

Best Sellers

Our favorite stories about your Library's impact

FALL
2022

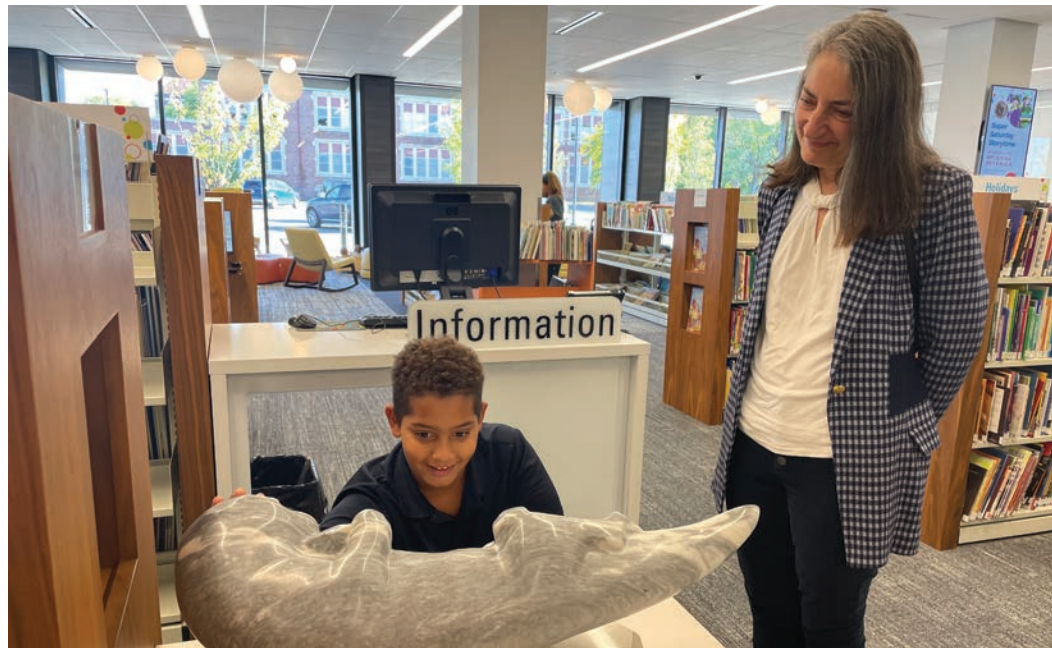


His “Second Home”

Our vision is to be Flint's go-to place to learn for life. But how do you know you can “go” if you've never “gone?”

Jane Koegel found that introducing the Library as a place for fun is a great first step. Last year, she started tutoring a 9-year old boy who needed some extra help. This past summer, she took him on field trips and they explored the Library from top to bottom. “He had never been here before,” Jane notes. “He plunked down in every one of the cool chairs. He discovered the Lite Brite and Lego table and enjoyed playing with them. He wanted to play the video games, so I got him a Library card. We ventured down to the Genealogy Room. He noticed and connected to the art. The librarians interacted with him in whatever he was doing. The whole Library is a beautiful space where he felt excited to be, even though we didn't open a book the entire summer.”

Jane says that her young student calls the Library his second home. “He feels comfortable there,” she observes. “I loved seeing it through his eyes this summer. He was excited about being there, even if he didn't do one thing relative to reading. And I guess that's okay. At least now he has great memories of feeling welcome at the Library. I hope that one day, his positive experiences will encourage him to discover books.”



ENGAGING A RELUCTANT READER

Sometimes children need to be lured into loving books. Experiencing the Library as a fun place is a great start. We also have lots of options to help you sneak reading into their lives!

- ▶ **Launchpad Academy:** if your child is into technology, then make reading fun with a portable tablet series that you can use in the Library or check out. Each tablet is preloaded with different age-appropriate content to help children learn reading skills. No Wi-Fi access is required to use them.
- ▶ **Personalized Attention:** all kids are interested in something... and we probably have books about whatever that is! So come to the Children's Learning Center and one of our librarians will be happy to introduce some books tailored to your child's interests.
- ▶ **Story Time:** if your child is not yet ready to read independently, story time is a fun way to engage him or her in books while someone else reads aloud.
- ▶ **Playaway Books:** these are self-contained audio books that you can check out. Plug the universal jack into any headphone and your child can get absorbed in many different kinds of age-appropriate stories.

Celebrating the Artis' legacy of business success and community support.



WILLIE E. AND VERONICA ARTIS STUDY ROOM

One of the spaces you might read about is the Willie E. and Veronica Artis Study Room. Sadly, this community lost a true leader with the passing of Willie E. Artis in June of this year. He was an extraordinary businessman, a loving husband and father, and a hero for positive change.

Willie was passionate about helping people improve their lives through learning. Both Willie and Veronica believed that people must have an education and the tools to take care of themselves. Their workplace has been a stepping-stone for hundreds of people on the path to career fulfillment. And they saw firsthand the challenges of literacy and technology in the workplace. During an interview in the fall of 2018, Willie noted, "Even something as simple as quality control directions will challenge an employee with low literacy. You must read well in order to have any kind of career."

The Artises have faithfully supported the Library for many years through annual giving as well as through their gift to the renovation campaign. Willie also designated Flint Public Library as one of the two recipients for gifts given in his memory.

In that same 2018 interview, Veronica beautifully summed up the reasons for their commitment. "The Library is a jewel in our community. We need to support it, and make sure it remains viable and sustainable. The millage won't do it all!"

The Flint Mosaic

COMMEMORATIVE SPACES HONOR LOCAL LEADERS

As you wander through the Library, you may notice names on the walls at various spots. For example, you might observe the Ruth Mott Children's Learning Center on the first floor, or the Gloria Coles Sky Salon on the second floor.

Have you ever wondered why the names are there, or who they are? Each of the names represents a person, a family or an organization that gave to the Library renovation because they believe in our mission. They chose to enrich the Flint

community through access to learning.

We wanted to preserve and share the incredible stories of these donors and why they gave. You can find those stories in the Commemorative Spaces section of our website. Sit down sometime and read a few of them. This community is chock full of leaders, pioneers and activists who have dedicated their lives to enriching others. You'll be inspired and proud as you learn more about the amazing people who have helped shape this community.

FIND THE ARTIS' STORY AND MANY MORE AT
fpl.info/commemorative-spaces.

We Won!

NEW TECHNOLOGY THANKS TO A LONG-TERM EMPLOYEE

Janet O'Keefe started working at Flint Public Library in 2000. She's a whiz with technology, and she fully understands how much our patrons need and appreciate it. So when she received forgiveness of her remaining student loans thanks to her long-term employment, she promptly turned around and used some of that money to purchase a new microfilm scanner for the Special Collections Room!

"We have three scanners and they all take some coddling," says Michael Madden, the Local History and Genealogy librarian. "The hardware and software are no longer in sync. You have to fiddle with brightness and contrast to make your scan readable. All that extra effort eats into the limited time that each patron has on the machine. This new equipment will allow more people access, and make it far easier and faster to get exactly what they need."

But there's more! Janet also dropped a business card at a vendor booth during a trade show. And wouldn't you know it...she won an overhead book scanner, which she also promptly donated to the Library.

Michael is thrilled about the gift. "You can simply open the book and take a photo of the pages from the top, rather than placing it face down," he explains. "The scanner automatically removes the curve of the page."

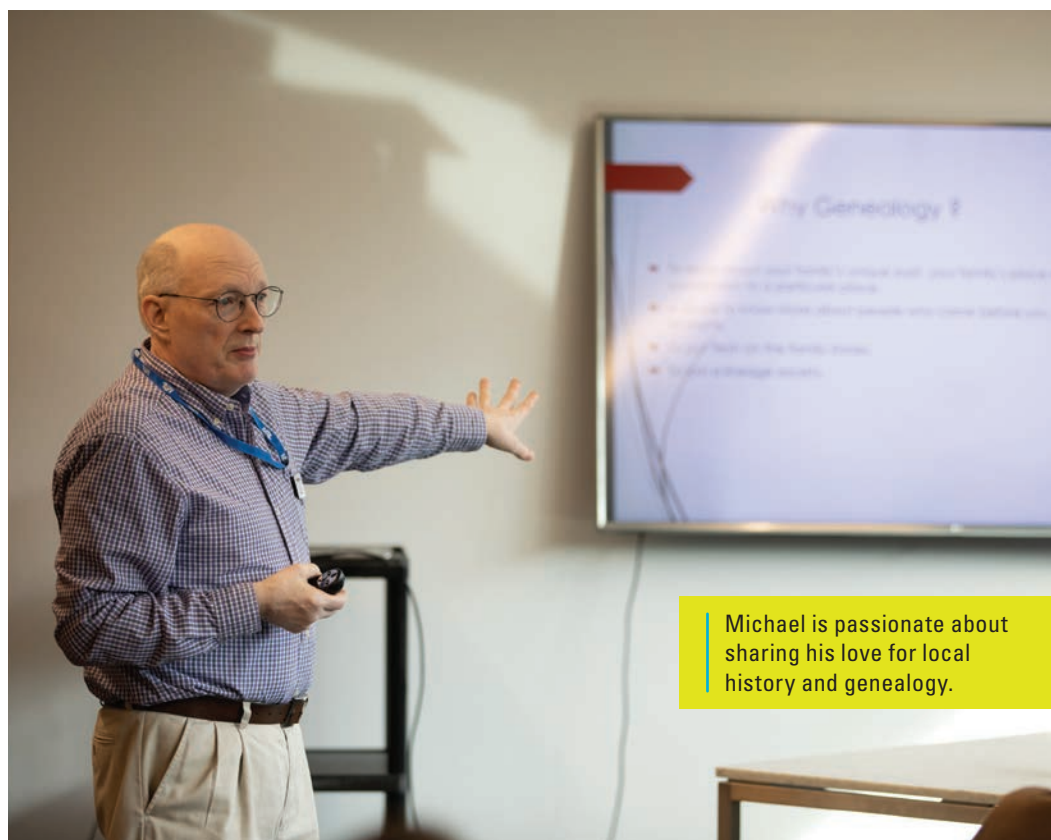
Why is this a big deal? "The Library has many items that won't hold up to traditional scanning," Michael says. "We've had to pull items such

"This new equipment will allow more people access, and make it far easier and faster to get exactly what they need."

- Michael Madden
Librarian

as the Flint City Index from the shelf because they are too fragile for patrons to handle. Now we have this new scanner set up in the Vault, and we can start digitizing the material. The fragile originals may not survive, but at least we will have the digital images for patrons to use in their history and genealogy projects."

Janet is enrolled in a continuing education program to become a specialist in Digitization and Preservation on behalf of the Library. These gifts will help her, and our patrons, enjoy and use our fabulous Local History and Genealogy Collection for years to come. Thank you, Janet!

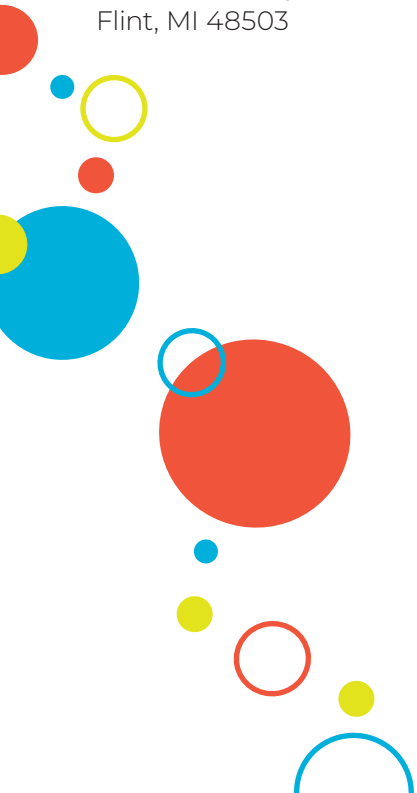


Michael is passionate about sharing his love for local history and genealogy.



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OUR MISSION IS TO BE
FLINT'S GO-TO PLACE
TO LEARN FOR LIFE.

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Announcing a Name Change



In response to a grassroots initiative, Flint Public Library Board of Trustees voted unanimously in September to embark on a process that will rename the Library. Once the legal groundwork is in place, the new name will be the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library.

Gloria Coles became the Director of Flint Public Library in April 1984. She was the first African American woman to hold that position, and she spent the next 20 years living into her vision of what a library should be and do for the community.

"Ms. Coles led the Library through a significant funding transition," says Norm Bryant, a member of the grassroots Gloria Coles Initiative. "I think it's fair to say that without her hard work to secure public funding through the millages, the Library would not be here today. That is part of her legacy, and one of the primary



reasons we wanted to name the building in her honor."

"Ms. Coles was an inspiring leader, a tireless advocate, and a force for change," says Board President Reta Stanley. "She retired in 2004 but has been actively involved in the community and with the Library ever since. We often choose to honor significant people after they have passed away, but it is far better to do so while they are alive. Therefore, the Board of Trustees was pleased to vote unanimously in favor of this name change."

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