

**Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting**  
**October 7, 2023**  
**Gloria Coles Flint Public Library**  
**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Flint Neighborhoods United (FNU) is a coalition of neighborhood groups and residents who come together on the first Saturday of each month to share information and leverage their resources to create positive change in the Greater Flint community.

**Announcements/Community Conversation**

- Gloria Coles Flint Public Library
  - The 34th Annual African American Quilting Guild Exhibit will be October 12 – 14 2023. The event will showcase quilters from across the country, with a theme of “In Memory of...” to honor guild members who have passed on and left a legacy of friendship, creativity and skill.
- Communities First, Inc.
  - Step-Up, Pick Up event has concluded and results to be publicized soon.
  - Rental number for newest build, The Grand on University: 810-510-9811
  - African American Film Series to begin again in November and run monthly through February at the Flint Institute of Arts
  - Glenn Wilson was recently named one of Crain’s 40 under 40
- Judson Center Child and Family Services
  - Working on reunification of parents and their children placed in foster care
  - Shared information on Parent Partner Program which pairs a “parent partner” with parents seeking reunification and going through a parent agency agreement or court ordered treatment plan
  - Located at 4318 Miller Rd. Suite C1 | 810-820-5635
- Flint Registry
  - New project happening in honor of the 10-year anniversary of the Flint Water Crisis coming up in the spring: [collecting stories](#) about how the water crisis has impacted residents.

**Genesee County Land Bank Authority (GCLBA)**

- Update shared by Faith Finholm, Grants Manager at GCLBA
- GCLBA has raised around \$47 million to compete about 2,400 demolitions across the county, but costs are ballooning and fundraising is ongoing to keep up with rising costs
  - Have 446 demolitions contracted and 679 are in-process, out to bid or completed
  - Started with 100 priority demolitions in Flint and that contract is wrapping up now
  - Number of demolitions completed or under contract in Flint, specifically: 263
- The status of a particular property can be looked up on the [Flint Property Portal](#) or on the Land Bank’s website.
  - To report a problem at a Land Bank property to the GCLBA, [click here](#).
  - To get a full map of demo properties, go to the property portal, click “Make Maps” and to left hand side click “Demolition Status”
- The Land Bank’s commercial demolitions are different from their residential ones. More information to come on commercial properties.

- Not all properties that need demolition are owned by the Land Bank, you can look up property owners through the [Flint Property Portal](#), too.
- The Land Bank prefers to sell to local folks, and in fact, to purchase a side lot you must be an adjacent homeowner or it can be leased (but the lease will be broken if the lot is not maintained).
  - The GCLBA has implemented a door hanger system to alert neighbors of coming demolitions and the purchase availability of the newly-created lot.
- Land Bank sells properties through multiple channels, including “Featured Homes” and “Ready for Rehab” and “Very Interesting Properties.” To be considered in the purchasing process, a bidder must come to an open house for the property.
- **FNU Feedback:** many shared concerns about owners from outside of Flint not taking care of their properties but continuing to pay taxes on them so they do not come into Land Bank possession for rehab or demolition possibilities. Others shared that there need to be policy shifts, on state or local levels, and to spur that action it is helpful to report blight and your desire for policy changes to the [City of Flint Blight Department](#) and your council members.
  - Jane Richardson suggested creating a FNU subcommittee to clarify what concerns exist and centralize communications around those concerns. She offered to co-lead the committee
  - Another resident asked about the possibility of fundraisers for specific property projects, like helping house mothers, or if such fundraisers otherwise exist. Carma Lewis suggested using FNU connections to organize.

### **Flint Housing Commission (FHC)**

- Update shared by Jason Borrer, Director of Development for FHC
- FHC is currently in the process of assessing relocation and rescaling of River Park Apartments through a Choice Neighborhood Initiative planning grant
  - Choice Neighborhood is a program that focuses on not just creating new housing but also providing a community with neighborhood investment around the new housing and support programs for its residents.
  - FHC and the city of Flint have already gone through this same process for Atherton East, which also received a Choice Neighborhood Initiative implementation grant that is being used to relocate former Atherton East residents to Clark Commons (in the Smith Village area in the city’s 5th ward), as phases of construction are completed
- With the new planning grant, FHC is working to develop the Northeast Flint Community Plan.
  - Boundaries: Carpenter Rd. to the north, West Stewart Ave. to the south, Branch Rd. to the east, and Dupont Street to the west.
  - Seeking input from River Park residents, surrounding neighbors in the target area, and other community stakeholders with the goal of creating new mixed-income housing to replace River Park Apartments within the target area
  - River Park is 180 units at present, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development would like to see that doubled

- Big question is: where should the new development be built? Want to build new housing where there are amenities to support it and where residents want to be.
- Part of the planning grant can also go to “doing while planning” activities, which FHC is also seeking input on to do in the coming summer. Those types of projects can be things like installing signage or bike paths or planting urban gardens, etc.
- FHC has already begun meetings with residents and stakeholders, and is encouraging all interested to join their next meeting on Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library.
- The Northeast Flint Community Plan will be submitted to HUD in December 2025.

## Flint MTA

- Update shared by Paul Mattern, Chief Development Officer at MTA, and Joe Kapper from SRF Consulting Firm
- MTA is rolling out a new app that will allow riders to pay with their phones within the next two months; a tap card payment option is also to come. Both are meant to allow for easier payment and fare capping.
- MTA is embarking on a Fixed Route/Primary Study with SRF's help. The study is trying to understand if Flint MTA's routes are serving the community as best they could. Ridership on Flint MTA has not yet bounced back to pre-pandemic levels.
- At present, the consulting firm is looking at existing conditions, census data, ridership trends etc. and starting the engagement process, both with MTA leadership and with the public:
  - What transit needs are most important to customers?
  - What are the MTA's priorities?
  - The values shared from the above will then inform the firm's evaluation standards and design suggestions
- Key demographic information being considered: population and employment density, race/ethnicity, income and poverty, vehicle ownership, major community destinations
  - Want to ensure equity in access
- MTA/SRF will be developing a survey for riders and non-riders to gather information about trip origins and destinations, barriers to using the bus, etc.
- Project will conclude with a service plan that will match service types to geographic markets to best meet customer needs.
- Through a 2019 rider survey and census data the consultants have thus far learned:
  - Flint MTA serves a significant number of people from low-income households
  - Peak ridership occurs between 9 am to 11 am and drops off in the evening with a small peak at 8 pm, likely due to retail workers
  - Many trips are for work, but most are not
- **FNU Feedback:** consider creating connection points between lines other than in downtown, some ridership avoidance comes from on-bus behavior concerns; plans should be made around not just current developments but coming developments (such as the Buick City site, relocated River Park development, etc.); ridership may be limited not because of stigma but because of efficiency, it can take three times longer to get somewhere by bus than by car in Flint; drop off in the evening may be because

frequency of service is also reduced at that time, so people find other modes of transit; MTA should work with FHC, GCLBA and vice versa, as all of the planning processes presented today will likely inform each other

- MTA and SRF will be organizing public outreach soon. Ideas for engagement, or route study suggestions, can be sent to Joe Kapper at [jkapper@srfconsulting.com](mailto:jkapper@srfconsulting.com) or Paul Mattern at [pmattern@mtaflint.org](mailto:pmattern@mtaflint.org).