

Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting

December 7, 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

- West Flint Community Watch
 - Hosting a holiday party this Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 pm at Grace Lutheran Church
- Crim Fitness Foundation
 - Ms. Speed's former position, Community Relations Manager, is
 - Partnering with Refuge Temple Church (4400 W Carpenter Rd) to do a coat drive on Dec. 22
 - Have adult coats, but not enough children's coats
 - Looking for new or gently used children's coats, new hats, and new gloves
 - Call Ms. Dunlap at 810-597-9721; happy to pick up donations from you directly, if needed
- Christmas at the Dort will be Dec. 21 at 3 p.m.
 - One more toy giveaway will take place on Dec. 11
- MSU's Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health
 - Running a food drive in support of the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library Youth Food Pantry - [click here for information](#)
 - New survey through the Flint Registry, looking to track the impacts of the Flint Water Crisis - update your information at flintregistry.org
- Gloria Coles Flint Public Library
 - Showing Joy Noel about the Christmas Truce today at 2 p.m.
 - 40th Annual MLK Event - Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025
 - Matt Franklin will be keynote
 - Essence Wilson will be emcee
 - Starting a children's book club in January (ages roughly 7-14)
 - Starting with Dogman
 - More information at children's library desk
- Communities First, Inc.
 - African American Film Series at the Flint Institute of Arts
 - Farming While Black, Thursday Dec. 19
 - Dinner 5:30 pm, movie at 6:45 pm - all free
 - Building 74 new homes on Flushing/Ballenger
 - If you go by a property and see trash or other debris that have been dumped, please inform CFI staff so they can address it asap for the neighborhood
 - Additionally, if there are unhoused neighbors near CFI properties, please alert staff so they can help get those neighbors situated
- St. John Vianney School

- Will be planting another garden next year, looking for advice and distribution support
- Michigan State Police - Flint Post
 - Just wrapped a few holiday events
 - Running Michigan Youth Leadership Academy next year; Trooper Kramer would like to come in March/April to give presentation on the YLA
- 100K Ideas
 - Running a gift wrapping fundraiser for the next two weeks (starting Monday, Dec 9): bring in your gifts to Shops on Saginaw for a suggested donation
- Parent to Parent Flint
 - Seeking support for families who need help for the holidays
 - Christmas at the Dort is donating gifts to children at 8 schools
- Our Community Our Voice
 - Please send any event information to Chris Frye at cfrye31@comcast.net
- MTA
 - Bus shelters being destroyed on Dort Highway; any information you have to share please call the MTA
- City of Flint/Mayor Sheldon Neeley
 - Health and Housing is the mantra for 2025: \$30m for medical debt (using matching funding from state of Michigan), creating affordable housing and making sure people are getting paid living wages
 - The Fire Inside (about Claressa Shields) to come out on Christmas Day; Mayor Neeley and Rep. Neeley are sponsoring tickets for 100 young people to attend
 - Three new ambulances in service now
- Judson Center
 - Robert, a peer recovery coach, is going to be out in the community helping people battling addiction in Flint

On Flint City Council

Carma: all the negative energy is too much, if anybody has any ideas on what we can do about what's happening with Flint City Council, I want to hear them:

- Suggestion that community groups write letters to the council and leadership; coming together with other nonprofits, neighborhood groups etc to make a collective effort
- Should encourage the leadership to join the Community Read to have some of these conversations and learn about the community's true feelings and ideas; stop blaming and playing petty politics
- Trying to get a large number of residents at council has been nearly impossible; we need to get in the room and demand that these council people do their jobs
 - There's fear because of threats and guns being brought in to meetings
 - There's also a wealth of negativity and poor experiences
- It's a toxic environment. Should contact your council person and let them know what you think. There's council members not doing their jobs and pushing agendas that don't have anything to do with Flint

- Need to have a specific ask when reaching out; the council has been at a standstill largely because of disagreements on who should lead within it; we need to request that they set that aside and council members do the boring work of government: pass the ordinances, accept grants, etc.
 - We can't just complain. We have to also offer solutions and suggestions for moving things forward.
- Suggested a city council report card, asking folks to go to meetings and report back to the larger group and encourage others to get involved; need some type of education component so people – constituents and leaders – know what this should look like
- This is losing us money, development, etc. People do not want to get involved with dysfunctional councils.
- Consensus that attendance at meetings, a letter writing campaign, and on-the-record commentary should happen, depending on your level of comfort with involvement. Volunteers to lead the effort please reach out to Carma Lewis: 810-240-0030
 - Volunteers in meeting:
 - Lisa Pasbjerg
 - Forleasadon Harper
 - Joel Arnold
 - Geri Clark
 - Ms. Ricks

Update on Buick City Site

Emily Doerr, Director of Business and Community Services, City of Flint

- 250-300 acres of brownfield (or a contaminated site); site sat vacant for 25 years because no company was willing to put the immense amount of cost in to make the site usable
- Ashley Capital is now partnered with the City to recreate the site as an industrial/business park called Flint Commerce Center
 - Ashley Capital was incentivized in this partnership through a \$72 million brownfield plan; they capture 80% of the taxable value on the property
 - They have come back because they received some grant money and can return some of that tax capture back to the city
- Ashley Capital will be the landlord and be in charge of tenants of up to 10 buildings; they build out the property and finish it to tenants and then re-rent if/when a tenant moves out
 - Will build building by building so as to finance next part of development as they go
 - First building is already built and Victory Packaging began moving in in October
 - Hired 16 people already, 15 are Flint residents
- Companies working from this site will continue to run job fairs through GST Michigan Works!; if you're interested, make sure you're registered with Michigan Works!
- Ashley Capital is working with local contractors to the extent possible for the site; hired local painter, fence maintenance provider and more already
- Slab removal is costly and happening in phases with EGLE involvement

- Building 2 needs to be built by September 2025; already a company, Nanograf, interested (Nanograf received a \$16m grant to be here in Flint)
 - 1 acre of the lot will remain Oak Park
 - Sale is before Flint City Council for vote
 - This acre will be preserved and improved (including pavilion, benches, memorial signage) and \$2k will be donated per year to the Brothers and Sisters of Oak Park picnic for the next 10 years
 - Project investment overall estimated at \$175m and the creation of roughly 200 construction jobs and 150+ permanent jobs

County Commissioner Delrico Loyd

- Jerome Threlkeld working as Organizational Development Coordinator for the Genesee County Board of Commissioners Office now
- Provided a letter regarding the recent Consumers Energy announcement of a planned maintenance outage; Mr. Loyd is encouraging Consumers Energy to commit to work with the community for when such outages should happen (like warmer months of the year) and plan in advance for accommodations for residents
- Excited for the county to move into its new building; working on offloading the current county building responsibly as we don't want an eyesore in the middle of downtown Flint
- County received \$79 million in ARPA, for every dollar received \$11.50 was invested in the county through leveraging of funds
- Senior Millage money goes to the senior centers around the county, the county doesn't actually administer the senior centers
- Just passed a resolution to ensure minimum wage for county jobs is \$15/hour; more cameras in the jail (both body cams and generally); voted to invest \$12 million for Head Start programming throughout the county; approved \$2 million for indigent mothers and children in the court system; accepted funding for additional police patrol presence within 10 miles of downtown Flint

Next Meeting: Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025