

## Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting

August 3, 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.*

### Announcements

- Flint Public Library
  - Next Saturday, 8/10 - Be a Tourist in Your Hometown event
    - Library is one of many stops, tickets \$1 and available at
- Flint Registry
  - Rx Kids at almost 90% coverage; expanding to three other communities (Dearborn included)
  - Second wave survey about wellness and stability post-water crisis coming out soon as well
- Mott Foundation
  - Just published the second edition of Focus on Flint, a report that includes Flint resident survey data and looks to provide “a realistic picture of Flint’s challenges and opportunities” and provides resource information.
    - Copies are at the library and circulating around other community hubs
    - The report is also available online at: <https://www.focusonflint.org/>
  - The Foundation will be hosting community conversations with neighborhood groups in the coming months. To sign up visit: [www.focusonflint.org/rsvp](http://www.focusonflint.org/rsvp)
    - For more info on the report go to the website or contact Sarah Schuch at [SSchuch@mott.org](mailto:SSchuch@mott.org)
- Michigan Board of Medicine
  - A Citizen’s Guide to Filing a Complaint Against a Health Care Professional: <https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/lara/bpl/File-a-Complaint/A-Citizens-Guide-to-Filing-a-Complaint-Against-a-Health-Care-Professional.pdf?rev=e0da154ded02490084ce66c3a5aa2c6f>
  - Verify a doctor’s license and professional background information: <https://www.docinfo.org/>
- Communities First, Inc.
  - Movies Under the Stars series wraps up on August 23 on the back lawn of City Hall; the last event also includes a community resource fair ahead of starting the film (Trolls)
    - If you’re interested in tabling at the resource fair, call CFI at 810-422-5358
- Flint Community Schools
  - Getting close to taking action on Central High School; looking to open a new high school there, though unsure about how much of the current building will be part of that new school at present
    - CFI is also in discussion for the purchase of Longfellow; would convert the property into a housing development

- Holding a Community-Wide Open House on August 24 at 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Northwestern High School; there will be giveaways, food, bounce houses
  - Will also include enrollment opportunities and a job fair
  - If interested in attending as a vendor, contact Kevelin Jones: <https://www.fiintschools.org/staff> / 810-760-1249
- Held a social game night with GISD and Beecher Boards of Ed. to move the district forward and build relationships
- Holmes students will be back to Holmes building this upcoming year
- Sports are coming back, too, as FCS had lost that possibility due to the amount of turnover in the superintendent role
- City of Flint
  - Difficulties with contacting the Public Health Office, reach out to the Mayor's Office and ask for Shelly Sparks
    - Can also call Tommy Johnson - 810-766-7346
  - Two more ambulances have been purchased for a total of 3
    - Looking to launch in October
  - National conference on crime prevention. Usually costs \$269/person but City will support scholarships:
    - Aug. 12-16
    - To register, call Sgt. Mona Patterson: 810-237-6909
  - Program HOPE – offers qualified homeowners 50% relief on property taxes. Currently available to those making up to 150% of the federal poverty level, but Flint City Council is reviewing a proposal to raise that floor to 200% of the federal poverty level.
    - To sign up or learn more, reach out to Flint City Council Vice President Candice Mushatt at: [ccmushatt@cityofflint.com](mailto:ccmushatt@cityofflint.com)
- Crim Fitness Foundation
  - Courageous Connections starts Sept. 9, a program for Black Flint residents and law enforcement officers (Flint and County) to connect and discuss historic and current concerns around policing in the Black community
    - To register: <https://forms.gle/sncbFZGJ7DCkDG2e7>
    - Questions can be directed to Ka'Sella Matière at [kmatiere@crim.org](mailto:kmatiere@crim.org) or 810-666-4945
- Senator Gary Peters Office
  - Just attended a ribbon cutting for Bloom and Blaze, a Black female-owned cannabis facility in Saginaw, to speak about the Safer Banking Act (which would expand and allow access for cannabis-based businesses to safe banking rather than cash and the Doobie Act (which would remove the stipulation that THC cannot be a single exclusionary disqualifier if somebody is applying for a federal government or a federal-based role)
  - Working on a webinar on how to engage with Peters' office, coming this fall. Details for now:
    - Office location: 416 N Saginaw Street, Suite 222 in Flint

- Can contact Quentin Groce at 989-525-5092 or [quentin\\_groce@peters.senate.gov](mailto:quentin_groce@peters.senate.gov)

### Other Concerns

- Abandoned homes remain an issue, with different city, county and state agencies not working together in a quick enough fashion to mitigate squatting, arson, and other issues abandoned or vacant properties bring to neighborhoods
- While there are channels to report, some residents feel these aren't working. Members of FNU suggested attending Flint City Council meetings to raise up the issue and [reporting blight through this form](#), calling police when necessary, and engaging in policy-change discussions with local and state leaders

### Presentations

- Peacekeepers Initiative - Community Violence Update from Jalil X
  - Violence and crime is the result of unmet social needs; Peacekeepers Initiative conducts trainings for mediators in all areas of the city and acts as a connection point to service providers for trauma recovery and other supports
  - Recently put up a Ballenger Highway billboard w/ hotline to report violence/crime for the purpose of mediating the issues in the community
    - Several callers, but mostly just wanted to vent 😊
  - Have begun partnering with City of Flint to train young people (12 - 14 year olds) to be peer mediators; and offering support to their parents to meet those unmet needs causing the young people to fill gaps with violence/crime
    - Starting with New Standard and moving on through Hamady, Westwood Heights and Flint Community Schools
  - New Standard Academy (2040 W. Carpenter Rd.) has a Stop the Violence rally tomorrow, Aug 4 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
  - Next Gun Violence Initiative Meeting on Aug. 14, location to be determined
  - For more information, contact Jalil at [jalil36043@gmail.com](mailto:jalil36043@gmail.com) or visit [thepeacekeepers.org](http://thepeacekeepers.org)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flint & Genesee County from Lisa Humphrey, President & CEO
  - Mentoring is also part of the solution; it's part of creating opportunities and letting young people walk in to them
  - Mentors are asked for 4-6 hours a month (52 hours a year)
    - Some activities are led by the org, others can be self-directed as makes sense for the Little
  - For more information or to sign up to be a mentor: [www.bbbsflint.org](http://www.bbbsflint.org)

**Next Meeting:** Gloria Coles Flint Public Library, Saturday, September 7, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.