

Best Sellers

Our favorite stories about your Library's impact

WINTER
2023



"The Library Knows What It's Doing"

PODCASTER JULIE BOYLAN SHARES HER THOUGHTS ON THE NEW DIGITAL STUDIO.

One of the exciting new rooms in the renovated Library is the Graff Family Digital Studio. Along with a green screen for movie production, it offers podcasting capabilities. We recently caught up with one of our early adopters, Julie Boylan, who shared her thoughts on learning to use this resource.

Q. How did you get into podcasting?

A. When the concept was fairly new, I got hooked on a knitting-related podcast created by a woman in Wales. I loved the idea that this technology allowed anyone with an interest to talk about any subject. I realized that there was not a podcast dedicated to machine knitting, which is a hobby of mine in addition to hand knitting. So I decided to produce one.

Q. How long have you been producing your podcast?

A. I started in 2014, and I've produced one per month. February of 2023 marked my 100th episode.

Q. Why did you decide to check out the Digital Studio for your recordings?

A. I had a headset and microphone at home, but it was fairly amateur. When I heard about the Digital Studio, I started dreaming about a more professional production. Since the Library was offering free training and free use of the equipment, I decided to look into it.

Q. And what do you think of the results?

A. It is amazing! The technology is state-of-the-art. The sound quality

is head and shoulders better than what I was doing at home. And it's so easy to use. You can record up to six different tracks, and then edit them individually. All I need to bring is an SD card. I record the podcast to my card, and then take it home to edit.

Q. Was it hard to learn?

A. It was a piece of cake. Janet and Andrew from the Library staff were very knowledgeable and they made it easy. They limit the number of students in the class, so I had personalized attention. By the time I left, I knew I could produce a great podcast with this resource.

Q. What do you like best about the Digital Studio?

A. In addition to the great technology, I also love the fact that reserving the room forces me to do the work. My goal is never to miss a month, and this is helping me achieve that goal.

We're excited about helping community members express their creativity through this technology. If you're interested in learning more about podcasting through the Digital Studio, visit fpl.info/events and sign up for one of the free training classes.

LISTEN FOR YOURSELF!

If you'd like to hear what a podcast recorded in the Digital Studio sounds like (or if you're just interested in knitting!), check out Julie's podcast.





“I Always Start With the Library First!”

A field trip helped kids from Motherly Intercession learn about the Library as a community resource.

Necole Hayes is a self-confessed Library groupie. “I’ve lived in Hawaii, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Michigan, and I’ve had a library card in each state!” she declares proudly. “No matter where I go, I get a Library card.”

That habit pays dividends in her role as the Executive Director of Motherly Intercession. Motherly Intercession serves children between the ages of 3-18 in Flint and Genesee County who have a parent that is currently or was previously incarcerated. Their goal is to retain and strengthen family bonds during incarceration to minimize the damage caused by this intensely stressful situation.

“Flint Public Library is an amazing resource for our nonprofit organization,” she notes. “When I need a film for my parenting class, I go to the Library first. When our

board needs space for a meeting, I check the Library’s online room reservation system first. When I’m trying to find a safe and affordable place for parents to engage with their children, I bring them to the Library. This is a community hub.”



“All the kids in our program need help in school, especially with reading and math,” Necole shares. “They all need access to books. So we took a field trip to the Library. All the kids now feel welcome at the Library and have Library

cards. I share the Program Guide with parents so they can see all of the incredible opportunities that are available to them for free. The Library brings so much joy to children and families. It’s an easy way to have a memorable experience together.”

Necole is an avid Library user. She’s also a donor. Why is the Executive Director of one nonprofit giving to another? “We are a grassroots organization that relies on gifts from our community,” Necole explains. “It’s much more cost-effective for me and other people to give to the Library and then use the resources. They have more than I would ever be able to offer as a small nonprofit. It benefits everyone...the kids, the families, our board, and me personally.”

“The Library brings so much joy to children and families. It’s an easy way to have a memorable experience together.”

“We Always Found Help in the Form of Information”

Flint Public Library has been a go-to resource for Dick and Kathy Saunders since they were students at Flint Junior College. “We both had meager resources,” Dick recalls. “We found not only a wealth of information, but also the people with time and energy to help us.”

That lesson stuck with them, and they continued to use the Library as a source of information and assistance. “When we purchased an old rundown house, the Library provided us with the knowledge to renovate it and create a livable home,” Dick recalls. “When we accrued extra cash, we found information at the Library about how to successfully invest it. When we took up hobbies such as canoeing and wilderness backpacking, the Library provided information so we could do it wisely and safely.”

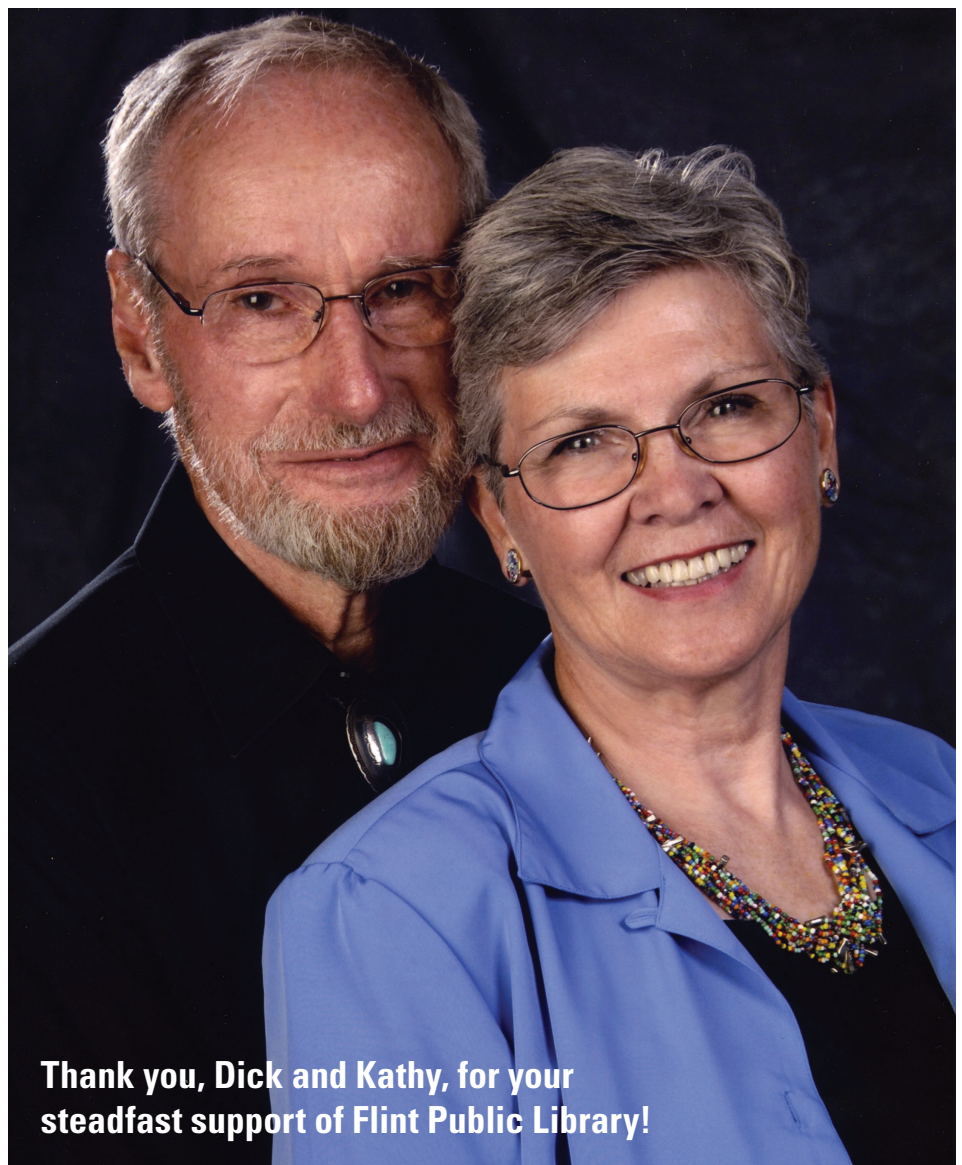
Dick and Kathy made sure they passed their love of the Library on to their son. “I would turn him loose in the children’s section, and he always chose books on light, heat,

and anything to do with physics,” Dick says. “It was no surprise that after receiving three college degrees in science, he became a pharmaceutical engineer.”

Even after retirement, Dick says the Library fueled his interests and filled his informational needs. “When I retired, I took art classes at Mott Community College for several years,” he says. “I discovered a whole world of art at Flint Public Library, including

the Mott-Warsh Collection exhibits. Now I enjoy the excellent music collection. My favorites are jazz, blues and big band...anything danceable!”

During each stage of life, Dick and Kathy have found help in the form of information at the Library. “We have always received excellent service, and the knowledge to pursue our dreams and interests. That’s an immeasurable gift, and that is why we support the Library.”



**Thank you, Dick and Kathy, for your
steadfast support of Flint Public Library!**

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

A YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION

May 19, 2022 was a fabulous day for the residents of Flint. That was the day we proudly unveiled the beautifully transformed Flint Public Library! This grand opening was the culmination of strategic planning work that began in 2014, as we sought community input to inform our future. That plan led to a clear understanding of our service priorities, and those ultimately helped us envision a 21st century Library that would fulfill them.

It took tremendous effort on the part of many people, but we completed the entire project, and the cost was fully covered through donor commitments and the public bonds. Once the bond is paid off, the community will own the Library with no debt.

We also took on two other transformation projects during this monumental year. First, we created a modern new logo and branding identity to complement the mid-century modern aesthetic of our beautiful building. We also implemented a brand new website, complete with an online room reservation system for our 19 meeting spaces.

What a great way to end our fiscal year and springboard into what's next!

Now that the renovation is complete, we are using this amazing space to focus on our service priorities:

- ▶ **Early Childhood Literacy:** helping parents and caregivers prepare children to read, and exposing kids to STEM programming.
- ▶ **Digital Learning:** filling the technology education gap by exposing students to aspects of computer science, and making technology accessible to the public.
- ▶ **Community Hub:** providing abundant and welcoming environments where people can gather for learning, dialogue or entertainment.

We sincerely and gratefully thank the residents of Flint who continue to demonstrate their appreciation for and support of Flint Public Library.





REVENUE

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| ● Property Taxes* | \$3,347,771 |
| ● Grants, Memorials and Gifts | \$478,285 |
| ● State Aid and Fines | \$256,477 |
| ● Interest Income | \$10,131 |
| ● Other | \$41,790 |
| Total Revenue | \$4,134,454 |



EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ● Personnel | \$2,323,897 |
| ● Operations | \$750,575 |
| ● Maintenance | \$260,108 |
| ● Grants Expended | \$250,198 |
| Total Expenses | \$3,584,778 |



NOTE:

Revenue in excess of expenses is assigned for use in FY 23 as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|
| ● Grant purposes | \$189,790 |
| ● Operations | \$359,886 |
| Total assigned for use in FY 23 | \$549,676 |

* The Library is funded by a permanent 2 mill property tax. An additional 2.0 mill was approved by voters for 2012-2021 and renewed for 2022-2031.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

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However, we have received a few more gifts since that time, and we wanted to include these donors with our final acknowledgment.

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