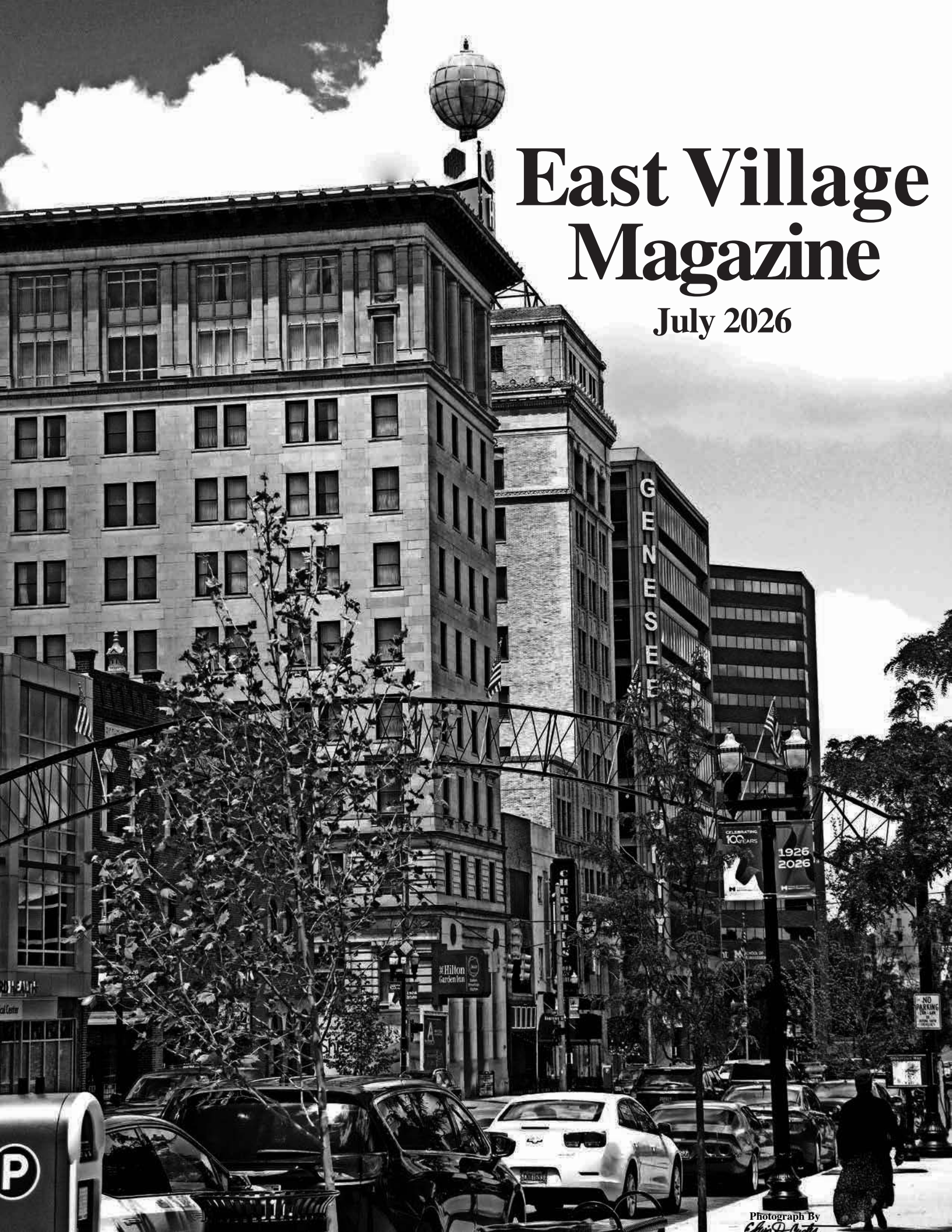


East Village Magazine

July 2026



CELEBRATING
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Photograph By
Chris D. Smith



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Letter from the Editor

Celebrating 50 years of East Village Magazine

Dear Neighbor,

This month marks the 50th anniversary of East Village Magazine.

It's a milestone precious few publications can claim – fewer still when they are hyper-local and largely volunteer-driven – and a testament to the moxie of our founder, Gary Custer, and all those his work inspired in the five decades since EVM's debut on July 3, 1976.

While we have many things planned to celebrate this feat in the year ahead, including gatherings, fundraisers, and nods to our history (see Paul's commentary on Page 4 and Jan's first Village Life column, republished on Page 12), I'd like to take a corner of this banner issue to share our gratitude instead of details on all of that, for now.

Whether you pick up our magazine for its beautiful, black and white cover photo or the neighborhood news coverage within: we are so grateful for your readership.

In Gary's premier editorial he didn't make a claim as to what EVM would be. Instead, he asked East Village residents to simply read and decide what value the magazine had for them and their shared community. They responded – *you* responded – with letters, with donations, with poetry and art ... and even with your own labor. (A special thank you to our incredible distribution team!)

And now, because of you and the value you place on this publication, we are celebrating 50 years in print. It's a remarkable, unfathomable, and very, very humbling achievement — and one we do not take lightly in the current news media landscape.

So yes, do stay tuned for a year full of celebration and the great local journalism you've come to expect from us at EVM. But for right now: thank you, neighbor – whether you reside in Flint's East Village neighborhood or not – for getting us to this milestone.

Afterall, as Gary would say, “everybody lives east of somewhere.”

Sincerely,



Kate Stockrahm, Editor

Cover: A summer view on Saginaw Street. (Photo by Edwin D. Custer)



Photo of the Month: Guests perusing at the 59th Annual Flint Art Fair. (Photo by Edwin D. Custer)

Commentary

East Village Magazine celebrates 50 years of local journalism, art, and community commitment

By Paul Rozycki

In 1976, Flint’s population was about 160,000, General Motors employed 80,000 people in Genesee County, gas was 59 cents a gallon, and the average household income was \$16,000. No one had home computers, laptops, or cell phones – and, in July of that year, Gary Custer published the first issue of *East Village Magazine*.

Gary Custer

Custer was the founder, publisher, and editor of *East Village Magazine* for 39 years, ending his tenure only when he passed away in 2015. He attended Walker Elementary and Whittier Middle School, he was a graduate of Flint Central and the University of Missouri (where he studied photojournalism), as well as a veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served in Vietnam and Japan from 1968 until 1971.

His commitment to journalism, photojournalism, and his community showed in every *East Village Magazine* he produced.

As quoted in a *Flint Journal* story from August 29, 1982, Custer said, “One of the most important factors in turning this city around is strong neighborhoods. Because without them you have no place for your people.” EVM’s commitment to the local community has since earned the magazine two Liberty Bell Awards from the Genesee County Bar Association: Custer won in 1999, and I was honored in 2018.

Many of the early causes Custer pursued were to improve the neighborhood around the magazine’s office on Second Street. Early issues of the magazine, which was offered biweekly, focused largely on neighborhood-level news and asked readers to respond to polls on what they consid-

ered important.

Custer’s commitment to good journalism was equally strong. His belief in the power of good photojournalism and the art of photography gave the magazine its iconic cover: high-impact black and white photos mostly captured by his brother, Ed Custer.

Ed said that Gary “did not like working for others and wanted to continue his high standards of journalism” – a sentiment Gary confirmed in his *Flint Journal* interview back in the 80s. “I’m not the least bit interested in working for a large organization,” the elder Custer explained. “I need a degree of control and I’m willing to pay the price.”

An uncertain future

When Gary passed, Jan Worth

(Continued on Page 5)

East Village...

(Continued from Page 4)

stepped up to become EVM’s editor and noted Custer’s impact on her work.

“I’ve spent some real quality time in that impossibly chaotic office on Second Street over the past eight years since I started writing the back page column for *East Village Magazine*,” she said at the time. “I used to go in one Sunday afternoon a month to proof my column, and Gary and I would talk about everything. It was especially enjoyable to talk about Flint – history, gossip, politics, architecture ... those conversations always made me feel better about living in Flint.”

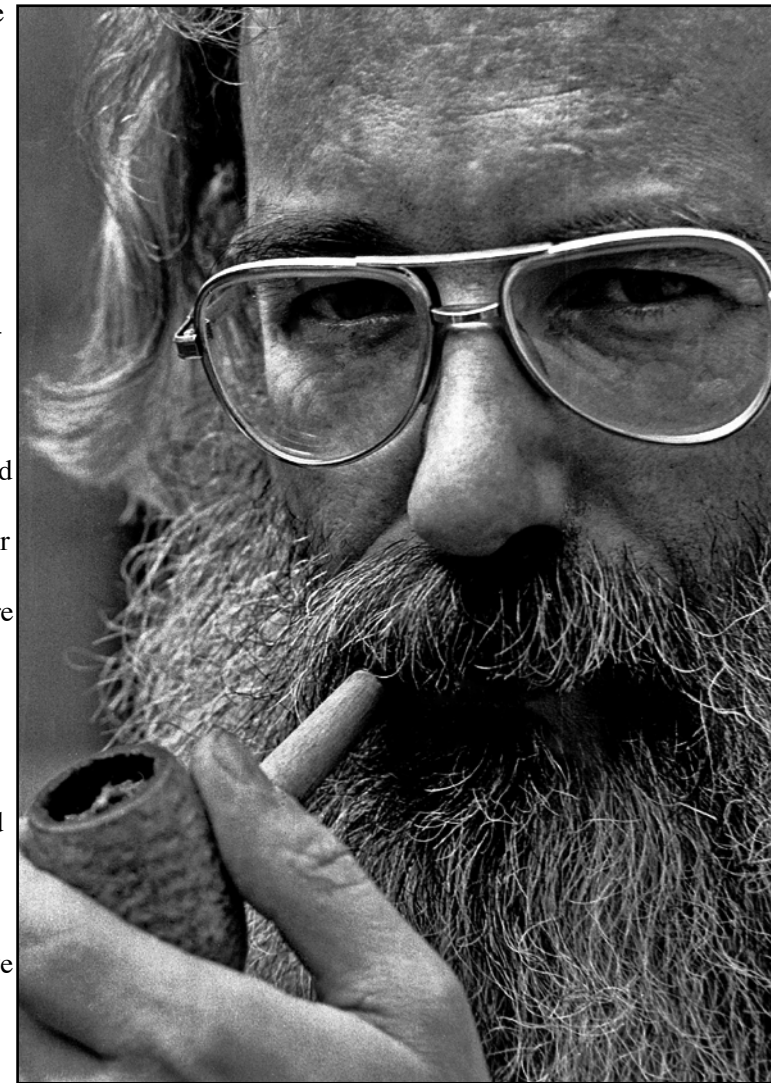
She called Custer’s aesthetic “very cool” and said the folks he left behind were committed to keeping to their founder’s values despite the doubts surrounding the future of the magazine.

“It was wrenching for many of us when Gary died in January of 2015,” she explained in a June 2026 interview. “He had just learned that EVM had been granted support from the Mott Foundation, and it finally seemed that the magazine would have a chance for some financial stability ... after 39 years of being held together by Gary and Ed with paper clips and ferocious determination. Gary was passionately devoted to local journalism, uncompromisingly ethical, and produced work that honored the First Amendment and professional standards.”

She noted that a few people dedicated to Gary’s principles – including Ed and Nic Custer, Gary’s nephew – have continued to tell the story many times since.

“A group of us asked the Mott Foundation if we could keep the

money and try to keep the magazine going,” she said. So, Worth took over as editor and, with help from her husband, Ted Nelson, “and a rotating band of reporters and a handful of faithful advertisers and small-dollar donors” the group kept EVM going for the next five years before another editor came aboard – and then another.



Gary Custer, *East Village Magazine* founder, publisher, and 39-year editor. (Photo by Edwin D. Custer)

“I think a lot of us thought EVM would die with Gary,” Worth recalled. “But when it came down to it, we really didn’t want to let it go. For one thing, we loved Gary, in all his Flint-centric ways and devotions. And EVM was a sweet and fierce and idiosyncratic presence in the community, which had started the same month, the same year, as the nation’s 200th birthday. We loved that.”

Jan Worth, EVM columnist and editor

While Worth took the reins after Gary died, she was not new to EVM at the time.

She had been a *Village Life* columnist since 2007 – regularly sharing short essays on life in Flint. Her very first such column, “I never

thought I’d stay this long,” is republished in this 50th anniversary issue in honor of her many contributions to this publication before Gary’s passing and in the years since.

Of those *Village Life* stories Worth said, “Writing my columns for Gary kept me going, as a writer and as a citizen and as, well, a human being for all those years. I felt like EVM opened the doors to this community about itself, about us, about who we were.”

Worth’s essays were later gathered into a collection titled “That’s My Moon Over Court Street,” which was published three years ago.

“It was very satisfying to me to put together that collection in 2023,” she said. “I feel like those 104 essays needed to be in the world, as an artifact of what Gary started and what I continued to try to endow with my own love of writing and of the stories

that kept emerging. This is what local journalism at its best means, I think, and what I hope might continue for many, many years.”

Ed Custer, EVM photographer and artist

Ed Custer has created many of the most iconic EVM cover photos

(Continued on Page 6)

East Village ...

(Continued from Page 5)

over the last 50 years. He said that some of the rewards of that work have been “the opportunity to practice my photographic art and photojournalism and reach thousands with my photos. This has been a far greater audience than any show in a gallery.”

Custer explained that with each image he wants to create “a striking cover photo which people will want to pick up, read the magazine, and keep it on the coffee table.” As an artist, he pays particular attention to the composition, tones, and visual balance of his photographs.

He said that he rarely has a particular location in mind when looking for photos for the next issue, and it’s actually with some anxiety that he hopes to discover a great shot for the cover each month.

Still, Custer said, he enjoys the challenge of trying to find fresh local material that’s seasonal with a community connection. He said “art is a thread that has run throughout my life, adding much meaning,” and his photos often became the inspiration for his paintings or chalk drawings.

While Custer has captured the great majority of EVM cover photos, over the years a number of others have also snapped the cover image for the print magazine. Gary did the cover photos up through 1979, Casey Custer, Ed’s wife, did many of the photos from April 1980 until 1984 and Tracy Redding, Mike Neithercut, Jan Worth, and former EVM editor Tom Travis have also contributed.

My own contribution

Unlike Ed or Jan, I didn’t know Gary well. I met him for the first time when Ed was having a show of his work at the Greater Flint Arts Council in 2010, and Gary approached me to do one column on local politics. We exchanged regular emails, and I thought it would be only one piece...

but after 16 years I’ve enjoyed the challenge of doing a column (mostly on politics) every month since then. Working with Ed, Jan, Kate and all of the EVM staff and Board members has been one of the most rewarding parts of my retirement.

And yet, while I thought my connection to EVM was not as mature as others’, as I took a look at the very first issue of the magazine (published July 3, 1976) for this commentary, I found a connection to my first days in Flint.

One of the articles in the first issue dealt with Riverside Church expanding its parking lot across the street from the East Village office on Second Street. When my wife and I moved to Flint in 1969, our first apartment was at 711 E. Second St. – right where EVM was reporting on. We moved a few years later when the church took over the apartment building to demolish it for that parking lot. In many ways this is a full circle connection with my interests and the impact of EVM on the community.

Having worked for a newspaper, I had planned a career in journalism before I began teaching – only to see EVM begin where we had our first apartment all those years ago. The first issue of EVM spoke of changes to the neighborhood five decades past, and today we continue reporting on the developments in our area – now with Flint Central High School (see Harold’s column on Page 10) just a few blocks away.

A 50-year legacy

Over the last half century the East Village Magazine has published 750 issues (751 counting the one you’re holding right now), covered meetings of the City Council, Flint Board of Education, and neighborhood groups, and discussed countless issues and activities of concern to those in Flint and the Central Park/ College Cultural area.

EVM has become part of the fabric of our city — so much so that

bound volumes of past East Village Magazines are available in the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library. It has also trained hundreds of writers and reporters, been distributed by countless neighborhood volunteers, and has been led by just four editors: Gary Custer, Jan Worth, Tom Travis, and Kate Stockrahm.

Over those years, there were many times when the future seemed uncertain as funding was in doubt or writers and reporters were hard to recruit. We thank the Mott Foundation for its ongoing support, our advertisers and the generous donors who have stepped up to help us continue bringing local news to our neighbors’ doorsteps for five decades, and the volunteers who help distribute this magazine each month.

But, most of all, we thank our readers – you who have been here for us for 50 years. The challenges to local journalism remain, but we hope to continue delivering important news to you for many more years to come. ●



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Election 2026

East Village Magazine, Flint. Daily. team up to provide local election coverage

By Flint. Daily. and EVM Staff

With the mayor and all nine Flint City Council seats on the ballot this year, the 2026 elections in the City of Flint stand to significantly reshape our local government.

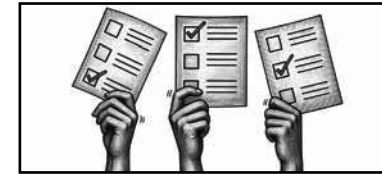
Absentee ballots are now available and campaigns are well underway as the Aug. 4 primary approaches – a primary that will narrow the races for mayor and the first, second, fifth, and eighth ward council seats down to two candidates each.

And while the city is rich in candidates, we’re short on time to get to know many of them before mailing back ballots or heading to the polls. That’s why *East Village Magazine* and *Flint. Daily.* are collaborating to provide election coverage in both publications to reach as many Flint voters as possible.

Our priority is simple: we want to provide information to Flint’s voters in a way that is fair, timely, and provides the same platform and opportunity to all candidates. That began with a questionnaire that went out to all official candidates for the August primary election on June 29, to each candidate’s publicly-available email address from their filing paperwork. (Note: questionnaires for candidates, including official write-in candidates, in races for the November general election will go out at a later date). We asked candidates to return that questionnaire by Monday, July 6, and we will begin publishing those responses (compiled by candidacy – mayor or council ward) on our respective websites (eastvillagemagazine.org and flintdaily.news) starting July 8.

The questions sent to candidates were determined through discussions between editorial leadership of both publications and informed by two *Flint. Daily.* anonymous surveys

conducted earlier this year that asked readers what local issues they cared about most heading into city council and mayoral elections. Those surveys had nearly 200 respondents, with every ward in the city represented among those who participated.



Here are a few other notes on transparency:

- Candidates were sent questions through a Google form that limits the number of characters they are able to use for responses. This is to provide an equal amount of space for each candidate to address the question.
- Only light editing will be done to candidate responses if formatting/ readability changes (like bolding text, for example) are necessary to make them easier to read online, or for correcting minor typographical errors that don’t alter the meaning of their response.
- If a candidate provides a response that is not factual based on an available public record (like a court document, video of a public meeting, quote in a news report, etc.), their response will still run as they submitted it. However, we will add a note to the response that points out the discrepancy and the source where we verified that information.
- All candidates were contacted through email addresses they provided on their filing paperwork. If they do not respond to the email, they will be contacted through the phone number they provided

on that same paperwork. If they do not submit responses by the deadline, it will be noted in the story about that particular race in the election that a candidate did not respond.

- For candidates who prefer to respond to questions verbally and have their responses transcribed rather than through the Google Form, we have offered to provide accommodation for those requests.
- We asked every candidate a question about any charges or convictions for violent or financial crimes. We did NOT ask that question because we believe anyone’s criminal history should disqualify them from holding public office. Rather, the question is intended to give candidates a chance to address any public records or accusations that may exist. This allows them to directly respond to voters and address those instances in their own words.

East Village Magazine and *Flint. Daily.* will continue to collaborate on election coverage through the November election. A similar process will be used to highlight candidates in the November races, and that process will also be shared with readers. For questions, please email team@flintdaily.news or eastvillagemagazineflint@gmail.com. ●

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THIS MONTH IN THE VILLAGE

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

Patio Night at the FIA
Friday, July 10 - Friday, August 28 | 5 - 8 pm
Friday nights in July and August, join the FIA in partnership with FIM's Music Around Town series for Patio Nights! Enjoy an al fresco evening of live music, food, drinks and great ambience. The event is FREE, and food and drink specials are available for purchase. Arrive early for a seat on the Palette Cafe patio, or bring a chair or blanket and kick back on the FIA lawn. Music plays from 6 - 7:30 pm, plus, the museum is open late for guests to explore the galleries and exhibitions. Flint Institute of Arts
1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint

Alley Fest
Saturday, July 11 | 2 - 10 pm
Come out for Alley Fest 2026! Expect tons of live music, over 50 retail vendors, food vendors, and more!
Buckham Alley
Downtown Flint

Famous Funerals Tour
Wednesday, July 15 | 5:30 pm
Glenwood has a number of notable burials that represent some of Flint's most influential residents. When they passed, their funerals often brought the community to a halt as residents recognized the loss to the city. Join Dr. Thomas Henthorn, Wyatt Endowed Professor of Public History at the University of Michigan-Flint for a walking tour that revisits these famous funerals and the people that inspired them. Tickets are \$15 on Eventbrite.
Glenwood Historical Cemetery
2500 W. Court St., Flint

Carriage Town Porchfest
Friday, July 17 | 5 - 10 pm
Get ready for an unforgettable evening at the seventh annual Carriage Town Porchfest! Dive into a vibrant celebration of local music, food, and art that will stretch across several city blocks of closed streets. This free, community event transforms the historic Carriage Town neighborhood into a lively festival, offering something special for everyone. Carriage Town Historic Neighborhood
Mason Street & First Street, Flint

Really Cool Comic Con
Saturday, July 18 - Sunday, July 19
Michigan's largest summer comic con returns to Flint Saturday, July 18 from 9 am - 6 pm and Sunday, July 19 from 10 am - 5 pm. There will be 150+ tables of vendors & artists; cosplay contests for all ages; and video game tournaments all weekend! Tickets start at \$20 at reallycoolcomiccon.com or can be purchased for \$5 more at the door. Admission is free for kids 10 and under.
Dort Financial Center
3501 Lapeer Rd., Flint

Flint Pride Festival
Saturday, July 18 | 2 - 8 pm
Join us for the 16th annual Flint Pride Festival in downtown Flint! Expect a day filled with music, performances, vendors, food, and community as we come together to celebrate our resilience.
Downtown Flint Flat Lot
428 S. Saginaw St., Flint

Levitt AMP Flint Music Series: The Upstart Crows
Tuesday, July 21 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Traveling from Brooklyn, NY, The Upstart Crows are an alternative rock band that brings a fresh, energetic sound with powerful vocals, driving rhythms, and a modern edge. Their performance delivers a dynamic mix of melody and intensity that will keep the crowd engaged from start to finish. This is a free event. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy an evening of live music in a relaxed, community atmosphere.
Totem Books
620 W. Court St., Flint

Local Fest IV
Saturday, July 25 | 4 - 10 pm
Now entering its fourth year, Local Fest is a free, all-ages celebration of the musicians, artists, and creatives who make Flint special. Our goal remains the same: to highlight local talent, strengthen our creative community, and inspire the next generation of artists right here in Flint.
Flint Local 432
124 W. First St., Flint

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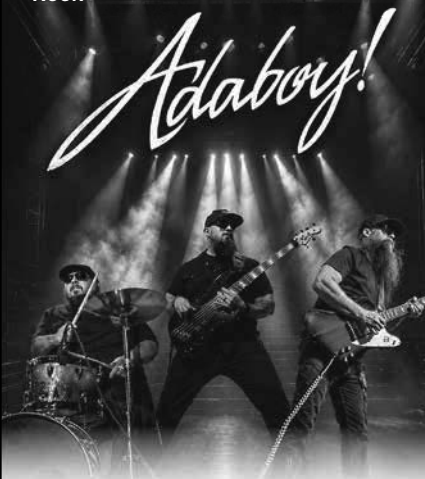
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Education Beat

Flint Central High School demolition begins with 2028 reopening date

By Harold C. Ford

In a much-heralded groundbreaking ceremony on June 17, Flint Community Schools (FCS) marked an important step toward reoccupation of its former Central-Whittier site: demolition of the approximate 100-year-old structures followed by construction of a new high school campus.

“The groundbreaking represents more than the construction of a new building,” wrote FCS Superintendent Kevelin Jones in a June 2026 edition of his newsletter. “Designed for 21st-century learning, the new high school will feature innovative learning spaces, advanced technology, and opportunities that prepare students for success in college, careers, and beyond.”

According to a May 2026 post by Jones, “the goal [is] opening the new high school for the 2028-2029 school year.”

The storied campus opened in 1923, and Flint Central High School’s first graduating class collected their diplomas in 1924. The campus was closed in 2009 due to declining student enrollment, budget shortfalls, and deterioration of the property. It has been the target of trespassers, graffiti artists, vandals, and arsonists ever since.

“I have seen the best of our schools ... and the worst when [buildings] were hastily left abandoned, unsecured, and eventually left to be scrapped and rotted over the past decade and a half,” reported Nicholas Custer, a Central Park resident and East Village Magazine’s business manager, during a February 2025 meeting of the Flint Board of Education (FBOE).

Since the closure of the campus several ideas for its rebirth have come and gone.

Flint Powers Catholic High School expressed an interest in acquiring the property before opening in a different Flint location in 2013. In 2016, the FBOE released renderings by Flint-based THA Architects Engineers for “new facilities” at a cost of \$78.5 million, and in February 2021 a mixed-use development plan from Georgia-based Harvard Group “never got past the discussion phase.”

Then, in April 2021, EVM was the first to report a Memorandum of Understanding involving 17 parties working on a “several hundred-million-dollar plan to rescue Flint Community Schools” that endeavored to build four new elementary schools and a new high school. That plan, too, was scuttled.

Mott Foundation gives \$100 million

After several near-starts and stops in recent years, the Flint-based Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has agreed to support the high school rebuild with \$100 million.

“I couldn’t think of a better way to celebrate the Mott Foundation’s 100th anniversary than propelling this project forward with a grant of \$100 million,” said Mott Foundation President and CEO Ridgway White at the groundbreaking event.

“Public schools are the heart of a well-functioning community,” added White in a Mott Foundation press release. “And this commitment goes to the root of what C.S. Mott cared most about when he created the Foundation – helping young people in Flint have every opportunity to thrive.”

Financial contributions came from other sources, as well, including \$35.9 million from the state of Michigan, for the estimated \$150 million project.

(Continued on Page 11)



Abatement and demolition work have begun on the former Flint Central High School and Whittier Classical Academy structures. (Photo by Harold C. Ford)

Flint Central...

(Continued from Page 10)

“100 years newer”

“One major improvement the new facility will have over the previous Central High School building will be modern heating, air conditioning, and building energy management systems,” according to a report by Flint Beat.

“It’s exciting for Flint schools,” Alan Velez, FCS facilities and maintenance manager, said in the article. “Seeing as how it’s 100 years newer, there’s more advanced technology going into the building.”

That tech will include wifi throughout the entire campus and “state-of-the-art” alarm and security measures, he added.

The upgrade of the Flint Central campus follows the major renovations of four other FCS campuses in recent years, largely funded by COVID-19 funding for schools, also known by the acronym ESSER – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief.

The recently upgraded FCS

campuses included, according to a post by Superintendent Jones, the Doyle Ryder Education Center, Potter Elementary, Brownell STEM Academy, and Holmes STEM Middle School Academy.

“The completion of these renovations is more than an upgrade,” Jones said in his post, “it’s a promise to our scholars, staff, and families that Flint Community Schools is dedicated to providing a nurturing, inspiring, and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive.”

In further recent FCS building news, Board of Education Treasurer Dylan Luna confirmed on July 3 that the State of Michigan’s FY27 budget includes \$8.8 million for demolitions of Flint Northern, McKinley, Anderson, and Stewart schools. As of East Village Magazine’s press time the budget was awaiting signature from Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

“This is the result of years of collaboration, tenacity, and sweat to deliver on a commitment to reduce blight and be better neighbors,” Luna told EVM of the demo funding. “This is a start, we got much more to deliver.” ●



A rendering of the proposed redesign of Flint Central High School. The FBOE voted on the design during a special meeting on December 3, 2025. (Rendering courtesy Flint Community Schools)

Village Life...

(Continued from Page 12)

I have been a witness – in some cases, to my own life. More than ever, I feel camaraderie with my fellow Flint people – what we’ve been through, often together. But I understand that my voice – and my witness – is only one part of the city’s story. It takes many witnesses to tell a whole story, and I hope EVM and other local voices continue to nurture and welcome those trying to tell and shape our story into the future.

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Village Life

I never thought I'd stay this long

By Jan Worth

Editor's Note: This is Jan Worth's first-ever Village Life column, which originally ran in our March 2007 issue. It's reprinted here, with an addendum from Worth, in honor of EVM's 50th anniversary.

I was sitting in a booth at the Redwood Lodge last fall with a famous poet. My university colleague Brent Nickola and I had just picked him up from Bishop Airport and we were settling down over lunch, delighted he was here and very pleased with ourselves.

The poet, Robert Hass, a gracious man, quickly turned the conversation to Brent and me and to Flint, where he was going to spend the next three days.

"There are only two reasons to end up in Flint," I heard myself say, "birth and work."

Brent and I grinned at each other and watched the face of Hass soften – not quite with pity, he's too elegant for that. Let's say it was a look of ... empathetic curiosity.

"It's true," I said, knowing I could turn the moment into a joke. "Brent was born here, and I came for a job. What else is there? Fine dining?"

I got through my first quarter of a century in Flint without giving this much thought. But now, in my 26th year, beginning a second quarter century, a pestering question keeps popping up.

What does it mean to live in a place for a very long time? What does it mean, particularly, to live in a place for a very long time that is, say, bleak, unglamorous, and at its best, notorious? What does it mean, in other words, to live for a very long time in Flint?

It's perilous to think too much about the past ... one can begin to seem like a tiresome old fart.

But today is a frigid, overcast Saturday, paltry snow flaking down. It's monochrome and melancholy, just right for this confession – like most other transplants; I never thought I'd stay this long.

I vividly remember my first night here. I'd accepted a job as a social worker at Family Service Agency of Genesee County making \$14,000 a year. I knew I'd have trouble making it on that pay, but after finishing a master of social work degree in Ann Arbor, I was broke and unmarried and needed something to do.

I rented a small, sweet walk-up on Avon Street. It had a sloping paneled ceiling, three dormer windows across the front, and best of all, a raised stone fireplace at one end of the living room. All I'd moved in by that night was a chair, a couple of pans and plates, a mug, a sleeping bag, and a radio. My landlady said there was a Hamady Brothers grocery at the corner of Court and Dort, and I drove out there for a few provisions.

Back at my apartment, I cooked up a box of macaroni and cheese, sat on the floor shoveling it in and asked myself what in hell I'd done.

I turned on the radio, and after fiddling around I found WFBE, the Flint public radio station. What came up, by happy chance, was John's Jazz/ It was my first moment of hope, and years afterward I got to tell John R. Davis himself how much that wonderful music meant to me that night.

I got used to Flint's roller coasters of disappointment and hope. Like the time I went out to Martorelli's, that reassuring deli on Dort Highway, only to find a sign on the door – Going Out of Business. The only things left on the decimated shelves were a jar of Worcestershire Sauce, a dusty bottle of Chianti and a box of sesame crackers. (I bought the Chianti.)

Just recently, I went to Clark's looking for a martini shaker. Ten years ago, that place would have had everything you needed for a party. But this time the clerk had to say they were out. Apologetic and morose, he sighed, "That's something we should have."

Now they're closed. Along with Cafe Panache, City Lights, Hat's Pub, Billy's, the Rusty Nail and on and on.

And WFBE, the radio station that offered me John's Jazz, was shut down and sold long ago.

But what do I know? I've never lived anyplace as long as I've lived in Flint, and after a while you start feeling, well, sort of bonded to its bad luck.

That doesn't mean I don't want to get out.

I'm now married to a man with an apartment in L.A. and occasionally I flee the gray corners of Court and Dort for the blue, green, and silver of the sparkling Pacific.

But apparently, I'm not ready to pull up stakes.

When Gary Custer asked if I'd like to write this column for a while, I realized I might have a lot to say about this old town. So, greetings – and more to come. ●

A present-day note from Worth:

It somewhat takes my breath away to be confronted with this column, to realize that almost another 20 years have passed and here I still am, here Flint still is. It's inescapable to ask, what does it all add up to? Well, in my case, it has been a life, a whole life, with all its crises and joys. Here is the essence of the matter: Flint has always been a city of change and of stories – some inspiring, some heartbreaking, some aggravating, some inexplicably hopeful.

(Continued on Page 11)

Issue No. 751