

Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting

May 4, 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/Announcements

- **Crim Foundation**

- Courageous Connections Initiative - program that aims to build meaningful relationships between Black residents and police officers through mindfulness, compassion and storytelling.
 - Goal is to end the study with 3 police officers and 3 residents trained to continue the work.
 - Key Dates:
 - Black Flint Residents Orientation: Sept. 9 at 6 to 8:30 p.m.
 - Police Officers Orientation: Sept. 9 & 10 from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 - Weekly Virtual Program Dates: Mondays from Sept. 16 - Oct. 21 (times TBD)
 - Connection all day retreat: Oct. 26 from 9 am - 5 pm
 - For more information & to sign up:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJlyLY23jgn3GauxPBxC7boBIBdjMDyM8DdMDqtr2US-cM5Q/viewform>

- **West Flint Community Watch**

- On Sat. June 1, group will be planting 60 barrels of flowers (9 am - 12 pm) at Mann Hall Park. All are welcome to come help, but please bring your own trowel/gloves if possible.

- **League of Women Voters**

- Reminder that Ward 9 council seat election is on Tuesday, May 7
- For more information contact Jan Watz at LWVFlintArea@gmail.com

- **Gloria Coles Flint Public Library**

- Please complete the patron survey to let FPL know how they can do better:
<https://www.fpl.info/posts/take-our-library-survey>
- In any flyers/postings, please make sure to refer to library by its official name, Gloria Coles Flint Public Library in honor of namesake and those that worked to rename the library

- **Brownell Holmes Neighborhood Association**

- Holmes Avenue pocket park project coming up
- Working with police on reading program at Southwestern Academy

- **ELGA Credit Union**

- Currently running a down payment assistance program (can apply for up to \$20k)
- Home rehab program opens up on May 15 (can apply for up to \$15k)
 - Must own home
 - Land contract homes are not included

- Need to be up to date on mortgage and taxes (do not need to prove/show homeowners insurance)
- **Community Foundation of Greater Flint**
 - Hosting S.T.R.O.N.G Summit this month
 - May 15: 5 pm - 7:30 pm at UM-Flint's Riverside building
 - May 16: 8:30 am - 3 pm
 - To register: <https://flintrecast.org/strong-summit/>
- **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
- **GCCARD**
 - Currently conducting a needs assessment for the community, which will also help with GCCARD's 5 year plan, as well. Assessment was passed out in-meeting, but a digital version will be provided to FNU members via email within the week, as well.
 - For questions: Linda Patrick, lpatrick@geneseecountymi.gov or 810-762-4943
- **Neighborhood Engagement Hub**
 - Gardening Kit distribution day will be Saturday, May 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Some items still available for pre-order, but distribution team noted that sometimes folks don't show up to claim their kits so more may be available day-of
- **ReRoot Flint**
 - May 8 – prep day for living building install on May 11; volunteers welcome!
 - May 11 – living willow tree building going in at Kearsley Park, from 11 am to dusk
 - More information available on [ReRoot Flint Facebook page](#)
- **City of Flint**
 - City of Flint has an ARPA report/newsletter to share, copies provided in meeting and available at City Hall
 - Public Safety
 - Currently building up a summer safety initiative. City is seeking ambassadors.
 - Purchased an ambulance with Opioid Settlement funding run through the city's Fire Department. Looking to get a full fleet (at least 4 ambulances) to help cut down wait times.
 - It's "Love Your City" month
 - The City of Flint's partner Keep Genesee County Beautiful will provide free yard waste bags, garbage bags, and cotton work gloves to individuals and groups organizing outdoor cleanup activities in public areas like parks, schools, traffic medians, libraries, and right-of-ways.
 - Still working through pipe replacement, residents are encouraged to call in
 - The [Imagine Flint Comprehensive Plan](#) needs to be updated! Community engagement meetings will be held in June (dates TBD but [listed here](#)) in all 9 wards:
 - Ward 1: Hasselbring Senior Center

- Ward 2: Berston Field House
- Ward 3: Kearsley Lake Golf Course Clubhouse
- Ward 4: Latinx Technology and Community Center
- Ward 5: Community Enrichment Center (322 E. Hamilton Ave.)
- Ward 6: Mott Park Clubhouse
- Ward 7: Gloria Coles Flint Public Library
- Ward 8: Swartz Creek Golf Course Clubhouse
- Ward 9: McKinley Community Center

**** All meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. ****

Michigan State Police, Trooper Amy Belanger, Lt. Dan Nease

- Secure Cities Partnership
 - Development of a Major Crimes/Detective bureau
 - There is also a patrol side – three, two-men trooper vehicles
- Year-to-date in Flint: homicides down 12.5%, nonfatal shootings down 2.9%
- Angel Program
 - Residents with substance use disorders or other crisis issues can come to the Corunna Rd. MSP outpost to ask for help (no questions asked) and MSP will connect them with support
- Trooper recruitment is going well, have more applicants than available spots for next two classes
- Upcoming Events
 - May 4 – Officer Friendly day; celebrating young people with autism (1 pm - 3 pm) at William White building at UM-Flint
 - May 11 – Genesee County Community Safety Fair at Berston Field House from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 - May 19 – Back to the Bricks dust off event at Dort Financial Center
 - July 9 – starting up a youth swim program (ages 5-13) at Davison Athletic Club; free for Genesee County residents
 - Info/sign up is here:
https://cdn.flowcode.com/prodassets/2024_Sign-up_Packet_mpLWWyA.pdf?ts=1713799792&fce_id=6a3cf06c-bfaa-4546-8728-9b5d246e5158

Flint Housing Commission, Jason Borrer

- Update on Northeast Flint Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant
 - Street borders of area: Carpenter, Branch, Stewart, Dupont
 - This is a planning grant, funding goes toward developing a plan for the area that includes housing, people, and opportunities. The plan created will hopefully help secure an implementation grant from HUD to then make the plan happen.
 - Housing target is 360-400 units
 - “Catalytic” area: River Park, MLK/Pierson Road, Ophelia Bonner Park, Rollingwood Park
 - River Park

- Working with Keep Genesee County Beautiful to introduce new park in the area; plan to connect River Park to adjacent community and do some infill housing development
- MLK/Pierson
 - Perhaps repurpose some current St. Agnes buildings
 - May keep school building for future elementary/early childhood center
 - Make roads/street crossings safer in new designs
- Ophelia Bonnor and Rollingwood Parks
 - Jefferson School could be repurposed; infill housing potential
 - Not necessarily included in coming implementation grant ask, focusing more on River Park and MLK/Pierson
- \$150k of planning grant is able to be put toward immediate projects – working with Riverside West and Clara Hillborn Park to do park improvements (starting this summer)
- Have to provide draft plan to HUD by June 2024; final plan is due Dec. 23 of this year
- Want to join an upcoming meeting?
 - People-related services feedback: May 13 at 1:30 p.m. - virtual
 - Housing/neighborhood feedback: May 16 (location/time not yet set)
- Presentation slides:
 - https://lasarchitect-my.sharepoint.com/:p/g/personal/soumi_basu_lordaecksarge_nt_com/ET_d4noZhMdAmg6MJtHVbw0ByGQZ5GIBubGb_dDajmiA9Q?rttime=Q_AQE1Js3Eg

Next Meeting: Gloria Coles Flint Public Library, Saturday, June 1, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.