

Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting

October 5, 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.

Community Organizations/Updates

- Carma introduced Community Based Violence Initiative
 - Next meeting will be in November, and all are encouraged to join the discussion, which goes beyond gun violence and includes partner conversations with organizations like GHS
- Cheryl Christoff of West Flint Community Watch introduced that there are 9 new murals in the area, including some in the stalls of a former car wash on Corunna Road – swing by and check them out!
- Judge Beagle is working with Mayor Neeley and a signage provider to create a “Welcome to Flint” sign; signage provider, Signs by Crannie, offered to work with neighborhood orgs to create signage for individual neighborhoods, too
 - Contact information for Signs by Crannie: Nick Trifon, 810-487-0000
 - Ballpark cost for a basic sign stating neighborhood name is ~\$3k but Nick said he will work with all budgets and help seek grants to support the effort
- **Communities First, Inc.**
 - Step Up, Pick Up event is going on right now (Sept. 29 - Oct. 12); it’s a friendly competition to pick up the most trash in your neighborhood
 - First place: \$1k, Second place: \$500, Third place: \$250
 - Sign up: tinyurl.com/stepuppickup2024
 - Next event in ongoing visiting author series will take place at Cafe Rhema, on Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m.
 - Event is free and will feature author Henry Grabar of “Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World,” who will speak on how parking shapes our cities
 - A social hour will also take place at Churchill’s after the discussion
- **Flint Registry**
 - New survey upcoming to check in on how Flint residents are doing in the wake of the Water Crisis; participants receive \$50 for completion
- **The Rock Church / Christmas at the Dort Financial Center Event**
 - Event coordinated among ~60 churches in the Flint area, last year drew around 4k guests for food and fellowship
 - This year’s event will be on Dec. 21 and includes food, a music program, a message of hope, and distribution of ~15k toys from Toys for Tots.
 - Pastor Morris is looking to get the word out, connect with other pastors and community leaders; the church is partnering with MTA for transportation to the event, and it’s open to all.
 - More information on the event: ChristmasattheDort.com
 - Contact information: Pastor Wes Morris, 810-444-6259

- **Land Bank**
 - Released a 37 minute film for the 20th anniversary of the Genesee County Land Bank called “The Land Bank: 20 Years from Crisis to Opportunity”
 - Can be viewed at <https://www.thelandbank.org/20thanniversary.asp>
- **Joyce Ellis McNeal**
 - Rainbow PUSH Coalition is interested in coming back to Flint to support registering youth 18 and over to vote
 - Looking for a location to host the voter drive that is not a church
- **Percy Glover / FAIR Vote Alliance**
 - The primary mission is to consider the economic ramifications when marginalized populations do not vote and work to get those populations registered/to the ballot box
 - Leading efforts at the Genesee County Jail to help those who have not been sentenced to vote absentee
- **Gloria Coles Flint Public Library**
 - Fall program guide is out
 - Free meals for children Tues-Fri after school; and working on getting a food pantry as well
 - Working on more programming for winter through early spring, including a literacy fair
- **CRAVE Academy**
 - Currently in 10 schools across Genesee County, specializing in building curriculums for students ages 13 through 26 who have intellectual and developmental disabilities
 - For more information contact Jordan Johnson
- **Dionne Johnson**
 - Working to help veterans find homes in the community at present and encouraged FNU members to bring more young people to our meetings to get them involved at an early age
- **Joy Malone**
 - Back in Flint after about 12 years away; looking to support and encourage women who have experienced trauma
- **League of Women Voters**
 - Tabling at Applewood’s fall festival event today with voter information or visit <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-flint-area> for election/contact info.
 - Election is Nov. 5
- **Parent to Parent Flint**
 - Support group for Flint parents with children with disabilities that meets once monthly at Eisenhower
 - Ms. Harper: 973-687-8838
- **Friends of Flint Public Library**
 - Used book sale taking place from October 17-19 at the Flint Public Library
- **Percy Whitmore, MCC Board Trustee Candidate**

- Hosting a campaign fundraiser on Oct. 18 from 6 pm - 8 pm at the Flint Farmers' Market
- Also, on Oct. 24, MCC is partnering with the League of Women Voters to host a final workshop series with Board candidates, for those interested
- **Brownell-Holmes Neighborhood**
 - Hosting a Trunk-or-Treat on October 24, 4 pm - 6:30 pm
 - To support, please call Jeanette Edwards: 810-835-9357
- **Mayor Sheldon Neeley**
 - City is working on filling in greenspace across the city through partnerships like Ashley Capital and [NanoGraf](#)
 - City has seen \$2.5 billion in commercial investment in the last 3 years
 - Reminded people of HOPE Program, a tax-reduction program for Flint homeowners whose income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level. Applications are due to the City of Flint Assessor's Office by Dec. 9, and will be taken before the Board of Review for approval. More info here: <https://www.cityofflint.com/hope/>
 - [Rx Kids Flint](#) is leading the charge for support to newborns and their families across the state
 - Encouraged people to get involved in the review of the City's comprehensive plan. Next meeting is on Oct. 10 and will cover infrastructure and community facilities. [A full schedule and more information can be found here.](#)
 - Flint's ambulance service has been launched. Two ambulances are in service with a third on the way.

Genesee County Land Bank Presentation, Teresa Gillotti

- Working on obtaining a Community Change Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency
 - Applying for \$15-16 million
 - Working with other organizations to support goals of grant, including hiring staff support
- Land Bank would be partnering with Neighborhood Engagement Hub, Habitat for Humanity, Genesee Conservation District, the Clean and Green Program, and also with the Police Foundation to do some evaluation as well
- Intent is to do more residential demolitions, prioritizing burn-outs (~350 demolitions over 3 years); expand the dumping prevention program; rehabilitate housing; community engagement
 - See attached powerpoint for more information
- To stay in the loop, connect with Teresa at: tgillotti@thelandbank.org