

Best Sellers

Our favorite stories about your Library's impact • FALL 2020

Back In Circulation! Flint Public Library @ Courtland Center Is Open

Excitement crackled like a summer storm inside Courland Center on July 23 as Library staff eagerly anticipated their first visitors. "Our two-month closure for packing and moving turned into five months, thanks to COVID-19," says Library Director Kay Schwartz. "You have no idea how excited we were to start serving patrons in person again!"

That excitement was tempered a bit by reality. "Re-opening is a complex process," Kay notes. "We want to keep the public and staff safe, while complying with the Governor's direction. We're asking people to follow the same guidelines that they do in other public spaces. This includes the use of face coverings, hand sanitizer, and social distancing. We're giving each visitor a brochure that explains our safety procedures. We will also need to manage occupancy so

"I visited Flint Public Library last week, as I do every week when it is open. I was totally impressed how the temporary location was so clean and everyone was wearing masks without exception. I encourage everyone to visit and support one of Flint's gems." (Alan Grove, patron)

that we don't exceed our allowable limit. To that end, we're asking patrons to limit their visit to one hour or less. This will allow more people to start using Library services."

When you visit Flint Public Library @ Courtland Center, you can browse and check out books and movies for all ages. You can also spend time on the public computers or do some genealogical research. "Our temporary home is pleasant and spacious," Kay observes. "We invite you to check it out and say hello!"

ALTERNATIVE ACCESS

Still not sure you're comfortable spending time at the Library? We have two options for you:

DOWNLOADS: you can select and download books, audiobooks, music and magazines right from our website with your Library card. Do it all from the comfort and safety of home!

HOLDS: browse our online catalog and place items that interest you on hold. Once the materials are ready, you can pop in to the front of the Library for a quick checkout.

And if you don't have a Library card, our E-Card solves that problem. By completing an online application, you can instantly receive a number that allows you to download books, audiobooks, music, magazines and more. When you visit the Library, you can convert your E-Card to a full-service card that allows you to check out physical materials.

You can find all the latest information about our services at fpl.info. We look forward to seeing you soon!



How to Find Us

Address: 4190 E. Court St.,
Burton (Entrance A)

By bus: take the #10 bus
(Richfield Rd.)

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday:
11:30am-7:30pm; Friday-Saturday:
11:00am-5:30pm

Questions? 810.232.7111
or askus@fpl.info

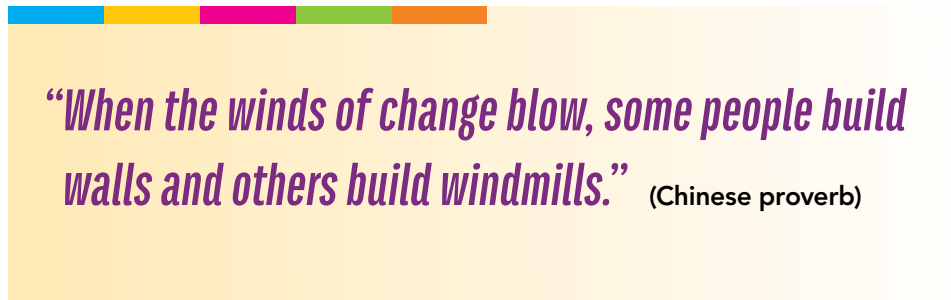
● Our temporary home is open for business!

Welcome to Our Wind Farm!

This has been a rough year for our country and our world. Mourning is a normal human reaction and we've done a bit of that at the Library. But we've found that following the proverb is a much happier, more uplifting approach. Here are just a few ways we are harnessing the wind to power a new way of working.

CHILDREN'S LITERACY

■ **Phone a Story.** Each week, one of our Children's Learning Specialists will read and record a book. Then people can call anytime to hear that book read aloud. This might be a great bedtime story option. You could check out the book (digitally or in person) and work on word recognition as it is read aloud. This is not rocket science, but it's a great way to help a child hear stories



“When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills.” (Chinese proverb)

and build verbal skills. And the best news is that it doesn't require Internet access! Starting September 12, call 810.232.7111 x 4 as often as you like to hear the story.

■ **Barbershop Books.** We've been setting up small libraries in barbershops for a few years now. To prevent little hands from potentially spreading the virus via those books, we're repurposing leftover books from summer outreach and taking them to the participating barbershops. Each child will be able to pick a book and take

it home, rather than just reading it at the barbershop. This will help prevent the spread of germs, while spreading the love of reading to other kids in the house!

■ **Virtual Story Time.** Starting on September 12, we'll be Zooming a story at 2:00pm every Saturday. (Check our online calendar at fpl.info for details.) All you need is a computer/phone/tablet and an Internet connection. Some of the stories will include crafts. You can stop by the Library to pick up that week's bag of craft supplies, or check the list and compile them from what you have at home.

■ **Downloadable Children's Books & Magazines.** We have seen a surge in people using E-Cards to download books. While that's a great resource for adults, why not use the allure of technology to get your kids reading, too? We've increased our order of digital children's books, especially picture books, so that there are more choices online for all the youngsters in your life. We also have popular magazines like *Highlights for Children* and *National Geographic Kids*.

DIGITAL LITERACY

■ **Virtual Book an Expert.** We have been offering Book an Expert sessions for several years, helping people learn to



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do everything from make phone calls to download media with their technology. We're restarting those lessons this fall using Zoom. Call 810.249.2569 to schedule.

COMMUNITY HUB

■ **Booked for Lunch.** Looking for a way to reconnect with people at lunchtime? Try Booked for Lunch via Zoom. Each month features a Michigan author who will share the war stories and wisdom from one of his or her books. If the book grabs your attention, you can download it and have something to read the rest of the week! Sign up via our online calendar.

■ **Fiction Only Book Club.** These folks are committed to their monthly chats. The members weren't going to let our move stop them, and they certainly

weren't going to quit for a virus! They've been meeting virtually for months. You can find the book of the month on our online calendar. Email Ann Manko (amanko@fpl.info) for an invitation to join the Zoom discussion.

■ **School support.** "Back to school" is a pretty uncertain thing this year. But you can count on Flint Public Library to help kids, whether they are in or out of the classroom.

Michigan Electronic Library (MEL) provides a wealth of books and databases for all libraries to share. It's especially helpful for students doing research or looking for downloadable copies of assigned books. Anyone can access MEL through our website, and download resources with an E-Card. And speaking of



E-Cards, they're available to students of any age through our website. We've also expanded our **nonfiction books for kids,** because we know they are still going to have to do those dreaded book reports!

We hope you'll open the windows of your mind and enjoy the refreshing breezes brought to you by Flint Public Library!

History Includes YOU!

Flint Public Library has hired students through the Summer Youth Initiative for many years. We considered skipping it this year, but decided that work experiences for teens were a priority. So we hired eight kids and set out to give them a productive experience.

Thanks to COVID, our traditional summer work presented some challenges.

It was hard to do story time, for example, because people were hesitant to come in person or virtually. But one of our big

successes came, once again, at the hands of our local history specialist, Michael Madden.

He asked his two students to start their work by tracing their family trees. Both students came from long-time Flint families and were fascinated to uncover previously unknown family lore. One of the students connected with an estranged grandparent and rekindled a relationship. The other was able to work closely with his grandmother and ask questions no one had ever asked. Although she passed away during the summer, he had the priceless opportunity to transfer family history from one generation to the next.

"These kids learned to appreciate the many resources and tools of the Library," notes Leslie Acevedo, Director of Library Operations. "We lit a flame of interest and they will be ambassadors, now and in the future. Both felt it was fun as well as valuable. And they learned that history is not dead. History...the archives of the city...includes you!"





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**Our mission
is to be Flint's go-to place
to learn for life.**

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FALL 2020

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Building on the Cornerstone

“When I was a kid, the Library was one of the entertainment centers in my life,” recalls Joe Klobucher. “My family was all about education. It was the cornerstone. That’s how you bettered yourself.”

Both Joe and his brother John had their roots — and their passion — in Flint. And they built on that passion. John founded Big John Steak & Onion, providing outstanding food for customers and reliable work opportunities for employees. Joe became a teacher, and the Director of Community Schools in Caro. He was, for all intents and purposes, the founder of community education in the Thumb area of Michigan. After John passed away in 2011, Joe took over the reins of Big John.

In all of his professional and personal life,

Joe has always reached out to help others help themselves. That’s why he supports Flint Public Library. “I firmly believe that libraries are one of the basic things that help people improve or enjoy their lives,” Joe says. “Being a teacher, it’s just natural for me to support continuing education in all its many forms. The Library’s mission aligns perfectly with what I believe is important.”

Joe’s pretty clear about what’s in it for him. “I don’t give to all those who ask,” he says. “I don’t want a set of address labels in return for my gift! What I want is to better the Flint community. Libraries are under siege in many places. I know how important it is for Flint Public Library to keep up. I think the Library is a jewel, and I want it to be there for the next generation.”

“The Library’s mission aligns perfectly with what I believe is important.” (Joe Klobucher)