

Attend the General Meeting on June 1.

Our next MPNA meeting will be held Monday, June 1st, 2015 at St. John Vianney's Parish Hall, 2415 Bagley Street at 7:00 pm. Our guest speakers will be Mayor Dayne Walling and Chief of Police James Tolbert. Also scheduled is Juan Zuniga from Habitat for Humanity, who will be speaking about the Owner Occupied Home Rehab Program (see page 5 for more information). Please plan to attend!

"A Few Thoughts..."

by Nada Radakovich, MPNA President

I was pulling weeds the other day (that Creeping Charlie drives me insane!) when I glanced over at my little pond. In the midst of all the lawn clippings floating in the water, I spotted a little green frog. He was just kind of helplessly floating there, and I thought, "Poor little guy. I'm going to reach down into that green slime and help him out of there..." So, I did. At first he kind of just sat on the grass for a moment, seemingly dazed; then, he pulled his limbs into alignment and off he hopped. I just kept thinking, "Poor little guy..." and this led me to thinking about all of us, here in Mott Park. How we are kind of 'dazed' by all of the changes/challenges that we have faced simply by just living here, and then overwhelmed by the work that we ALL still have facing us.

City of Flint services that normally were readily available (the parks department, the road commission, the trash collectors, our police department) are now only available to us on a very limited basis. It makes it very challenging to keep our beautiful neighborhood BEAUTIFUL and our idyllic streets 'safe.' Every several days, I receive phone calls from residents complaining to me about trash in someone's yard, or a home that has been vandalized, or a lawn that needs to be cut. I receive even more phone calls about cars parked on lawns, people running car repair services out of their garages, cars speeding down our roads, vacant properties being squatted in by homeless folks, trash on the boulevard... the list is endless.

Continue on page 2

SUMMER AT A GLANCE



MPNA General Meeting

Monday, June 1
Monday, August 3



Annual Neighborhood Picnic

Sunday, June 7, 3pm



Kettering Service Saturdays

Saturday, June 6
Saturday, July 11
Saturday, August 22



Jack and the Beanstalk

Saturday, July 11, 3pm



Music in the Parks

Saturday, July 30, 7pm

Inside this issue...

- 3 2015 Calendar of Events
- 4 Building Homes, Building Hope
- 5 GCHF Home Repair Program
- 6 Thymely Tips
- 8 Neat Street and Park Tenders
- 8 On Kettering Turf
- 9 Mott Park Rec. Assn. Update
- 10 Message from the VP
- 11 Storm Drain Painting

"A Few Thoughts..."

continued from page 1

I'm certain that back in 1980, when Bob Giles, Bob Segar, Ruth Miehme, Norma Geyer, Donn Jensen and Richard Geyer were putting the Neighborhood Association together, they had not quite anticipated what might be happening in Flint 35 years later! Back then, Mott Park had a crime watch. They had started Art in the Park (in 1982). The MPNA bank account had a balance of \$2,064.23. The newsletter from that time mentions several summer events including tunnel repairs, manhole covers cemented over, and increasing participation in neighborhood watch teams. Additionally, crime watch signs were installed by the City of Flint, student housing in Mott Park was on its way towards approval, and there was a concert in the park.

Fast forward to today, and a few things have shifted. We officially have 1300 homes in Mott Park, with about 10% of these properties that are either unoccupied or scheduled to be demolished. That may not seem like many, but when you walk around to see the 130 properties that are hurting it doesn't take much for us to see that we need to help change this fact. Fortunately, for all of us, Habitat for Humanity is in the process of rolling out their new Owner Occupied Home Rehab program for Grand Traverse, Mott Park, Civic Park, and Foss Ave residents. There's more information about this in our newsletter and on our website. Please take advantage of this help available to us.

Crime is down almost 30% in Mott Park, which is due in large part to the constant patrols we have from Kettering University, McLaren Hospital, and Hurley Hospital. However, we need to continue to be watchful as the warmer months approach, as crime tends to increase during this time.

Flint CORE gave us a temporal analysis of crime in our area. In March 2015, 41% of crime in our neighborhood happened on Sundays and Mondays, between 2 pm and 6 pm, while 23% happened between 10 pm and 3 am. Please, everyone, continue to act as eyes and ears for your neighbors! Also, please secure your side windows in your homes, as this is where most break-ins happen. If you cannot or do not know how to secure your side windows, send us an email (mottpark@gmail.com) or call the MPNA (810-233-7608) and we will find a way to help you take care of this!

Be safe, be aware, be alert. Please contact me if you're interested in getting the neighborhood watch started again.

Lastly, I'd like to announce that we are the recipients of three grants that will benefit us greatly in Mott Park. We've been advanced to Park Tenders status - this is a step beyond our original Adopt-a-park status with Keep Genesee County Beautiful in 2014. We have also been selected to receive the 2015 Clean and Green grant - this grant helps residents maintain abandoned properties in Mott Park and at last count we are responsible for 35 properties. We need folks to mow and help, so please come to our June 1st meeting and let us know what you can help with. Our last grant is a smaller gardening grant from Keep Genesee County Beautiful, which will afford us to improve the amphitheater facade area in the park. We have received monies to purchase flowers and mulch, so if you have gardening tools and a little bit of time, please contact me so that we can start the project down there as well!

Thank you everyone for caring about our beautiful Mott Park. Have a great summer and see you around!

- Nada



Have a bright idea for Mott Park?

**Attend a meeting. Start a project.
We'll be glad to help!**



Mott Park Neighborhood Association

facebook: Mott Park, Flint, MI • **Email:** MottPark@gmail.com

President

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810-233-7608 • president@mottpark.org

Vice President and Community Outreach Chair

Arther Mance
810-394-3274 • vicepresident@mottpark.org

Treasurer

Holly Shaker
treasurer@mottpark.org

Secretary

Julie Simmons
secretary@mottpark.org • mottpark@gmail.com

Executive Committee Board members:

Neighborhood Park and Playground Chair, Facebook Manager

Nena Woodall
810-241-1869 • nena@mottpark.org

Neighborhood Activities Chair

mottpark@gmail.com

Gardening Coordinator

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810-444-7566 • ginny@mottpark.org

Advisor

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810-238-0309 • rob@mottpark.org

Consultant

Chris Del Morone
810-767-2733

Neighborhood Representative

Diana Phillips
810-424-6496 • diana@mottpark.org

Did you know?

As a resident of Mott Park you are a member of the Mott Park Neighborhood Association. Attend a meeting, help a neighbor, pick up litter. We are all neighbors building a stronger community. Make a difference and volunteer today!



Mott Park's 2015 Calendar of Events

June

Monday, 1st - General meeting, 7pm - 9pm @ St. John Vianney

Saturday, 6th - Kettering Service Saturday

Sunday, 7th - Annual neighborhood picnic, 3-6pm (rain date June 21)

July

Saturday, 11th - Jack and the Beanstalk, 3pm

Saturday, 11th - Kettering Service Saturday

Saturday, 30th - Music in the Parks, 7pm

August

Monday, 3rd - General meeting, 7pm - 9pm @ St. John Vianney

Saturday, 8th - Flint River Flotilla, 1pm

Tuesday, 11th through Saturday, 15th - Back to the Bricks Cruise Weekend

Saturday, 22nd - Kettering Service Saturday

Saturday, 22nd - Crim Festival of Races

September

TBA - Kettering Service Saturday

October

Saturday, 3rd - Kettering Service Saturday

Monday, 5th - General meeting, 7pm - 9pm @ St. John Vianney

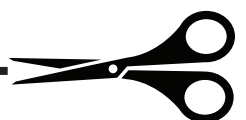
November

Saturday, 14th - Kettering Service Saturday

December

Monday, 7th - General meeting, 7pm - 9pm @ St. John Vianney

TBA - Kettering Service Saturday



“Building Homes, Building Hope”

by Vincent Slocum

As spring rolls in, residents all over the City are gearing up for home beautification and repair projects. However, with city-wide poverty levels far above the national average, many of our friends and neighbors are being forced to tighten their belts and forego these much needed home repairs. With our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live, Genesee County Habitat for Humanity is working to bridge this gap by providing home repair services to qualifying homeowners in the City of Flint. Examples of repairs that will be covered through this program include roofing repair, siding replacement, wheelchair ramp construction, and interior systems repairs such as electric, plumbing, and heating.

As a pilot project to test the long-term sustainability of the program, 2015 repair projects will be limited to qualifying homeowners in Flint's Civic Park, Grand Traverse District, and Mott Park neighborhoods, as well as homeowners in the Foss Ave. Neighborhood located east of I-475. In order to qualify for the program, residents must own and inhabit the property for which service is requested. They must also be up-to-date on all property taxes and insurance. Qualifying households must also make less than 80% of the city-wide median income.

An important component of Habitat's mission is that repair services are provided in collaboration with partner families – not just given away. This model of sweat-equity is essential to the success and long-term sustainability of Habitat programs. As part of this model, participating households must contribute 3% of project cost

and provide 8 hours of sweat-equity in support of the project (for example, a \$6,000 project would require a \$180 contribution and 8 hours of sweat-equity). Sweat-equity can take many forms and is accommodating of all ages and ability levels. For those who are able, sweat-equity could mean working hand-in-hand with repair crews. For those with less mobility, it could mean providing lunch or refreshments to repair crews. From cleaning up the worksite to volunteering at Habitat's ReStore, there are limitless ways for partner families to put their sweat-equity into a project.

If you or anyone you know qualifies and would like to benefit from these services, please contact Genesee County Habitat for Humanity at **(810)766-9089 ext. 206** or **jzuniga@genesee-habitat.org**. Don't know if you qualify? Contact us, or come into our offices at 101 Burton St., Flint, MI 48503, and we will help guide you through the application process.

As a 2015-2017 National Affiliate of Distinction, Genesee County Habitat for Humanity seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. As such, this program is just one facet of a much larger ministry that Habitat carries out within Flint and Genesee County, and it's only through the support and tireless commitment of our community and family partners that we are able to successfully make this work possible. For more information about Genesee County Habitat for Humanity and the work that we do, visit our website at geneseehabitat.org or like us on Facebook.





GCHFH Home Repair Program

The Genesee County Habitat for Humanity (GCHFH) Home Repair Program helps low-income homeowners alleviate health and safety issues in and around their home. Homeowners pay for these repair services through an affordable repayment plan. Repayment funds are recycled and used to assist future low-income homeowners in need of home repairs. If you feel you are eligible, application packets are available at: 101 Burton St. Flint, MI 48503.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicant(s) must own a property within the GCHFH service area within the City of Flint.
 - Grand Traverse District, Mott Park, Foss Ave., and Civic Park areas
- The property must be owner-occupied and the primary residence of all owners on title for a minimum of 18 months.
- Homeowner(s) must be either a U.S. Citizen or a Permanent Legal Resident.
- The property must be an eligible property. Eligible properties are Single Family Residences (SFR), manufactured homes, condominiums or townhomes, multi-family dwellings (apartment buildings, duplexes, tri-plexes, etc.), homes used as rental units, boats and recreational vehicles (RV's) are not eligible.
- The property must be habitable and without any unpermitted or illegal additions.
- Homeowner(s) must be current with the following:
 - Mortgage loan payment (if homeowner is still making payments)
 - Homeowner's insurance policy
 - Property taxes
- Applicants who own multiple real estate properties are not eligible.
- The property must demonstrate a need for repair.
- Household income must be below 80% of the area median income (AMI) for Genesee County as indicated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) within the given year applied. See table below.
- Homeowner(s) must agree to pay for the repairs through either a one-time payment equal to 3% of the total project costs for the repairs provided-before any work is begun.
- Homeowner(s) will be required to perform 8 hours of sweat equity for any repair work received, to be completed within in a reasonable period agreed upon by both parties.

Homeowner Income Eligibility is based upon the number of household members and total household income and must be less than or equal to 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) as provided by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as shown in the following chart.

Household members	1	2	3	4	5	6
2015 Gross Annual Income Limit	\$29,900	\$34,150	\$38,400	\$42,650	\$46,100	\$49,500

For questions or additional information, please contact us at:

101 Burton Street • Flint, MI 48503 • (810) 766-9089

jzuniga@geneseehabitat.org



Genesee County Habitat for Humanity provides equal housing opportunities for all, and ensures fair and equal access to its programs and services regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, familial status, disability, marital status, age, ancestry, sexual orientation, source of income, or other characteristics protected by law.

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Thymely Tips by Ginny

First of all, I hope you neighbors participate in the Mott Park Garden Contest by posting on Mott Park Flint MI Facebook page. There are two categories - Most Improved and Prettiest. So if you or someone else are making improvements to their home, take a picture and post it (before and after pics please). The winner in both categories will be given a \$100 gift card. I will try to post some myself. I dropped the ball last year so if anyone has before and after pics they would like to re-enter, please do so. The contest will end Sept 21 (the last day of summer).

Now on to gardening! I'm pretty sure it's going to be a dry growing season so if you're putting in new plants, use drought-tolerant plants. Some of the more familiar perennials are black-eyed susans, coneflower, daylilies (Happy Returns are recommended by Keep Genesee County Beautiful), peonies, sedum, yucca, hostas (Patriot Hosta recommended by KGCB), daisies, butterfly bush, bleeding heart (likes shade), red twig dogwood, lavender, russian sage, yarrow, veronica, burning bush, blue star juniper, and virginia sweet-spire. Annuals include cleome, nicotiana, sweet alysum, moss rose, salvia, and lantana. Planting drought-tolerant plants is called xeriscaping by the way. The only other thing to remember is that when planting new plants, water them the first week or so to give them a chance to settle in and get a good start on life especially if there is little rain. If you have any questions, give me a call - 444-7566.

In our Mott Park Gardens this year we are going to use RED geraniums again. Hopefully the groundhogs won't eat them (as they did at the Nolen/University site last year). If someone would like to adopt a garden, give me a call.

Gardening is great exercise by the way. I liken it to doing yoga. One can sure get into some strange positions!

Ginny Braun, Gardening Coordinator

Neighborly Notes



For our walking and running neighbors, take a bag with you! If you're able to pick up a bit of trash while you're out and about, it would be extremely helpful. Even a little bit can go a long way, and it sure would make our neighborhood look nicer.

Also, after the truck comes by on trash day, please have a look around your front yards. Sometimes trash gets strewn around while they're collecting and we need to make sure it doesn't get blown away or wind up in the river.



Join us for



**Jack
and the
Beanstalk**

in Mott Park
Saturday, July 11, 3pm

production by
Kearsley Park Players

Mott Park's

Annual Neighborhood Picnic



This year's **Annual Neighborhood Picnic** takes place on Sunday, June 7th, at 3pm. Please plan to join us for good food, great music, lots of fun, and most importantly, a chance to get to know your neighbors! If it rains, we'll reschedule for June 21.



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Neat Street

Mott Park still has active volunteers for the Neat Street program, and they are out and about in our neighborhood. They help keep our neighborhood clean by picking up litter and trash that people throw out in our streets while they are driving or walking. There has been a great response and sense of pride that comes from this – not just with adults but also with children. My kids have learned not only what is involved in taking care of our street, but also the impact it has on our neighborhood and our environment as a whole. They ask questions and are inspired to do more.

If you have kids or are interested in doing something for our neighborhood, this is a great place to start! Choose to walk your block, your street, a few streets, the park... Whatever you are capable of doing. Take a bag and just start walking and pick up any trash along the way. If you let us know ahead of time we do have some grabbers that you can use as well.

There are many streets that need some extra help – they may be not close to your street but if we invest time in them they, too, will look amazing.

Park Tenders

Spring has sprung, yards are being cleaned up, and all traces of winter are behind us now. This year Mott Park has officially moved to the next phase of the Adopt-a-Park program - we are now Park Tenders. Woo hoo!

Park Tenders will connect us with larger grants that will help us do new and exciting things in and around the park area. Through this, all of our ideas and plans will start to come to fruition.

We are in need of more neighbors to join in and help this program run smoothly. If you are interested in helping make our park better and safer please contact me via email, Facebook or call me at 810-241-1869.

When we have our next meeting for the park, we will post it on Facebook and our website. Congratulations to all of our neighbors for this great achievement in receiving the help we need in the park.

Nena Woodall, Neighborhood Park and Playground Chair



On Kettering Turf

by Jessica Sanchez

Exciting things are happening at Atwood Stadium! As many of you know, Kettering University took over ownership of the stadium back in 2013, and has steadily been working on making improvements to it since then.

Patrick Hayes, the Director of University Communications, sums it up best:

"Now, thanks to community-wide support from many individuals and organizations and culminating with a \$1.75 million grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Atwood Stadium's future as a viable, unique community gathering space in the heart of Flint is more secure. New turf, along with a separate gift from Diplomat Pharmacy, Inc. in support of Flint Community Schools and Powers Catholic High School, will allow varsity high school to return to Atwood in the fall."

Some of the improvements already being seen include ice skating in winter, intramural sports, and Relay for Life. Some of the not-so-visible improvements include repairs to masonry, restrooms, concessions, lighting, signage, and upgrades to the locker rooms.

Kettering University President Dr. Robert K. McMahan has great ambitions when it comes to our area, and the improvements at Atwood Stadium are only part of that. He noted that after Atwood receives their many improvements, we'll have "one of the finest football, soccer, and lacrosse playing surfaces anywhere in Michigan and the Midwest." He went on to add that "This has been a truly collaborative community effort. The entire community benefits from Atwood's restoration, and the stadium's future is bright due to the collaboration of a diverse group of individuals and organizations all committed to a single worthy cause — creating a thriving city of Flint."

MPRA Update

by Tom Saxton

The Mott Park Recreation Association, formally the Mott Park Public Golf Course Association, continues with the mission to maintain and develop the former golf course property as a multi-use recreational space.

The organization is continuing the planning process for future uses. A presentation of the results of a successful January "vision session" was made to the MPNA, the Glendale Hills NA, and to the University Avenue Corridor Coalition. Each group was encouraged to provide feedback. The next step in the planning will be meetings and outreach with key members of the community both in and outside of city government.

The Michigan State University School of Planning will also be working on a plan as part of a Landscape Architecture class project. They will be onsite this fall and their work could be an important tool in the overall planning process.

Currently, the MPRA is putting together a team of volunteers to mow during this year's growing season. The group is also taking the lead in extensive improvements of the clubhouse and the surrounding area. These efforts include landscaping, painting and fence repair. Special thanks to the West Side Church for using their volunteer day to help with these projects.

If you're interested in making a donation to the mowing fund, please contact Ginny Braun at 444-7566.



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NOW SERVING ALL WARDS

A message from the Vice President

by Arther Mance

Good day neighbors! As discussed in the last neighborhood meeting, we would like to get your feedback. A survey has been distributed by means of Facebook, email, and there is also a link on the website. Many of you may have already completed the survey, but if not we would still like to hear from you. Currently we are working on a strategic plan for Mott Park and we would like to include your feedback as part of the strategic plan.

Go here to access the survey:
mottpark.org/survey

As always, if you have concerns feel free to reach out to us via the contact information listed in this newsletter. We are here to serve you and will do whatever we can within our ability to continue to make Mott park a great place to live. If you would like to be on the front lines of the continuous improvement process, we would love to have you. We currently have several roles open and would like to fill them as soon as possible. The more people who get involved, the more effective we can be as a team. I would like to leave you with this quote:

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

-Andrew Carnegie

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COME PAINT THE TOWN!

(well, actually, just the storm drains...)

by Julie Simmons

When the snow melts and the rains fall, everything washes off your lawn and driveway, and then down into the closest storm drain. In Mott Park, these storm drains go directly to the Flint River, instead of a water treatment plant.

That's why the Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC), in partnership with the Genesee County Drain Commissioner, created a Storm Drain Stenciling program. This program organizes volunteers who then paint a stencil near every storm drain in the neighborhood. This stencil says "No Dumping. Drains to River."

Why do we paint these messages on the drains? Because at some point, we've all done it - washed a car in our driveway, dumped unwanted products, fertilized our lawn without testing the soil to see if it actually needed it, or left the doggy doo for "tomorrow." Helping to keep the Flint River Watershed clean is something healthy you can do to help everyone in our area, and the stencils serve as a colorful reminder to your neighbors.

Stenciling each drain will consist of removing (and bagging) any debris around the drain, placing a stencil near the drain and spray painting the stencil. Can't be near paint fumes? That's ok! We also need someone to put hang tags on the door of each house in the neighborhood.

Year round, you can also keep all debris (including leaves) out and away from drains. Your neighbors will also appreciate this it as it keeps our river clean and prevents flooded streets due to clogged drains.

Sound like fun? Storm drain stenciling is coming to our streets! If you are interested in this huge endeavor for our neighborhood, please contact me at 810-820-5731 (please leave a message if no answer), jsimmons@kettering.edu or get with me on Mott Park's Facebook page.

Stenciling will begin in June!



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Dave Lennox
PREMIER DEALER

We always need newsletter carriers to deliver newsletters and flyers 4 - 6 times a year. Also needed are phone callers who are willing to make phone calls to people in Mott Park about 6 - 8 times a year. They will get a list of approximately 25 people and can leave a message on the answering machine if no one is home. Contact Holly Shaker for more details!

Service Guide

Mott Park residents who have paid the annual MPNA dues are eligible to place an ad in the service guide. Please limit your posting to about 20 words. If you have any feedback regarding any of the services offered in the service guide, please forward to mottpark@gmail.com. We would love to make the service guide more useful by including a rating system. Please note that the MPNA does not endorse any service/vendor listed.

McKellar's Tree Cutting

Tree removal / trimming. Free estimates, insured. Will remove brush & wood or you keep the split firewood. Rough mulch delivered. Special prices in Mott Park. Call Dave at 810-348-6041

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Realtors

Ginny Braun with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Michigan Real Estate at 810-444-7566 if no answer call 810-606-0102 or email ginnybraun@bhhsmi.com

Scott D. Shaker of RE/MAX Grande Realty at 810-691-5659 or www.isell-homesfast.com specializing in land contracts, foreclosures and difficult to sell properties.

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Notary Public

Call Julie Simmons at 810-820-5731 or email jsimmons@kettering.edu

Little Orchard Child Care

Licensed, Norbert Street. Reasonable rates, meals included, preschool curriculum available for enrolled children. 6:30am to 5:30pm Monday - Friday. Call Jane at 810-767-5615

Window Cleaning

Quality Window Cleaning, 30 years experience, Mott Park resident for 25 years. Call Frank at 810-234-2897

Computer Repair and Service

PC cleanups, virus removal, new system installs with data transfer from old system if needed. Device purchase recommendations! Call Vinnie at 810-309-2504 or email vsanch24@gmail.com

Bed and Breakfast

Knob Hill Bed and Breakfast is a beautiful 1920s home located at 1105 South Drive in Flint. Call Diana Phillips at 810-424-3888, email knobhillbnb@gmail.com, or visit knobhillbedandbreakfast.com

Helpful Numbers

Emergencies 911

Flint Police Department 237-6801

Community Policing 237-6853

Anonymous Tip Line 237-6812

Drug Hotline 237-6957

Flint Fire Department 762-7336

Poison Control 1-800-222-1222

Consumers Energy 1-800-477-5050

City of Flint 766-7346

Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce 600-1404

Genesee County Land Bank 257-3088

Dumping Hotline 237-2432

Street Maintenance 766-7450

Demolitions 766-7284

City Council 766-7418

Parks & Recreation 766-7463

Republic (Refuse/Recycling)
1-888-872-7455

State Representative Sheldon Neeley
517-373-8808
SheldonNeeley@house.michigan.gov

Mayor Dayne Walling
810-766-7346
mayor@cityofflint.com
Open door hours: Weds. 10am - 12pm

County Commissioner John Northrup
810-257-3020
jnorthrup@co.genesee.mi.us

Council Herbert Winfrey
810-766-7418 ext. 3165
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Until next time...

The first day of summer is June 21! Everyone's getting outside to enjoy the beautiful Michigan weather and it's great waving to neighbors or stopping to chat. Don't forget to attend the annual picnic - it's a great way to get to know more people in our amazing corner of Flint. The next issue of the Mott Park Neighborhood News will be out in September; in the meantime, remember to wear sunscreen! Happy Summer!



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