

Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting
December 6, 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

- **Flint and Genesee County Continuum of Care**
 - Need donations for the upcoming Point in Time count (count of area residents experiencing homelessness) on Jan 28. Accepting monetary donations as well as blankets, hats, gloves, socks and boots.
 - If you would like to bring any item donations to our next meeting on Jan. 3, Kate will collect and drop them off to the Greater Flint Health Coalition
- **Communities First Inc.**
 - Community Candor event: Tuesday, Dec. 9
 - Will take place at Factory One from 8 - 9:30 am; breakfast provided
 - Topic: Higher Education in the Flint region
 - African American Film Series: Thursday, Dec. 18
 - Showing Sing Sing at Flint Institute of Arts
 - Dinner (free): 5:30 pm, film at 6:45 pm
 - Community-wide Holiday Party - Monday, Dec. 22
 - Taking place at CFI Center (1101 West Bristol Rd.) 11 am - 2 pm
 - Will include food, beverages, games, activities and giveaways
 - Register to attend here: <http://tinyurl.com/CFIHolidayParty2025>
- **Mike Herriman / Vern's Collision**
 - Wednesday, Dec. 10 will be the 54th anniversary of Vern's Collision! Mike just wants to say thank you to the community for the decades of support.
- **Kearsley Park Neighborhood Association**
 - Planting bulbs this afternoon from 1 - 3 pm, pizza provided! Anyone interested in helping out is welcome to help plant the triangle between Ohio and Iowa Avenues on Kearsley Park Blvd.
- **West Flint Community Watch**
 - Also in potting and planting mode for the season
- **Sloan/Longway**
 - Show schedules for the holidays are out:
 - Sloan Museum of Discovery
 - Grown Up Cookie Night (\$30) on Dec. 17 from 6-9 pm
 - Ice Dinosaurs exhibit runs from Jan. 20 - May 3 at Sloan Museum
 - Longway Planetarium
 - Cosmic Christmas runs from Nov. 28 - Jan. 2
 - 20000 Leagues Under the Sea: Live Lecture by Patrick Ross, Planetarium Manager on Dec. 12 at 6 pm
- **Genesee Conservation District - Nicole Bennett**

- Please send requests regarding public trees (those that need work done or if you'd like to see more planted); GCD can help make that happen and finance the work
- **Flint Community Schools - Dr. Joyce Ellis-McNeal**
 - New high school design approved for the former Central-Whittier campus; the tower will be preserved, and the site will include a high school, the FCS administration, five academies, and the district's athletic field
 - Demo slated for April 2026
 - June 2026 is groundbreaking date
 - There is a plan to choose a new school name (instead of Central), and FCS will be holding community forums for that and other feedback around the development
 - Next Board of Ed. meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 pm at the Cube at Brownell-Holmes (6302 Oxley Dr, Flint, MI 48504)
- **Flint Water Advisory Council**
 - Next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library – Friends of the Public Library Room
 - Meeting will include updates from the deputy of public works, the water distribution supervisor, and water treatment plant supervisor
 - The Council will also discuss feedback it has received on the Council's new website: <https://www.flintwsac.com/>
- **Oatmeal Club/CJ Squad**
 - Oatmeal Club: started in 2014, services young people from 8-18, giving them the tools to love themselves, each other, and where they live
 - Partnering with City of Flint, Crim Fitness Foundation, and Urban 3 (consulting firm with the goal of using the city's existing data to identify which areas are generating the most tax value).
 - Event will take place in early January to talk about land use in Flint
 - CJ Squad: serves young people with mental disabilities from ages 16-24; mostly a social club
 - For more information on either org, contact Suzanne Brewer: 810-336-9897
- **City of Flint**
 - Everyone is invited to the State of the City address on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6 pm at the Capitol Theater (doors at 5:30 pm)
- **Parent-2-Parent**
 - Support group for parents of children with special needs
 - Next meeting Dec. 11 from 4:30 - 6 pm at Eisenhower Elementary
 - For more information contact Forleasadon Harper: 810-760-1607
- **Eisenhower Elementary**
 - Some Eisenhower parents are looking for assistance for the holiday season; if you'd like to help out or sponsor a family, please contact Forleasadon Harper: 810-760-1607
- **Brownell-Holmes Neighborhood Association**

- Hosting a holiday party, Friday, Dec. 12 at 5 - 7:30 pm for folks at the apartments on Stedron Street; if you're interested in supporting contact Jeanette Edwards
- **Flint Our Community Our Voice**
 - Please send information on events to cfrye31@comcast.net
- **Martes Luna Food Pantry (3901 Fenton Road)**
 - Will be hosting food giveaways Dec. 9, 11, 23 from 9 am to 1 pm; includes gloves and turkeys, too
- **North Flint Food Market**
 - The co-op grocery is now open and serving the Flint community! You don't need to be a member to shop here, but if you're interested in becoming a member you can visit www.northflintfoodmarket.org or email membership@northflintfoodmarket.org
- **Other comments:**
 - One member requested that more writers and journalists should be coming to FNU
 - The Community Read has begun! Reading Hood Feminism, and meeting is today at 1 pm also at the library
 - An Eastside neighborhood group is happy to help with shoveling for seniors and veterans in the Flint community. For more information, reach out to Kane Symons.

Congresswoman Kristen McDonald Rivet

- **Water Settlement**
 - Property settlements to start being paid out in the next few weeks with damage settlements to be issued directly afterward, per Special Master
 - There will be a portal that opens up to choose how you want to receive your settlement dollars
 - Why has it taken so long?
 - First it's how the judgement was decided. McDonald Rivet called this "outrageous." Also, folks who have filed a claim have moved around since, and mail was the method of communication. So once the portal goes live there will be need to communicate that the platform is available
 - Joyce Ellis-McNeal offered that Flint Community Schools
 - Flint Water Advisory Council would also be glad to support that information on their new website
 - Not everyone in Flint is able to go online or navigate a website, so something to consider in the roll-out, regardless, for seniors and those without access
 - McDonald Rivet offered that there would ideally be a hub system for those who need help
 - Ms. McNeal recommended reaching out to the attorneys managing settlement work for residents, too
 - Money for children goes into a trust for those children rather than to their parents

- Lots of misinformation has been shared through the years, Congresswoman McDonald Rivet addressed a comment about the settlement funds being taxed, saying it was her understanding that the funds are not taxed once they are in residents' hands
- A big concern for the Congresswoman is that 43,000 claims were filed, but only 25,900 approved for payment
 - The Congresswoman was asked what is being done to help those that were denied and what do people need to have in hand for when the portal to determine how payment should be received is opened? She said the latter is not yet known, but she will continue conversations with the Special Master and share information as possible.
- Websites/contacts of note regarding the settlement:
 - officialflintwaterpayments.com
 - Special Master: deborah.greenspan@blankrome.com
 - flintwasc.com
- **Cuts to Medicaid/Medicare**
 - Most at risk: seniors who don't yet qualify for Medicare and spend over 70% of their income on healthcare
 - Between cuts to medicaid and the addition of work requirements the outlook is incredibly detrimental – task overload is a real thing – and as stands, these changes go into effect in Jan. 2027
 - Hospitals will also need to cut down on services that tend to lose money (like labor/delivery); will likely heavily impact rural hospitals
 - Helpful tax credits technically expire on Dec. 15, and McDonald Rivet and colleagues are hoping to force a vote through a discharge petition
 - The Congresswoman said that right now it looks like 209 of the 218 votes needed to push the petition are there; asked FNU members and other Flint residents to contact Michigan's Republican members of congress, like Tom Barrett (<https://barrett.house.gov/>), to push a vote through
- **Hunger**
 - Food Banks are running out of food; most concerned about children and seniors
 - Keep raising these stories and put a face to this issue
- **Contact Information**
 - McDonald Rivet's local office number: 810-238-8627
- **FNU Feedback**
 - Questions:
 - Head Start funds, what's going on?
 - This is a "bright spot" – the country responded "hell no" when Head Start funds were under DOGE fire. People raised their voices and it worked.
 - These funds are protected at least for the next year
 - Comments:
 - Neighborhood Homes Investment Act – growing some bipartisan support; please push for this, it's much needed in Flint

- HUD Entitlement Funding – these are limited resources for homelessness and affordable housing, feels like these funds are being steered in the wrong direction for Flint, please try to course correct
 - Congresswoman McDonald Rivet noted that she's part of the Build America Caucus, though the focus there is deploying funds faster rather than garnering more; she encouraged folks to contact her office
- Flint residents who have lived here for decades should not need to file a claim when their residency is on record through the Census

Next Meeting: Saturday, January 3, 2026