

Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting
January 6, 2024
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.

Intros and Vote on Facebook Live

- FNU has received a request to post our meetings on Facebook Live, leadership asked for a vote. For those who shared their stance, the final tally was:
 - Yes: 5
 - No: 23
 - Either/On the Fence: 7
- Member feedback:
 - suggested doing Facebook Live but pausing it at times of longer conversation
 - some people access information exclusively through Facebook, so FNU should consider making sure we have a Facebook presence to guide those interested to meetings/notes
 - FNU could posting the pertinent information from meetings on social media or perhaps post presentations only
 - FNU could create a secure Facebook group
 - FNU could go live but turn comments off
 - FNU could post video of whole meeting afterward, if desirable
- Councilman Murphy suggested that perhaps FNU do a trial period of Facebook Live and then change course if necessary
- Carma said we will look into posting FNU meeting presentations only (post-meeting) but ongoing conversation is needed

Announcements/Community Conversation

- **Neighborhood Associations and Block Clubs**
 - **Brownell-Holmes Neighborhood Association**
 - Neighborhood schools going through renovations, but someone broke in last week and stole new pipes from the buildings
 - Jeanette Edwards looking for suggestions on monitoring the situation
- **Genesee County Habitat for Humanity**
 - Habitat will be opening its annual neighborhood small grant program designed for those WITHOUT 501(c)3 status soon.
 - More info to come next week, but interimly folks can reach out to John Gynn (Habitat's Neighborhood Resources Manager) at repair@geneseehabitat.org
- **Community Foundation of Greater Flint**
 - Annual application for neighborhood small grants to launch soon (likely mid-February) and in mid-March CFGF will host a "Connect-A-Block" neighborhood summit. More information to come on both.
 - Partnering with Sloan on MLK Day events including
 - Tuesday, Jan. 16 - National Day of Racial Healing

- Facebook and other social media updates to come
 - Wednesday, Jan. 17 – Owning Our Truth, Embracing Our Change event at 10 a.m. featuring keynote speaker, author Richard Harwood
- **Communities First, Inc.**
 - Next African American Film Series Event will take place on Jan. 11
 - Movie: Drowning in Silence
 - Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. and movie is at 6:30 p.m. (all free) at the Flint Institute of Arts
 - A children's swim instructor will also be onsite to talk about and sign kids up for swim lessons
 - To reach out about housing: 810-422-5358 or via CFI's social media
- **Flint Our Community Our Voice**
 - New edition is out; contact Chris Frye (cfrye31@comcast.net) with events to add to the paper or through FNU postings
- **League of Women Voters**
 - Looking to get folks information on all of 2024's elections and new election rules. Upcoming town halls are:
 - Jan. 26 - Davison Senior Center
 - Jan. 27 - Flint Development Center
 - Feb. 6 - Krapohl Senior Center
 - For more information contact Jan Watz at LWVFlintArea@gmail.com
- **Michigan State University / Rx Kids**
 - Rx Kids is here! If you had a baby as of 12:01 a.m. on Jan 1 you qualify for the program, which offers cash stipends to Flint mothers of babies born starting in 2024. (Applications will officially launch on Wednesday, Jan. 10)
 - More info can be found [here](#), or by reaching out to Lisa Pasbjerg at 810-730-3068 or pasbjer4@msu.edu
- **New Soup Kitchen**
 - To open on Feb. 1 at 1031 Darling St. (at Restoration Bethel Ministries)
- **UMA Strong Marshall Outreach**
 - Offering free Chromebook rental thanks to support of Flint Urgent Relief Fund
 - All school districts are welcome to use the program, and parent/guardian will need to provide an ID and last 4 digits social security number to rent
 - For more information or to make an appointment, call 810-280-6776 or email Dominique Strong at umastrong@gmail.com

Genesee County Land Bank Authority, Faith Finholm, EPA Funded Commercial & Residential Demolitions

- In 2018, GCLBA applied for/received EPA grant for Flint's "Innovation District" clean-up. The GCLBA is now seeking public comment on properties targeted under the grant.
 - Rough boundaries of the district: Ballenger, Robert T. Longway, Flushing Rd., Center Rd. and I-69
 - Grant is to be used for asbestos and petroleum clean-up, and money must be spent by Aug. 2024

- Looking to clean up 4 commercial properties (1101 S. Dort, 3113 Corunna Rd, 3210 Corunna Rd, 1602 Oren) and a group of 22 residential structures around Chevy Commons/downtown Flint
 - Though this grant can't fund demolitions, the grant can be used for as abate the asbestos in the residential properties which has been an approved use from the EPA
 - Demo of the properties after abatement would be funded through CBGB funding, if secured
- To see list of included properties and submit public comment visit thelandbank.org or [click here](#)
 - Public comment is due by Jan. 12, can be sent through site or by emailing Faith at ffinholm@thelandbank.org
 - Info session on the grant/properties will also take place on Jan. 10 at 2 p.m. over Zoom, as well. Link to that Zoom call is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82256035752>
 - May extend public comment period 30 days, by request of FNU members; grant money must be spent by August 2024
- To see rehab ready or other non-demo properties, visit:
 - [Featured Homes](#)
 - [Very Interesting Properties](#)
 - [Ready for Rehab](#)
 - Other options can be found by clicking "Our Properties" from the [Landbank's Homepage](#).
- In brief update of ARPA-funded demolition project:
 - As of Jan. 5 in the City of Flint: 260 properties abated, 202 knocked down; in the greater county GCLBA has 158 abated and 182 knocked down for a total of 418 properties abated and 384 knocked down.
 - A total of 885 projects are contracted or out to bid, to date. (Includes properties already knocked down.)

City of Flint, Entrice "Jiggy" Mitchell, DPW Stormwater Presentation

- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) requires the city to monitor and address Flint's storm and sanitary sewer systems
 - Storm and sanitary sewer systems ARE SEPARATE, and things that go into the storm sewer system can and do end up in local creeks, culverts and rivers
 - City of Flint has 350 miles of storm sewers, 7,250 manholes, 14,962 catch basins
 - City has trucks to help clear debris from storm sewers but DPW has just 28 people in this division, so they need support of community to get word out about keeping storm drains clear
 - City has bought 6 new street sweepers and will be conducting regular street sweeping soon; city has been contracting out the service otherwise
 - The City of Flint is working to update its website to make reporting sewer issues easier. To report in the meantime: 810-766-7079
 - Line is monitored 24/7

- DPW is looking for ways to engage with the community on stormwater information. Many FNU members mentioned getting connected to the Flint River Watershed Coalition and Keep Genesee County Beautiful (Green Stormwater Infrastructure Team). Others suggested an incentive program of some sort to support clean-up efforts on the ground.
 - Members also noted pamphlets would also be helpful, especially around oil disposal (where you buy your oil legally needs to take it back) if you do at-home oil changes
 - Neighborhood leaders suggested supporting efforts too, teaming up on clean ups that already exist in their areas
- Tommy Johnson with the mayor's office said she would be glad to support reporting efforts and ideas, she can be reached at 810-237-2050
- Jiggy underscored that you should call the City before you call a private company regarding sewer concerns, as you may be charged unnecessarily for that private company's work.

Next Meeting: Gloria Coles Flint Public Library, February 3, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.