Multiple sellers - one location!  
Mott Park Neighborhood  
2401 Nolan Dr., Flint

## **Spooktacular Summer Weekend**

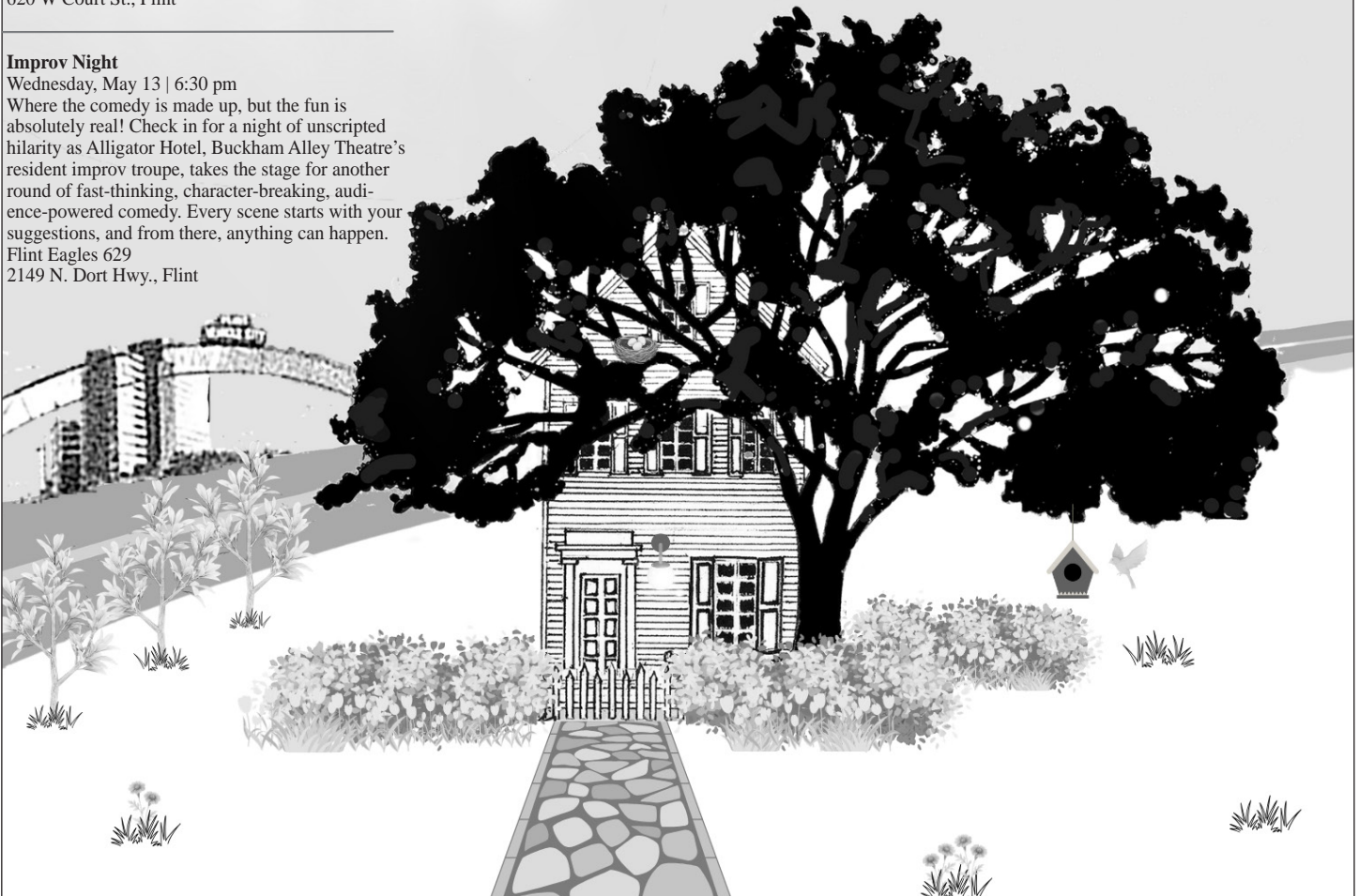
Saturday, May 30 to Sunday, May 31 | 11 am - 5 pm  
Why wait until October to celebrate Halloween? Spooktacular Weekend brings all the chills, thrills, and family-friendly frights of the spooky season to spring! This two-day event is packed with immersive attractions, eerie entertainment, and spooky surprises lurking around every corner.  
Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad  
6140 Bray Rd., Flint

## **Art in the Alley**

Saturday, May 30 | 11 am - 6 pm  
Art in the Alley meets enchanted forest! A cottage core and fairy inspired celebration!  
Wander through our streets and alley and discover a storybook world. Come experience local artists and artisans; fairy-core, cottage core and nature inspired art; live demos and craft stations; live music; delicious food and drinks. Dress in your favorite fairy wings, linen, florals, and whimsical outfits!  
Downtown Holly  
109 Battle Alley, Holly

## **Passages Storytelling: Stop Me If You Heard This One**

Saturday, May 30 | 6 pm  
Here is your chance to tell your favorite story, or the one you've been waiting to really tell. This Passages event will be an 'OPEN' theme, where you choose the subject. Your time to share the important, or silly, heartbreaking or healing. Bring us the story your friends beg you to tell again, or the one that you never had the courage to share. This is your night. It just needs to be your true story, (and it should be a story with a beginning, a middle and an end) told live, (no notes, no props) and told in about five minutes.  
Queens' Provisions  
421 Garland St., Flint



## Sports ...

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Stadium was a key in getting the Bucks to relocate to Flint. He'd been invited to a football game at the facility by then-Circuit Court Judge Duncan Beagle and simply fell in love with the pitch.

"My jaw hit the floor when I saw the stadium," said Papista. "I thought it was gorgeous ... it sneaks up on you ... it truly is a hidden gem."

That sparked several conversations with Dan Duggan, Papista explained, who started the soccer club with his brother Jim Duggan. At the time Papista started talking about a move to Flint, the club was playing at an indoor stadium in Pontiac.

Overall, the Bucks have made the postseason playoffs in 27 of 30 seasons – a league record. In fact, since their arrival in Flint (not counting the 2020 season disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic) the Bucks have never missed the playoffs. Their record of four league championships is unrivaled.

The Bucks last won the league championship in 2019 before more than 7,000 fans at Atwood Stadium on a second-overtime period goal by Ayuk Tombe.

Last season, the Bucks finished in first place in the Great Lakes Division with a record of nine wins and three losses which qualified them for the postseason tournament. The Bucks reached the USL2 national semifinal in Seattle where they dropped a close 2-1 contest to Seattle-based Ballard FC.

### 2026 season

USL2 begins the 2026 season with 158 soccer clubs across the nation, grouped into 20 divisions divided among four conferences.

The Bucks will start the season again as a member of the

seven-team Great Lakes Division in the Central Conference. In addition to the Bucks, other division clubs – all Michigan-based – include AFC Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo FC, Lansing City Football, Midwest United FC (Grand Rapids), Oakland County FC, and Union FC Macomb.

The schedule of home games for the 2026 Bucks includes: May 30 at 7 p.m. vs. Kalamazoo FC; June 6 at 7 p.m. vs. Midwest United FC; June 10, 7 p.m. vs. AFC Ann Arbor; June 20 vs. Detroit Metro FC; June 27 at 7 p.m. vs. Oakland County FC; and July 11 at 7 p.m. vs. Union FC Macomb. All matches are played at Atwood Stadium except the June 20 contest, which will be played at Grand Blanc's Batchelor Stadium.

USL2 playoffs begin in July. Across the league's four conferences, 35 teams will qualify for the playoffs. All 20 division winners will automatically qualify for the single-elimination tourney; 14 division runners up and one third-place club will earn the remaining spots. The championship match will be played on Aug. 1.

### The women's side, Flint City AFC

Flint City AFC, the women's side of Flint's premier soccer franchise will begin its fifth season at Atwood Stadium on May 16 at 7:00 vs Tulip City United Soccer, a club based in Holland, Michigan.

The remainder of the home schedule for Flint City AFC is as follows: May 29 at 7 p.m. vs. FC Pontiac; June 14 at 5 p.m. vs. Pinnacle FC (Auburn Hills); and June 26 at 7 p.m. vs. Michigan Jaguars FC (Novi).

The AFC coaching staff is headed up by Michele Krzysnik, who was named coach of the year by the United States League Women in 2023. Krzysnik is assisted by Doug Landefeld, Adil Salmoni, Jeff Shuk, Shannon Browning, and Dennis Darnoi. ●

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## Review

### **Grief, dancing, and Xanax: Flint author Jan Worth publishes first poetry collection**

By Kate Stockrahm

To a room filled with friends, family, supporters – and one loud espresso machine – in mid-April, Jan Worth bared her soul.

That sunny afternoon, Worth, an essayist, retired University of Michigan-Flint writing instructor, and former East Village Magazine editor, described her new poetry collection, “Elegies From the Last Days of the Empire,” as “a combination of lamentation and celebration” to an audience perched atop Totem Bookstore’s hodgepodge of wingback chairs and well-worn sofas.

“So I hope that as you hear these poems today, you will hear both things,” Worth said before beginning her reading. “And you will hear the possibility of healing or accepting the world that we’re in today.”

The poetry collection, Worth’s first to be published, spans decades of the author-cum-poet’s life – both in subject matter and actual date of writing.

She included poems she penned “in the late 80s or early 90s” on up through events of recent Flint summers, each one a vignette of her own, deeply human experiences.

Throughout the collection, Worth describes, as promised, scenes of lament, outrage, and sadness, but not without self-awareness, beauty, and even a bit of humor – sometimes all in a single poem. For instance, in a portion of “Sparrows in the Hedges,” she shares:

*While the rot of tyrants  
Spreads over every thing,*

*daily life still bangs at the door:  
city trucks sucking up dust,  
slugs in the marigolds,  
my body twanging anxiety, needled like  
acupuncture gone wrong.  
And oh yeah, the meaning of life, my life  
giant bulldozer between me and  
tranquility, barging in.*

*This really isn’t like me.*

*This really is me now.*

*All winter I considered  
going crazy to get it over with,  
played crazy and believed it.*

The “crazy” stanza got a chuckle from her April afternoon audience, a mix of gray-haired heads and 30-to-40-somethings, as she continued to recite the rest of the poem.

Listeners glanced around at each other as Worth went on – perhaps in solidarity with each other in this shared secret, or as if to offer back to the poet: “Oh, we’ve all been there.”

And “Elegies” gives its reader plenty of these moments, distilled looks at life’s promises, yearnings, disappointments, small triumphs, and delights. Like in “Cling Peaches,”

in which Worth breathlessly, joyfully describes a recent memory of eating a small bowl of the syrupy fruit in two long sentences, encouraging her remembering-self not to feel too guilty for already wanting more.

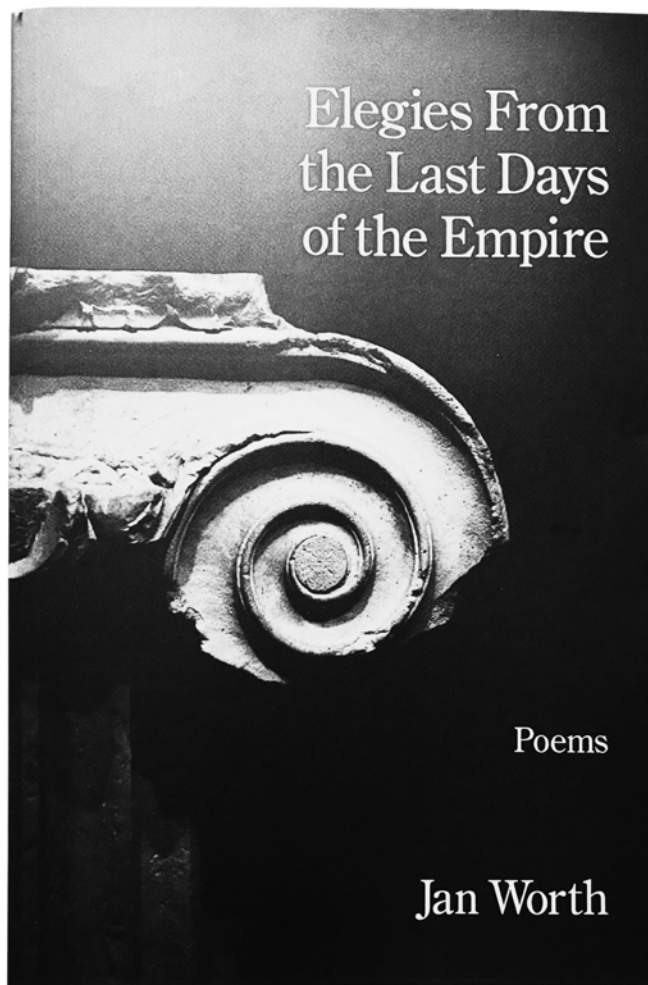
In a separate interview with EVM, Worth opened up about putting her heart out on display in the collection’s pages.

She spoke candidly of the idealism she grew up on, of her privilege and optimism as she joined the Peace Corps and found love, and place, and poetry, and where she’s found herself today in her mid-70s.

“Now I’m tired,” she said, adding that her husband has been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s as she explained her intent behind titling the collection “Elegies From the Last Days of an Empire.”

“It just feels like, what does this all mean?” Worth said. “It’s about loss and grief, and then you have to figure out what’s left.”

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Cover image of Jan Worth’s “Elegies From the End of the Empire.” (Photo by Kate Stockrahm)

## Review...

(Continued from Page 10)

What's left, it seems, is both universal and deeply personal. It merits examining through Worth's lens, which somehow manages to reach outward to her readers while remaining rawly introspective.

But it's not all grief and gloom.

Even in its seriousness Worth's poetry offers readers respite – like in “We Never Thought We Would End Up Like This,” when she describes a time, over crepes, that she and her friend realized that they both were taking Xanax.

While “Elegies” spans decades of experiences and more than 50 pages, Worth saved one of its most representative poems for the collection's last.

In “Requiem: I Fall While Dancing” the reader follows as Worth tumbles “to the potholed ground” after one risky dance move too many at an outdoor concert.

Her last stanza is the outcome of that evening, but perhaps also a summary of the collection itself and a commentary on the richness of life that she, and all of us, can still appreciate – even in waning health and trying times – so long as we keep a mirthful perspective on what's lost along the way:

*But I don't care and I'm still sort  
of dancing except lost in the dirt,  
/ and a tangle of arms, white and  
black, gets me upright and then / I'm  
embarrassed and I remember I'm old  
/ and somebody hands me my cap  
and I rear up wobbly but / swing-  
ing my hips and wailing into all the  
grief and / I go on dancing, my body  
unchastened and / mad and unspent,  
until the song ends and my thermos  
of gin is dry / and it's almost dark  
and I go home bruised to restless  
sleep / dreaming lamentations for the  
millions dead.*

Jan Worth's “Elegies From the Last Days of the Empire” is published by Kelsay Books. ●



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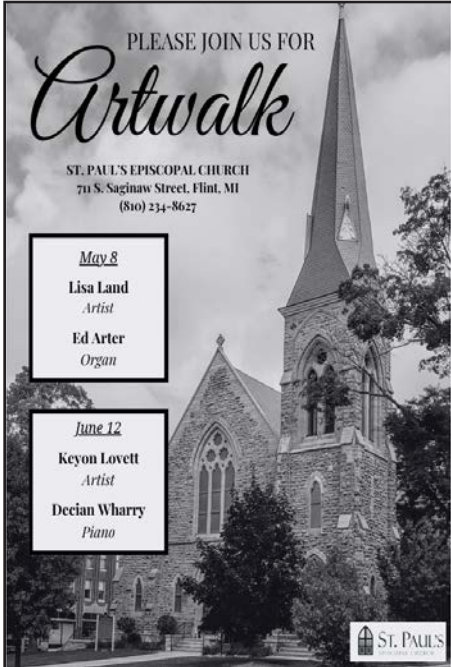
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## Village Life

### Just another nice day

By Kate Stockrahm

Today was a nice day.

I woke up before the alarm, folded some laundry, washed all the dishes that would fit on the drying rack, and even wiped down the counters afterward. I opened a book I've been loving with the intention of reading for maybe 15 minutes before my next tasks ... then read for over an hour straight, my green tea growing cold as I turned page after page, too engrossed in the narrative to care that I'd let the bag oversteep.

The sun peaked through clouds as I ventured outside, having chosen the wrong weight of jacket for the umpteenth time this finicky spring. After I swapped to a lighter option, we drove to Metamora to see my friend, Jordan Climie, perform in "Popcorn Falls" at the roughly 600-person village's Historic Old Town Hall.

I found myself absolutely charmed by the one-room space, which featured a small stage with brown velvet curtains, checkered tile, cases of historical artifacts along one wall, and three rows of evenly-spaced milky pendant lights that hung down from the tall ceiling.

What I soon learned was that Old Town Hall was also the perfect venue for the two-man play, which centers around a bit of bureaucracy. (In quick synopsis: the former mayor of a big town moves to a small town to start over; the small town is going

bankrupt; the mayor gets crafty to find funding, and the whole town needs to put on a play, in under a week, in order to secure a grant that will keep it from turning into the site of a new sewage treatment plant.)

It was delightful!

The Popcorn Falls townsfolk called themselves "kernels" rather than citizens. The small audience caught every well-timed joke, and we laughed together in the darkness the whole performance. And, as the show demands

from somewhere, carried on a light breeze as the sun warmed our faces.

I was surprised to find myself in such a good mood for a Sunday afternoon, when life's weekday requirements and realities are so close at hand.

But I was in a good mood, and we even stopped at a random dive that I'm sure we couldn't find again on a map to eat fried pepperjack cheese balls and prolong the time between today's loveliness and Monday's coming reality just a little bit longer.

And while I thought the day's spell might be broken as we pulled back into our Carriage Town driveway – it wasn't.

Though clouds had rolled back in on our journey home, I could still smell fresh cut grass wafting from somewhere, and I waved to my neighbor ending her day as I'd started mine:

with a book and a mug of tea... which was probably cold now from sitting on her porch railing as she finished just-one-more chapter.

"How pleasant," I thought, as we ventured back inside, filled with the contentment of new experiences (and fried cheese) and deep appreciation for a simple, nice day. ●



The interior of Historic Old Town Hall in Metamora, Mich.  
(Photo adapted from venue's Facebook page)

its two actors play 20+ parts between them, I was mesmerized watching Jordan and his counterpart, Donovan Leary, seamlessly shift accents, adjust the set, and grab props without losing a beat. It's always wonderful to be awed by others' talent.

Then we strolled through a nearby neighborhood admiring homes' porches and wood-detailing as the smell of fresh cut grass wafted over