

## **Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting**

**November 2, 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/Community Conversation**

- Raynetta Speed, community leader, connector, and cherished FNU member has passed away
- Gloria Coles Flint Public Library
  - Composting program starts today at 2 pm
  - Vote on pumpkin naming!
    - Vote on first level in children's area
  - Flint Community Read, The Sum of Us
  - Build Your Home Library Event for children next Saturday
    - Kids will get a free tote bag that says "Books are portable magic"
    - Kids will get to pick 5 brand new, free books to take home to start their library
- Trooper Kramer
  - Summer programming will open soon!
    - Will be searching for participants for the Michigan Youth Leadership Academy - August 3-7
    - Teen Academy will be held in each district, held at Northwood University
      - Geared toward those interested in a career in law enforcement
      - June 23-27
    - "Troopers on Tour" will be visiting communities across the state with a kitted out trailer and basketball hoops. The tour will visit on June 18 from 1 pm to 4 pm
- League of Women Voters
  - Remember to vote on Tuesday if you aren't voting early!
  - Early voting is off to a great start, very high numbers; continues through today and tomorrow
- City of Flint
  - State of the City will take place at the Capitol Theatre on Nov. 13 at 5 pm
  - Launching a roofing program
    - Hosting info events through November:
      - 11/4 - Flint City Hall, 12 pm - 2 pm
      - 11/6 - Gloria Coles Flint Public Library, 2 pm - 4 pm
      - 11/8 - Clio Road Customer Service Center, 10 am - 2 pm
      - 11/12 - Brennan Community Center, 5 pm - 7 pm
      - 11/14 - Mott Park Clubhouse, 10 am - 12 pm
      - 11/16 - Flint Farmers' Market, 12 pm - 3 pm (Application Distribution Only)
      - 11/18 - Hamilton Health Network, 10 am - 12 pm

- 11/20 - Hamilton Health Network, 3 pm - 5 pm
  - 11/22 - The Good Church, 2 pm - 4 pm
  - Working with Flint homeowners to help provide a new roof for their home; funded for roughly 72 homes at this time
  - For more information: 810-484-1172, [mloring@cityofflint.com](mailto:mloring@cityofflint.com)
- Also offering water assistance to residents; late Councilman Murphy had proposed such support for renters, too. That program is now operational according to Mayor Neeley.
- Looking for funding for tree removal program from City Council ahead of bad weather months
- Considering a policy update on a vicious dog ordinance of some sort, looking for feedback from the community on what needs to be done
- **Sloan Museum**
  - Gauging interest in a Community Advisory Committee for Sloan and Longway; what events does the community want to see? How best to get out into the community? What Flint history should be in Sloan's galleries?
  - Contact Canisha Bell: [cbell@sloanlongway.org](mailto:cbell@sloanlongway.org), 810-237-3410
- **Communities First, Inc.**
  - 10th Annual African American Film Series begins Nov.
    - Dinner at 5:30 pm
    - Movie is at 6:45 pm
  - Thursdays: Nov 14, Dec 19, Jan 9, Feb 13
- **Christmas at the Dort**
  - Free event on Dec. 21 at 3 pm, still looking to get the word out
  - Toys for Tots has donated over 15k toys to distribute
  - MTA is providing free rides to the event on Dec. 21
- **Genesee County Land Bank**
  - Celebrating 20th anniversary, released video about its work over the last two decades; full video: <https://www.thelandbank.org/20thanniversary.asp>
  - If interested in buying a property from the Land Bank:
  - Building new 16 unit condo development in Carriage Town area of Flint, about 2 months out from ready; 4 low-income, 12 are market rate
- **Flint River Watershed Coalition**
  - Forest to MI Faucet
    - Received grant from Dept. of Natural Resources for 4k trees (roughly 3k reserved for Flint)
    - Idea is that healthier forests create healthier water supply through filtering
    - Will have trees to give away at neighborhood meetings this month
  - Storm Drain Education
    - Storm drains go directly to the Flint River (not the wastewater treatment plant)
    - Even leaves and grass clippings shouldn't be going into the storm drains; just rainwater and snow melt, ideally
    - Have started a "Scrape the Grate" campaign

- Leaves
  - Bag leaves for pick up
  - MSU Extension also has informative program on how to start composting
- Paddles
  - FRWC has a Paddle Manager! She leads guided paddles on the Flint River, including accessible
- GREEN and Benthic Monitoring
  - GREEN = Global Rivers Environmental Education Network
    - Working with local schools to monitor water information
    - Always looking to partner with science classes, social studies and English classes
  - Benthic Monitoring = tracking critters to monitor pollution
- Facebook/Contact
  - FRWC: <https://www.facebook.com/flinriverwatershed>
  - GREEN program: <https://www.facebook.com/flinrivergreen>
  - Email: [education@flinriver.org](mailto:education@flinriver.org)
- **Parent to Parent Flint**
  - Support group for Flint parents with children with disabilities that meets once monthly at Eisenhower
    - Nov. 19 held at Eisenhower from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
    - Ms. Forleasadon Harper:
      - Phone: 973-687-8838
      - Email: [parent2parentflint@gmail.com](mailto:parent2parentflint@gmail.com)
- **Bridging Divides Event on Friday, Nov. 8**
  - Gloria Coles Flint Public Library: 10 am - 1 pm
  - Bringing small groups together after the election, facilitated conversation after

## **National Weather Service, Hazardous Weather Emergency Management**

*Steve Considine, Senior Meteorologist*

- Located in White Lake Township
- National Weather Service is getting involved on the neighborhood level due to weather disasters: it takes time for emergency management agencies to get where they're needed after such disasters, and the first people to really support in such instances tend to be neighbors and local nonprofits
- NWS is working to ensure awareness and preparedness for weather disasters in Flint area; connecting with local neighborhood groups to get information out to people. Also working on setting up workshops about reporting weather to the NWS, tracking weather, etc. with the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library
  - Weather.gov → click on the map for your area
  - Also on Twitter/X and Facebook
- To get in touch with Steve to come talk about weather programming at your neighborhood groups: [steve.considine@noaa.gov](mailto:steve.considine@noaa.gov)

- Jane Richardson noted that we should be identifying our vulnerable neighbors ahead of the winter months to be able to support them best if power goes out, leaves need raking, etc.

**Communities First, Inc.**

*Joel Arnold, Planning and Advocacy Manager*

- Celebrating the winners of Step Up, Pick Up, a 2-week trash pick up event across Flint
  - First place (\$1k): Mott Park Neighborhood Association
  - Second place (\$500): West Court Street Church of God
  - Third place (\$250): ReRoot Flint
  - Litter Champions (\$50 gift card): Chris Monk; Rob McCullough; Bernard Drew; Yasheah Shepherd; Nadaly Marchi
  - Most volunteers engaged: (35 volunteers, 75 hours) – West Court Street Church of God
  - Most steps taken: (103,800 steps) – Mott Park Neighborhood Association
  - In total, about 2.5 tons of trash were picked up by 63 volunteers with 177 hours of volunteered time