

Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting

May 3, 2025

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

- Gloria Coles Flint Public Library
 - Hosting a community conversation on the transformative power of libraries on Friday, May 9 at 4 pm
 - Little Miss Flint, Christopher Paul Curtis, Mychal Threets will share their perspectives
 - Garden program on Saturday, May 17 at 3 pm
 - Saturday, May 31 at 1 pm will be the summer reading challenge kickoff
- West Flint Community Watch
 - Planting flower beds on Corunna Rd on first Saturday of June, meeting at 929 Middleton
- The C.R.A.V.E. Academy
 - Organization geared toward supporting high school students with disabilities
 - Hosting a college prep scavenger hunt on July 21 from 3 pm - 5 pm at the Urban Renaissance Center (2505 N. Chevrolet Ave)
 - More information available from Jordan Johnson (CEO and Instructor): 810-394-0904, thecraveacademy@gmail.com
- Urban Renaissance Center
 - ARPA funding to support workforce development program
 - Hosting a May 10 clean-up to begin new program
 - June 8 is Civic Park's Juneteenth Celebration – still looking for vendors and performers
- Fli-Anthropy
 - Rhythm Relief benefit concert for The Odyssey House on Friday, Jly 18th from 6 pm - 9 pm
 - Donate an item for admission! Items needed include: twin size bedding, pillows, diapers, toiletries, sweatsuits, socks and underwear
- Sloan/Longway
 - Consider joining the North Flint Collaborative Advisory Group, Sloan is looking to form meaningful relationships and seeking community guidance.
 - Interested? Email communityengagement@sloanlongway.org or call 810-237-3410
 - Also looking for volunteers for a variety of positions at Sloan Museum of Discovery and Longway Planetarium
 - Must be 16 years or older to apply
 - Interested? Contact Alia Sanders: asanders@sloanlongway.org or 810-237-3414
- Keep Genesee County Beautiful

- Rain Garden Workshop on May 13 from 11 am - 3 pm
 - Learn about elements of rain garden, what plants should be included and where to place them, etc.
 - Free, located at 630 W. Kearsley St.
- Partnered with Flint River Watershed on Stewardship Day May 17
 - Goes from 9 am to noon across the city
 - Volunteers will get a tree seedling as a thank you gift
 - Register at <https://linktr.ee/stewardshipday>
- KGCB is here to help with your clean-up efforts! If you need supplies, staff can support you and your organization. Contact Amanda Edwards at 810-931-6950 or aedwards1@gcparks.org
- Johnetta Ricks
 - Helps run education prep program at EMU; if you know anyone who would like to become a fabulous teacher, get in touch
- Ruth Mott Foundation
 - Last Flint Community Forum will take place at Potter Elementary on May 6 from 5 pm - 7 pm
 - Applewood Estates has opened for the season:
 - 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Thursday–Saturday
 - 1–4 p.m. Sunday
 - May through October
- King Avenue Plus
 - MLK Peace Garden is open to the public (McClellan and King)
 - Clean up will take place May 16, 8 am - 4 pm
 - Snacks will be provided!
- Edible Flint
 - May 17 is Plant Distribution Day
 - If you haven't ordered yet, come anyway!
 - 11:30 - 4:30 at 3216 MLK Ave.
 - If you'd like to table at the event: 810-348-5332
- Flint Our Community Our Voice (FOCOV)
 - Received funding from Ruth Mott Foundation to continue publication another year
 - Send any event details to Cfrye31@comcast.net or fnucommunications@gmail.com
- Climate Resilient Flint
 - Looking to be proactive about climate mitigation strategies
 - Hosting tree planting parties (to help with cooling thru shading vacant lots) for the next five Saturdays (May 10, 17, 24, 31 and June 7), all sessions are 10 am - 1 pm
 - Register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdh6b2MwhdSy2d4CsrGTvjr83C4wBvYDe-iADgtVLVAqXoEaA/viewform>
- Hydroplane Regatta will be held on Mott Lake at Bluebell Beach

- Taking place August 9 & 10
 - Boats will be going 80-120 miles an hour
 - Proceeds from the event go to parks and rec; fee is \$20/day per carload or \$30 for the whole weekend
- City of Flint
 - Private tree removal program going on now, matching up to \$1000 of removal costs on your property
 - <https://www.cityofflint.com/private-tree-removal-programs/>
- Neighborhood Engagement Hub
 - Toolshed is opening this upcoming week, daily Mon. to Sat. from 8 am - 5 pm
 - 810-214-0186 or toolshed@nehflint.org
 - Toolshed funding is only available thru July, at present. NEH is looking to secure further funding for the rest of summer, but may need to move to a fee schedule.
 - If interested in donating:
 - <https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLFCGRCCQJE3T/checkout/7AGZSAZL4K3RM5PWMNB2XLVM>
- Vehicle City Sports Committee
 - Hosting a soccer event at Atwood Stadium on May 17 with 3 very competitive high school teams starting at noon, followed by Flint's semi-professional female soccer team at 7 pm
- Communities First, Inc.
 - Movies Under the Stars is back this summer
 - Back lawn of City Hall in July/August
 - Poll is up on CFI social media to help select one of the films to be shown
 - Levitt AMP Concert Series
 - Back lawn of Totem Books, 6:30 pm on Tuesdays starting May 27
 - Will feature bands of different musical genres from across the US (and Ukraine)
 - Can volunteer to help too! Visit:
 - <https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicOrganization/abe7bd7c-1b96-4b07-aaa3-907452c8f00b/2>
- Flint Community Schools
 - Starting an enrollment process, encouraging folks to return to FCS in newly renovated school buildings
- Flint Registry
 - Hosting a free Tie-Dying Station at Flint Farmers' Market on Sat. May 10 and 17 from 9 am - 3 pm

Michigan State Police

- Michigan Youth Leadership Academy: MiYLA
 - Runs August 3 - 7, 2025
 - Received funding for 60 male students
 - Must be 14 or 15 years old AT TIME OF PROGRAM

- NOT a policing program, instead, MiYLA focuses on life skills and teaching young people to “adult”
 - Students arrive at MSP Training Academy in Lansing (transportation provided) at 3 pm on Sunday, return Thursday afternoon; students start at 5:30 am and lights out 10 pm – there will be physical fitness component, along with mentoring and 22 hours of classroom instruction/education
 - Classroom lessons include: interviewing skills, public speaking, personal first-aid, leadership, water safety, problem solving/gang violence, and more
 - Fun activities include: MSP drive track, scuba/snorkeling lesson, ropes course, touring MSU stadium
 - Free! Includes lodging, food, and even some clothing
 - Ran one time in 2019 but then COVID cancelled the program
 - To date over 1200 students have completed this program
 - Graduation will take place at ELGA Credit Union in Grand Blanc
 - If interested, contact Tpr. Steven Kramer, 810-358-8605, kramers1@michigan.gov
 - Must apply by 14 days prior to program (July 19)
- CAUTION Team
 - Community leaders to communicate information from MSP to community, especially in relation to officer-involved incidents
 - Looking to re-engage after the program fizzled during COVID
- Teen Career Academy
 - June 23 - 27, 2025
 - Must sign up by May 26
 - Focused on law enforcement, meant to mimic a police academy
 - Will bring in a case for teens to work on (prosecutor, defense, crime scene, physical training, traffic stops, defensive driving, etc.)
 - For teens ages 16-18 that are interested in law enforcement; this is a co-ed program
 - Taking place at Northwood University
 - Program is completely free, includes food and lodging

100k Ideas, Development Manager Vivian Williams

- 100k Ideas’ mission is “to relieve the innovator of entrepreneurial burden”
 - Does this through deep diving into your idea to discover whether its a marketable solution
 - Will also provide space to sell products (Shops on Saginaw) with 100k keeping 15% commission, and offers a startup hub space for a monthly fee and organization office hours
- 100k also has a young innovators program, which encourages young people to come up with their own inventions, and Pitch for \$K competitions during which entrepreneurs can win cash prizes for their business ideas
- Upcoming events include:

- May 13 at 5:30 pm: Funding Types Panel Discussion
 - Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/funding-type-panel-discussion-tickets-1223959699409?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>
- June 13 at 5 pm: 100Karnival Fundraiser Event
 - Register here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/100k-ideas-presents-100karnival>
- Questions? Contact Vivian at vivian@100kideas.org

Genesee County Land Bank Authority, Urban Conservation Fellow Kelly Jewett

- We have invasive buckthorn in Flint, which creates impenetrable thickets that contribute to blight and making dumping easier
 - GCLBA cleaned 100,000 lbs of illegal dumping off properties last year, but buckthorn makes that difficult
 - Buckthorn shouldn't be cut, as that will only help it grow back thicker
 - Round-Up also will clear it, but the product is known to cause health issues like cancer.
 - Possible solution: Goats!
 - Goats are the only animal on the planet that can digest buckthorn
 - 80% reduction in fossil fuel use, zero toxic chemicals
 - Long-term solution that simplifies maintenance
- Currently seeking a grant from Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative to start goatscaping work at Ramona Park in Metawananee Hills neighborhood of Flint
 - The park is an ideal location given its size and adjacency to Land Bank owned properties
 - Will find out about the grant in June; if GCLBA does receive the funding there will be community engagement regarding this work
- Questions? Contact Kelly at kjewett@thelandbank.org or 707-703-7204 (this is her direct cell though, so please only use as appropriate)

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 7, 2025