

Attend the General Meeting on April 6.

Our next MPNA meeting will be held Monday, April 6th, 2015 at Calvary United Methodist Church, 2111 Flushing Road at 7:00 pm. Our guest speakers will be Herb Winfrey, our new councilperson, and Dennis A. McKee from Consumer's Energy, who will talk to us about our new meter system. We will also be electing our new secretary - I urge all of you to attend! Light refreshments will be provided.



The attached envelope is for 2015 neighborhood dues. See page 5 for more information.

Spring at a glance...

- **Kettering Service Saturdays**
Saturday, March 14
Saturday, April 25
Saturday, May 9
- **MPNA General Meeting**
Calvary United Methodist Church, Monday, April 6, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- **MPNA Committee Meetings**
The Executive / Steering Committee meets the third Monday of every month.

"A Few Thoughts..."

by Nada Radakovich, MPNA President

Together WE can make THE difference!

Spring is coming--- you can smell it in the air! --- we have some very exciting improvements coming to our beloved neighborhood. Every resident in Mott Park who has made the choice of volunteering to help make our neighborhood a better place, YOU GUYS are the ones who are helping to make that difference!

You know, we have very neat projects underway - but there are still more that I would like to see come to fruition.

Over this past year (2014) our neighborhood association has been working very hard to honor the grant monies we were awarded (the Clean & Green project from the Land Bank, the Adopt-a-Park

grant monies from Keep Genesee County Beautiful and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint Small Grants Program). These grant monies ALL went towards: repairing playground equipment in the park, resurfacing the tennis courts, stringing and mounting the nets on the tennis courts, installing/monitoring the surveillance cameras at the clubhouse, the bags, tools and gloves that we use when we do our park clean ups; the properties that our former vice president, Christine Robinson oversaw with the Clean and Green project - these were all much needed improvements and, working together, we were able to move mountains! (But, there are still a few 'mountains' out there that need moving!) One of the things your board has been working very

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"A Few Thoughts..."

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hard towards establishing is our social media presence. And, believe it or not, we now have our own website, mottpark.org (check it out!). Also, in 2015, you may be very glad to know, we will have continued security patrols covering our neighborhood, thanks to the generous and thoughtful foresight of McLaren Medical Center, Hurley Hospital and Kettering University. Just in case you were wondering, or didn't happen to notice, crime is down 28% in our neighborhood. I would like for us to be able to continue in this direction. From everything I have read, and from the other neighborhood associations with whom I have spoken in Flint, it seems that establishing and operating a neighborhood watch is a tricky endeavor. It is not a perfect science, but it does take consistency and a well-planned format. I am very hopeful that we will be able to, in a step-by-step fashion, restructure

our neighborhood watch, and guide it to becoming the watch that WE need in our neighborhood. However, we can only do this if we all get involved.

There is much work to be done. I know we have the brain power in our neighborhood, and I know we have the brawn (Ginny!) to make these things happen for us, but the number one requirement is SHOWING UP!

Please, if you have a little time, if you have some great ideas, if you want to be a part of the solution, please attend our neighborhood meetings or visit our website. If you are not able to make it to a meeting, just call me or anyone else on the board, or send an email and we will start from there.

Thank you to each resident in Mott Park for helping to make THE DIFFERENCE!

Looking forward to a super 2015 together! - **Nada**



Have a bright idea for Mott Park?

Mott Park Neighborhood Association

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

President Nada Radakovich 810-233-7608 • president@mottpark.org

Vice President Arther Mance (Community Outreach Chair) 810-394-3274 • vicepresident@mottpark.org

Treasurer Holly Shaker 810-691-1287 • treasurer@mottpark.org

Secretary mottpark@gmail.com

Executive Committee Board members:

Neighborhood Park and Playground Chair / Facebook Manager
Nena Woodall 810-241-1869 • norma32516@sbcglobal.net

Neighborhood Activities Chair
mottpark@gmail.com

Gardening Coordinator
Ginny Braun 810-444-7566 • ginnybraun@bhhsmi.com

Advisor
Rob Jewell 810-238-0309 • robertvjewell@comcast.net

Consultant
Chris Del Morone 810-767-2733

Neighborhood Representative
Diana Phillips 810-424-6496 • dphillip@kettering.edu

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

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

April

Monday, 6th - General meeting, 7pm - 9pm @ Calvary United Methodist Church

Saturday, 25th - Kettering Service Saturday

Saturday, 25th - Flint River Clean Up

May

Saturday, 9th - Kettering Service Saturday

Saturday, 16th - Tour DeCrim Bicycle Race

Saturday, May 30th - Annual neighborhood garage sales, 9am - 5pm

June

Monday, 1st - General meeting, 7pm - 9pm @ Calvary United Methodist Church

Saturday, 6th - Kettering Service Saturday

Saturday, 6th - Annual neighborhood picnic, 5:30pm

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

Newsletter Update

Starting in 2015 the MPNA will begin gradually reducing the amount of the printed version of the MPNA newsletter. We will begin distributing an email version and will continue to host the newsletter on the Mott Park website for downloads. If you would like to continue receiving the printed version or want to ensure you receive the email version please go to mottpark.org/mpna-newsletter and fill out the form. You can also fill out the attached form and mail it to Mott Park Neighborhood Association, PO Box 4187, Flint, MI 48504. **Please respond by May 1st**; if you plan on downloading the newsletter then there is no need to reply.

Name

Address

☐

I want to receive the MPNA newsletter printed version.

☐

I want to receive the MPNA newsletter digital version.

Email address:

“Were you curious about the envelope attached to the front of this newsletter? It was placed there by a volunteer carrier to make it easier for you to pay Mott Park dues.”

While everyone who lives or owns property in Mott Park is a member of the Mott Park Neighborhood Association and is welcome at all MPNA functions and events, members who give a federally, tax-deductible donation of at least \$15.00 are “dues-paying members,” and they help the neighborhood in the following ways:

- The **MPNA functions** on money from dues, gifts, donations and grants. A substantial portion of that comes from dues paid by members like you.
- The **quarterly newsletter** is printed with money from dues, as well as from advertising.
- Your dues help pay for the **MPNA Neighborhood Garage Sale permit and advertising costs**. The Neighborhood Garage Sale brings in people from all over to visit our sale and see what a great place Mott Park is.
- The MPNA uses dues to provide **food and entertainment for the entire neighborhood at the Annual Neighborhood Picnic**. This is a great event to help get to know your neighbors and reacquaint yourselves with old friends.
- The MPNA uses dues to help pay for **gloves, grabbers and trash bags** for our army of **Neat Street volunteers** who pick up curbside litter in the neighborhood, making Mott Park one of the cleanest neighborhoods in the City of Flint.
- The MPNA provides **trash bags** for our **Trash Barrel Brigade**, a group of volunteers who empty the trash cans in Mott Park, mak-

ing the park and playground a cleaner, safer place to play.

- Your dues helped the MPNA pay for **repairs to the tennis courts in Mott Park** last year. Did you notice how families and friends are playing tennis on the courts again? The courts need yearly maintenance, so your dues are very important.
- The MPNA uses dues to help **feed the many volunteers** who turn out every year for the **Annual Mott Park Spring Cleanup**.
- There are six **MPNA neighborhood meetings** per year that provide neighbors with vital information on issues pertaining to living in Mott Park and in the City of Flint. Your dues help with providing **refreshments and office supplies** for these meetings.

Dues-paying members also receive these additional benefits:

- Dues-paying members have the **satisfaction of knowing that they are supporting a neighborhood association that works for their benefit**.
- Only dues-paying members have the privilege of **voting in the MPNA elections**. As a dues-paying member, you have a voice in who is running the association.
- Dues-paying members are entitled to a **30 word ad in the Service Guide** section of the quarterly newsletter at no charge. The newsletter reaches over 1200 households in the Mott Park Neighborhood and is distributed in several public places in Flint as well.

Dues-paying members certainly make a difference in our neighborhood! Please use the



attached envelope for your **tax-deductible** donation of at least \$15.00, payable to the Mott Park Neighborhood Association, and drop it in the mail!

On a personal note, I would like to thank Sandy McKellar for her many years of service to Mott Park as Treasurer and Neighborhood Activities and Events Chair. It has been my pleasure to serve with Sandy over the last year and I look forward to implementing some of the safe-

guards she has recommended for the future. Thank you also to Chris Del Morone, who has agreed to audit the MPNA books on a regular basis, in accordance with standard accounting practices. Finally, thanks also to you, for entrusting me with the job of MPNA Treasurer. Together, let's make 2015 a great year for our neighborhood!

Holly Shaker, MPNA Treasurer

MOTT PARK TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014

Income		Expenses	
Dues	\$2,384.00	Newsletter Expense	\$1,620.00
Newsletter Advertising	\$700.00	Activities and Events	\$702.10
Mott Park Chronicles	\$219.60	Donation - Music in the Parks	\$300.00
Golf Course Club House Grant	\$4,166.99	Golf Course Club House Expenses	\$4,902.62
Clean and Green Grant	\$3,620.00	Office Supplies	\$303.90
KGCB Flower Beds and Adopt-A-Park	\$2,593.00	Park Maintenance	\$2,184.55
Selling of MPNA Shed	\$1,414.38	Security	\$600.00
		Clean and Green Expenses	\$4,131.53
		Website	\$325.00
Total Income \$15,097.97		Total Expenses \$15,069.70	
Checking Account Balance as of 12/31/14 \$7,428.75			



2015 MOTT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DUES

Please fill this out and enclose with your check (please do not mail cash)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Amount enclosed _____

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Thymely Tips *by Ginny*

Yikes! What a winter! Last year at this time I was writing “Spring is here but don’t jump the gun.” This year the only sign of a possible spring is that the temperatures are closer to 20 degrees than 0. Maybe mother nature will do one of her abrupt about faces and do the 80 degree thing again.

I just ordered the red seed geraniums from Ken’s Greenhouse on Lavelle Road, they give us a really good deal. They looked very good last year except for the ones at the corner of Nolen and University, which were eaten by groundhogs! Very depressing. I’m going to try again this year and figure out a way to outsmart those varmints using a tip or two from Jerry Baker’s book *Practical Problem Solvers*! He says to sink large laundry detergent caps into the soil every so often and fill them with one part bloodmeal to two parts water. This is supposed to repel the groundhogs. We’ll see.

Really, the only thing you can do about now is prune and shape your trees and shrubs. It’s a good time because you can see their real shape without the leaves. When the snow melts and the soil is not squishy you can get out there and divide hostas, daylilies, coneflowers and black-eyed-susans. If you don’t have a place to plant them or a neighbor to give them to, drop them off at the front door of the clubhouse and we’ll plant them on the hill to the left of the drive. We’re trying to make a kind of wild-flower area there. Now is a pretty good time to fertilize your beds with a 10/10/10 fertilizer too. Jerry Baker says to spread coffee grounds around your rhododendrons, azaleas, holly bushes, ferns, pachysandra, magnolias, dogwoods, and hydrangeas. I’ve been saving coffee grounds all winter in plastic bags in my garage. In the summer I just walk out the door and throw them on my “rhodies.” They seem to like it and usually bloom like crazy in the spring!

Don’t get too excited about annuals just yet. Traditionally the end of May is when all danger of frost is over. If you do buy them before, you might have to cover them with old sheets or plastic to ward off the possibility of frost or

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bring them in. Once the soil gets workable you can plant most perennials - if the greenhouses keep them outside so can you.

Here are some more Jerry Baker tidbits.

- If you have groundhogs, put whole zucchinis in the groundhog holes and let them rot. He says even though they eat zucchini leaves they hate the zucchinis themselves. If that doesn't work, he says to put tin cans full of gasoline at each hole. Dig holes to set the cans in so they don't tip over. I will be trying these things out and I'll let you know how they work. If all else fails I'll use live traps, but those critters get heavy.
- Another Jerry tip for those of us who use rakes, shovels, and trowels without gloves - wrap duct tape around the palm of your hand to prevent blisters.

Jerry also says to spray white vinegar on weeds or you can use a bit of liquid hand soap and bleach to spray on poison ivy and other broadleaf weeds. If you want to kill moss, spray a mixture of ammonia and water on it.

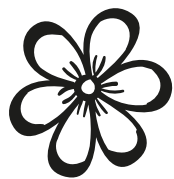
I'm going to try these things and I'll report in on the results. I'm especially hoping the groundhog things work!

Also we will be having the "Prettiest Garden" and the "Most Improved Garden" contest again this year. PLEASE POST PICTURES of homes in Mott Park that you feel are worthy of winning \$100 gift cards! We didn't have enough participation last year. I didn't remind everyone often enough!

If you have any gardening questions, feel free to call me (810-444-7566), and I'll try to figure out the answer.

Happy Gardening and get those hands dirty!

Ginny Braun, Gardening Coordinator



Let the voting begin! The "Most Improved Garden" and the "Prettiest Garden" are the two categories. If you see a worthy home, take a picture and post it on Facebook! "Like" your favorite photo on Facebook or by calling Ginny at 444-7566. The winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate to the store of their choice.



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Neat Street and the Park

Spring is approaching and the snow will be melting very soon (we all hope). This is the time of year we start getting ready for spring clean up, "Neat Street" will be starting up in full force, Park Clean Up days will be put on the calendar, and hopefully big projects will get planned for the park.

For some that may be new to the neighborhood (welcome to our community!), Neat Street is a program that was started a few years back. Neighbors adopt a block or a street and pick up the litter in that area. Some are able to do it every week, some every other week, and some can do it everyday! Some of our neighbors have been doing this for years. If you are interested in adopting a block or street let me know or come to our next meeting to take a look at the map.

The Park Clean Ups are usually coordinated with Kettering's Service Saturdays. Dates will be announced in our next newsletter, on the website, and in our Facebook group, but we usually plan a spring and a fall clean up. If you are able to come down for an hour or so on these days please let me know. This is a great way to help keep our park in shape for the kids to play and have fun in their own neighborhood.

Adopt-a-Park is a program that we joined last year and it is through Keep Genesee County Beautiful. This program helped get funds to paint the playground equipment and repair some of the equipment. This spring we will be installing new swings and will finish putting the new boards on the benches. We are pending going into the next phase as a Park Tender - this is the phase where we have access to larger grants to make bigger changes or improvements that are needed in the park.

Our neighborhood is kept afloat by the people that volunteer. Whether you have officially joined any of these pro-

grams or events or do it on your own, your efforts make it better for everyone and we are a stronger neighborhood because of it.



Trash Brigade

We have a few trash cans around the park and we have some wonderful volunteers who regularly empty those trash cans. Thank you to all who volunteer to help with this! If you see them, thank them for helping keep our neighborhood clean. If you are interested in volunteering for this please contact me and I can get you the details.

As we get into the new year, opportunities are always available to volunteer your time. We all have busy schedules and we sometimes can not see adding one more commitment to our list, however, our neighborhood is in need of volunteers. The neighbors are what keeps things going in our neighborhood. Whether it is an hour here or there, our volunteers are what makes our community stay strong and continue moving forward.



Volunteering

Mott Park is needing you! Please contact one of the committee members if you are interested in volunteering for some of the projects or events that we have going on. Pulling weeds in the gardens, picking up trash on your block, taking care of one of the trash barrels around the park, help with planning events, ideas for changes to the park... These are a few of the opportunities that are available for volunteers to take on in our neighborhood. Please help by contacting one of us to help keep our park and neighborhood a great place to live.

Nena Woodall, Neighborhood Park and Playground Chair



MOTT PARK GOLF COURSE UPDATE

The Mott Park Public Golf Course Association has now formally been renamed the Mott Park Recreation Association. The organization retains non-profit, 501(c)(3) status and is committed to maintaining and enhancing the former golf course as a natural, multi-use recreational space.

On January 26th the organization hosted a "Vision Session" in cooperation with Kettering University and the University Avenue Corridor Coalition. The event was held at Kettering and 81 participants from throughout the community attended. Many great ideas for public use of the space were brought forward, discussed and voted on. The event was a great first step in the effort to develop a master plan for the space. Community feedback will remain a critical part of the planning process each step of the way moving forward.

With spring just around the corner, it is important to note that the former golf course space is being mowed and cared for by a team of local volunteers. All funding for fuel, repairs, etc. comes from private donations and/or small grants. The Mott Park Recreation Association will continue to organize and support the mowing and up-keep of the space. If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please contact Ginny Braun at 810-444-7566.



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A message from our new Vice President...

It has been my pleasure over the last couple of years to serve on the MPNA steering committee. I have learned a lot, met a lot of great people, and have been a part of various projects to improve and maintain our community. I was recently nominated and voted Vice President of the association and I'm honored to continue to serve this community at this level. My hope for 2015 is to continue building on the core unity that has already been established in this neighborhood. I would also like to increase neighbor involvement not only in the activities but with future planning. We want you to know that what you have to contribute matters and will be taken into consideration. We also want you to know that your concerns are our concerns as fellow neighbors.

It's already known to those who have lived in Mott Park for many years that the neighborhood has changed. Some

of those changes have been great and others have not been. Regardless of those not-so-great changes, I believe there are enough of us that care about this community to make more good changes that will far outweigh the bad. I believe there are enough of us who are willing to stand up and say "We will have a safe community, we won't allow the negative elements to take over, we're not closing our eyes or turning our backs to our neighbors and we won't be afraid." Martin Luther King said it best, "Evil prevails when good men do nothing." I want to challenge more of you to get involved because we need more good men and women like you to help with things like the neighborhood watch, community events, neighborhood outreach, neighborhood revitalization, etc. We can set the example for Flint by showing what can happen when a community stands together.

Arther Mance – MPNA Vice President



Michael S. Jones, EA, BBA

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Have you stopped at a Little Free Library lately?

There are four Little Free Libraries in our neighborhood - check them out on the map below.

How does the library work?

Little Free Libraries offers a way to share good things to read—favorite books from your childhood or books you would recommend to friends; books that teach, intrigue and engage you. All of us can help by keeping this collection stocked with good reading material.

Whose library is this?

It belongs to everybody—neighbors, friends, and people you don't even know yet. Anyone can use it.

Take a book.

If you see something you would like to read, take it. Look inside and see who gave it; who else has read it.

Share it.

Return it to any Little Library or pass it on to a friend.

Give books.

Leave notes in them. Be a friend of all libraries by helping in any way you can. Pay it Forward!

Little Free Libraries support reading for children, literacy for adults, and libraries around the world.



Are you interested in becoming a Little Free Library Steward?

Check out the following resources:

Little Free Library website:
littlefreelibrary.org

Genesee County Little Free Libraries:
facebook.com/groups/GCLFL

10 Things to Know Before Building Your Little Free Library:
goo.gl/5Cuj1L

Did you know?

There is a collection box at all Mott Park events for receipts from the VG's grocery stores. Every dollar you spend is worth one point to us. When we get 5000 points, VG's will send us a check for \$50. Your neighborhood association can do a lot with \$50!



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!



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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

Painting

Interior and exterior. Professional work at reasonable rates. Notary public services available. Call James Owensby at 810-964-9512 or e-mail jeoresource@yahoo.com

Realtors

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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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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

Until next time...

The first day of Spring was March 20! As the snow melts we encourage you to take a look down your street to dispose of/ recycle any trash you may see. Enjoy a walk around your block or in the park to enjoy the upcoming season... and your neighbors. The next issue of the Mott Park Neighborhood News will be out in June. Happy Spring!



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
hwinfrey@cityofflint.com

City of Flint Blight Coordinator Raul Garcia
810-237-2090
rgarcia@cityofflint.com

Contact us:

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Email: mottpark@gmail.com