

The street maintenance budget of \$69,000 in 1954 has grown to \$1.5 million this year.

Flickinger said one thing he's proud of is talking City Council into approving a policy that set a minimum fund balance of 10 percent. It was passed in 2008. That means while the city has a nearly \$18 million budget this year, it won't touch almost \$1.8 million of that. It's a sort of built-in rainy day cushion.

"They didn't have to do that," he said of council's action.

Fred Maurer has known Flickinger most of his life. They were both born in 1952, a few days apart. They attended St. Augustine's school together.

Maurer spent more than 21 years as a city councilman.

"Ray is very methodical, very thorough, very capable," he said. "He doesn't care to get into the politics [of his elected office], he's more nuts and bolts. He's one of these people who just stays focused on what needs to be done."

VOTES NEEDED

While Flickinger, a Democrat, never faced Republican opposition in the 10 times he had to seek re-election, Maurer laughed that there was one year Flickinger had to work at getting votes. In the 1980s, voters passed a charter amendment requiring the city finance director have a degree in municipal financing and a number of years experience in the field.

Maurer swears that "and" was supposed to be an "or." Flickinger did not have a municipal financing degree. He'd spent about 10 years or so, while in office, working on his bachelor's degree in accounting from Kent State University. But the ballot authors had intended to honor his experience.

With Flickinger's job hanging in the balance, an amended amendment had to be put on the very next ballot.

"I think that's the one and only time Ray actually had to campaign," Maurer said. The issue passed.

HITTING THE ROAD

When Flickinger retires at the end of this month, his assistant, Jeremy Flaker, will take over. He'll have to run in 2019 if he wants to keep the job. Judge said Barberton will face new financial challenges ahead, and he'll miss the "level of comfort" that comes from having Flickinger at his side.

"He's lived through tough times before. He's weathered storms and kept on top of them," Judge said. "And he has a lot of institutional knowledge. I'm going to miss his insightfulness, his ideas."

"But I told him I've got his number and I know where he lives," Judge quipped.

That information might not do the mayor a lot of good.

Flickinger and his longtime girlfriend plan to sell their home and hit the road in a motor home, starting with a stay in Colorado to visit his son, Eric.

He'll be back here from time to time to visit his two daughters—Amy in Wadsworth and Emily in Grafton—but he's not planning on any permanent residence for the foreseeable future.

"We're going to be nomads. I can honestly say I don't know where I'll be living, but Barberton will always be home," he said.

Like his father before him, he loves boating and fishing. But unlike his father, he's getting out at the age of 65, with plenty of time to do more of both.

"Like I said," he repeated, "it's just time."

ANISSA ULIBARRI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anissa Ulibarri for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Anissa Ulibarri is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anissa Ulibarri is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anissa Ulibarri for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S 10TH ANNUAL CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th annual César Chávez Day of Celebration at Eastern Michigan University. This annual observation allows for the recognition of the campus' diversity and the life of Mr. Chávez.

Born in Arizona in 1927, César Chávez was the child of hardworking Mexican American migrant laborers. He spent most of his early years in migrant camps with his parents, attending school sporadically and serving the United States for two years in the Navy. Once he returned, he joined together with Hispanic farmworkers in states including Arizona and California to bargain for better working conditions for American workers. Mr. Chávez's work as a leader of the movement implemented institutional change that would forever alter the American workplace. Changes included union recognition as well as the creation of the United Farm Workers of America, which remains a prominent union today. César Chávez's lifetime of hard work inspired millions and opened the doors for workers across our nation.

Since 2009, Eastern Michigan University has participated in a César Chávez Day of Celebration, inviting local students, university faculty, and community members to commemorate his life's work and its influence today. The University's event includes poetry reading by local middle schoolers, keynote speakers, mariachi music, and a procession to the César Chávez Fountain located on campus. César Chávez Day is an important opportunity for residents of southeastern Michigan to come together and discuss the doors that he opened for students and workers as well as to discuss ways to continue to serve under-

served student populations both at Eastern Michigan University and in local K–12 schools. It is my honor to join Eastern Michigan University in today's celebration, and it is my hope that this event will continue to take place in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Eastern Michigan University as they celebrate their 10th Annual César Chávez Day of Celebration. This event allows for important conversations to take place as we celebrate Mr. Chávez's contributions to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF ERIC MARTIN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life and career of Eric Martin. Eric, a longtime Buffalo native, will celebrate his retirement from Grand Slam Productions where he worked diligently as an MC and promoter for over 40 years.

Eric Martin's life was centered around family. As the youngest child of five siblings, he had a close relationship with his mother, Shirley Martin. Her saying "let your actions match your looks" was instrumental in forming his outlook on life.

His journey in the music industry started at the young age of 16 first working with "The Exotics" a well-known soul group in the Western New York area. In a continuation of his passion for music Eric worked under the direction of Freedom Train and when he was 18 started spinning records at Sylvester's Night Club on Fillmore Avenue. Some notable events from Eric's early career include MC'ing a Maze and Beverly Concert, a Phyllis Hyman show at Shea's Performing Arts Center, and a Juneteenth festival concert. In addition, Eric has worked with artists such as S.O.S Band, Atlantic Starr, and Loose Ends.

However, Eric's career did not come without its challenges. In his commitment to his passion for music Eric served the city in a variety of other jobs in order to continue his work as a promoter. His hard work has been seen in 22 years with the Buffalo Board of Education, 20 years at Dunlop Tires, 6 years with BFNC and 4 years with Big Brother Big Sister. Eric discusses the challenges posed by minority promoters within Buffalo saying that "Buffalo's a very tough market, a lot of establishments aren't open to black promoters." This has made it even more difficult to gain a foothold in Buffalo's event and nightlife scene.

Despite these challenges Eric Martin retires from a dynamic career in the music industry with renewed hopes of bringing his love of music to a new generation through his wife Tracy and their three children Erica, Eric, and Aaron. His dream being that Buffalo will one day be able to establish a major music festival.

Mr. Speaker, I am inspired by Eric Martin's remarkable commitment to pursue his passion for music. I'm honored to celebrate his retirement and hope that he continues to be a driving force in the great city of Buffalo.