

Attend the General Meeting on December 1.

Don't forget that the December 1st Mott Park Neighborhood Association meeting is Election Day!! You will be electing President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer for next year. This is a very important meeting! Show your Mott Park spirit and that you care about our neighborhood and join us at Monday, December 1, 2014 at St. John Vianney's Parish Hall, 2415 Bagley Street at 7:00 pm. Our meeting will be one in which we hope to spread a little Holiday good cheer, pass out a few prizes for "this-and-that" and again hold the election for our officers. If folks would be so kind as to bring a plate of cookies we will provide the beverages. **DON'T FORGET TO COME!**



Winter at a glance...

- **Mott Park elections & Holiday social mingle**
December 1
- **MPNA Committee Meetings**
The Executive / Steering Committee meets the third Monday of every month.

“A Few Thoughts...”

by Nada Radakovich, MPNA President

Well, here we are, it is already November (do bear with me, 40 bags of mulched leaves does make a body ache). It has been quite a year in our neighborhood, at least from my perspective. As I look out my window from my desk, I see Omid walking Luke down the block; the fellow from Kettering who mows the strip of grass along Nolen Drive is blowing the leaves into the street; my dogs are barking in the back yard; all in all a seemingly idyllic day here in Mott Park (except for the fact that I can hardly move - ha). As I sit here and wax poetic, I do however need to let everyone know about a few changes we are about to experi-

ence, first and foremost, with regard to our newsletter.

Our wonderful editor, Andrew Wilberding, after many years of formatting, printing and bringing-to-life this newsletter, has told us that he and his wife are expecting, and that he is going to have to let go of his duties with regard to our MPNA newsletter. In the meantime, Andrew has been working very closely with Jessica Sanchez, our web designer. He has been preparing her to take the reins as managing editor of the MPNA newsletter starting January, 2015. So, I would like to say to you,

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Inside this issue...

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“Hello Mott Park friends and neighbors”

I am sad to have to write this but, after a lot of thought, I have made the difficult decision to put my house on the market at the end of February and move to smaller quarters. Because I will not be a Mott Park resident or property owner I will not be able to be Treasurer in the coming year. This is to let you know how things stand at the end of my last term:

501(c)(3): The IRS at last approved Mott Park Neighborhood Association, Inc. as a 501(c) (3) public charity. It took almost three years of constantly submitting and resubmitting paperwork, but at last it is done. They have also reinstated our status as 501(c)(4) for the term from May, 2011 until the approval of the 501(c) (3), making us seamless for the tenure of the organization.

What does it mean to hold this status?

- It means that the IRS recognizes us as a public service organization and that all donations to the organization are tax deductible.
- It means that the MPNA does not have to pay income tax on income.
- It means that we will be eligible for more and larger grants and programs only available to such programs.
- It means that we will be able to get discounts and be sales tax exempt at local retailers.

With such privileges come some responsibilities:

- Board members cannot benefit in the form of wages that exceed the market value or discounts on merchandise below the market value. Since our board members serve without pay and since we do not engage in regular merchandise sales, this likely will never apply to us.

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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 • nadaradakovich@yahoo.com

Treasurer Sandra McKellar (Neighborhood Activities Chair) 810-232-4710 • sdmckellar@sbcglobal.net

Secretary Holly Shaker • mottpark@gmail.com

Executive Committee Board members:

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

Rob Jewell (Resource) 810-238-0309 • robertvjewell@comcast.net

Arther Mance (Community Outreach) 810-394-3274 • arthermance@gmail.com

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

Kyle Root rootdown01@gmail.com

John Simpson (Neighborhood Watch Chair) 810-813-3335 • mottpark@gmail.com

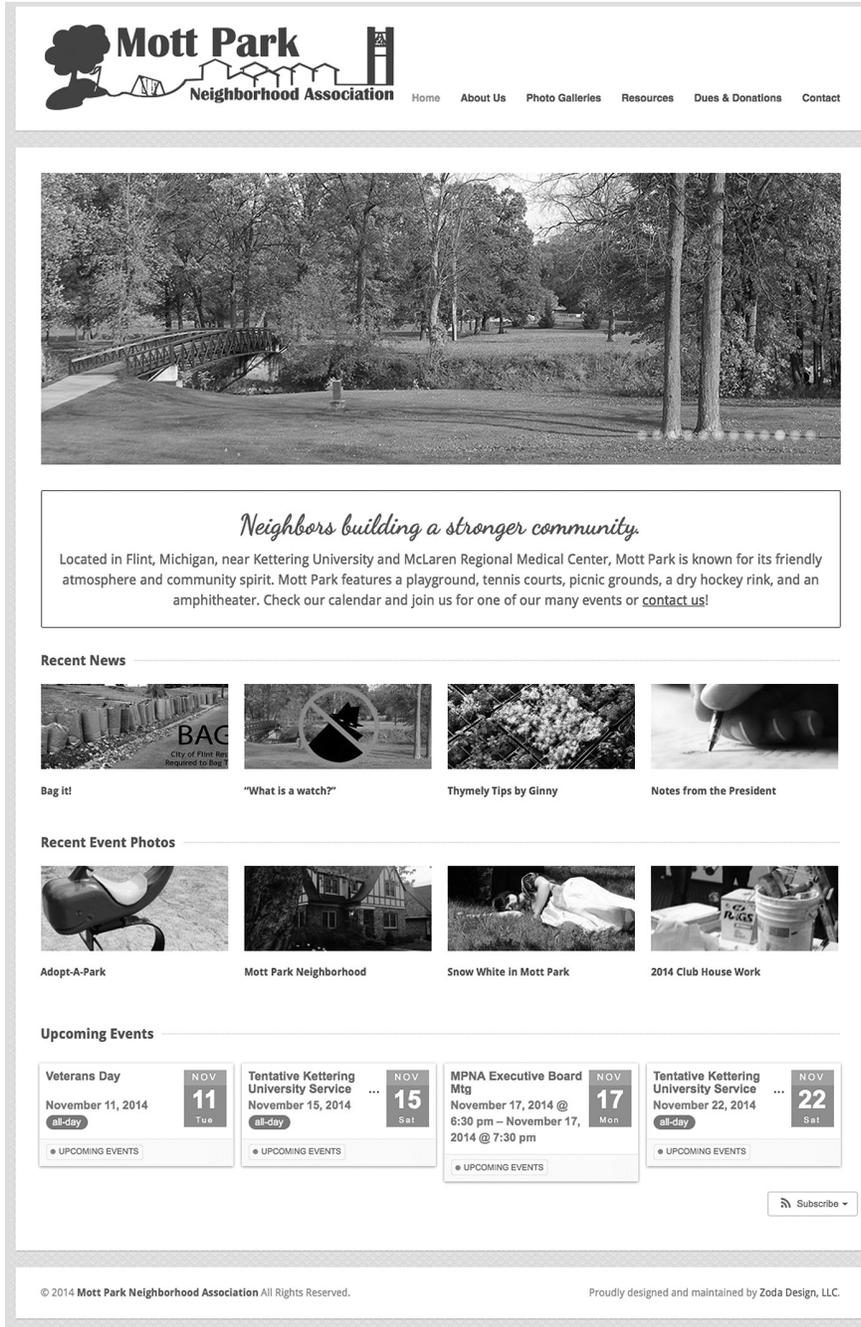
Nena Woodall (Neighborhood Park and Playground Chair / Facebook Manager) 810-241-1869 • norma32516@sbcglobal.net

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!

“Our new neighborhood website is as enjoyable as a walk in the park. Log on to **www.MottPark.org** and stay awhile”



Find what you want in just a click or two!

Includes:

- **About us** features the folks that help make up the Mott Park Neighborhood Association.
- **Recent news** gives you the latest updates on Mott Park.
- Photos of Mott Park and neighborhood events.
- **Resources:** view Mott Park Neighborhood News, calendar of events, etc.
- **Upcoming Events:** stay updated on neighborhood events and meetings. Also stay current on events surrounding Mott Park.
- **Dues and Donations** Mott Park Chronicles: A pictorial book of the neighborhood and reflections of neighbors who have lived and/or grown up here.



Have you paid your dues?

To vote on December 1st you must be a neighbor in good standing, which means that you have paid **2014 \$15 dues**. Everyone who lives in Mott Park is a member of the Mott Park Neighborhood Association - however for voting purposes the by-laws make this distinction. Feel free to pay before the meeting if you wish.

Oh, there's no place like home

21 events around Mott Park to make your Holiday season bright:

1. Flint Farmer's Market for fresh trimmings and holiday baked goods - Open all season.
2. December's theme is "Dreamtown" at the Flint Children's Museum. Check their online calendar for activities.
3. Christmas at Whaley House, Now throughout December.
4. *Holiday Railroad Village* at the Sloan Museum, Now - January 4
See a Dickens Village like you've never seen before! Let speeding miniature locomotives guide your eyes through this wee world. The winter landscape is packed with more than 200 miniature buildings, characters, and scenes.
5. Christmas at Crossroads Village, November 28 - December 29. Times vary
6. *Curious George: Let's Get Curious* at the Sloan Museum, Now - January 4. Times vary
Letting curiosity and inquiry be their guides, visitors explore familiar buildings and locales from the Curious George™ book series and television show on PBS KIDS in Curious George™: Let's Get Curious! The exhibit presents key concepts in science, math and engineering, which are woven and layered throughout the exhibit. Activities invite visitors to learn like George-through direct experience and problem solving!
7. *The Art of Video Games* at the Flint Institute of Art, Now - January 17.
8. Holiday Walk at the Flint Institute of Music Tuesday, December 2 at 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm.
9. *Pinocchio* by the Flint Youth Theater, December 3 - 22. Times vary
10. YMCA of Greater Flint 5K and 1 mile Santa Run/Walk, Downtown Flint, December 6 at 12 pm.
11. Flint Holiday Festival with parade, Downtown Flint, December 6 at 12 pm.
12. *Holiday of Hope* by the Genesee County Humane Society, December 6 at 10 am - 4 pm.
13. *Nutcracker Ballet* at the Whiting Auditorium, December 6 at 2 pm & 7:30 pm & December 7 at 4 pm.
14. *Saturday Walk in Crafts* at the Flint Public Library, December 6, 13, 20 at 12 pm.
15. Live Music, *The Cory Glover Trio* at Blackstone's Bar and Grill, December 12 at 8:30 pm.
16. *Clint Black* at the Whiting Auditorium, December 13 at 8:00 pm.
17. Holiday Pops at the Whiting Auditorium, December 20 at 7 pm & December 21 at 3 pm.

for the Holidays!

18. West Court Street Church of God's living nativity.

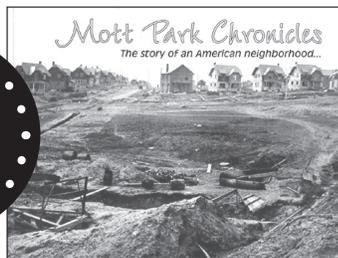
19. *This is the 70's* at the Whiting Auditorium, January 10 at 8 pm.

20. Flint Symphony Orchestra Classical Concert at the Whiting Auditorium, January 17 at 8 pm.

21. *Rhythmic Circus: Feet Don't Fail Me Now* at the Whiting Auditorium, January 25 at 3 pm.



Editor's note: Before attending any of these events, confirm the date and time with the venues.



Mott Park Chronicles takes you back to the construction of the first homes and re-lives the "personality" of Mott Park through the tales of past & present residents. You & your family will treasure this book!

Purchase your copy today for \$20.00. For more information contact Nada at 233-7608.

Top 12 decorating safety tips

December is the time of year for decorations! Here are suggestions to keep you & your family safe:

1. Never use lighted candles near trees, boughs, curtains/ drapes, or with any potentially flammable item.
2. When spraying artificial snow on windows or other surfaces, be sure to follow directions carefully. These sprays can irritate your lungs if you inhale them.
3. Small children and pets may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat, but many plants may be poisonous or can cause severe stomach problems. Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's and pet's reach.
4. When displaying a tree, cut off about two inches off the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly.
5. Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.
6. Avoid placing breakable tree ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower branches where small children or pets can reach them.
7. If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electric AL systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.
8. Only use indoor lights indoors (and outdoor lights only out doors). Look for the UL label. Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, and loose connections. Replace or repair any damaged light sets.
9. Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards, but do not run cords under rugs, around furniture legs or across doorways.
10. Turn off all lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Unplug extension cords when not in use.
11. If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered to avoid dry branches from catching fire from the heat of light bulbs.
12. When displaying outdoor lights, fasten them firmly to a secure support with insulated staples or hooks to avoid wind damage. Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow.

Source The National Safety Council

Thymely Tips by Ginny

Winter is almost upon us! Time to rest up, eat and gain weight. Yikes!! I guess shoveling snow helps a bit though.

There's not much to do once the leaves are taken care of. Actually, I use my leaves as mulch. I mow them up with a bagged mower and when the bag is full, I just dump them on my beds. They're shredded into small pieces by the mower and they eventually decay and help enrich the garden soil.

The other thing I do to some of my tender plants (rhododendrons, azaleas, daphne carol mackie and

some low growing evergreens that might get too much road salt) is spray them with an antidessicant like Wilt Pruf. This antidessicant forms a protective coating which holds in moisture on plant foliage reducing water loss caused by drying winds and frozen ground.

Late winter is also a good time to look at the shape of your trees - big and small. Trim off branches that touch each other or make the tree look off-kilter. When the leaves are on, it's harder to pick out the offending branches. Also suckers should be cut off the base of trees, especially basswoods and flowering crabs. Some other bushes like lilacs and burning bushes sometimes need shaping up a bit too.

The garden contest was not too successful. No one submitted any contenders for "prettiest garden" or "most improved." I had two in mind

- Steve West's house on Dickinson (always gorgeous) and 2526 Thomas (bought by an investor but he "REALLY" fixed it up inside and out). This is mostly my fault for not promoting the contest better. I promise to remind everyone on the new Mott Park website next year!

Thank goodness for gardening! I usually lose the weight I gained over the long winter. I guess I could go to the gym... Also, don't over water your house plants!! They get less sun in the winter and over watering will cause them to rot.

Any questions you can't solve on google, call me at 444-7566
- **Ginny Braun, Gardening Coordinator**

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Mott Park

“A Few Thoughts...”

continued from page 1

Andrew, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You on the behalf of all Mott Park residents, for your many years of excellent work as the editor of our informative, well-laid-out, eye-catching newsletter! It has been a pleasure working with you, and we all wish you much happiness in what the future holds for you and your family.

Also, Sandy McKellar, treasurer extraordinaire, has informed the executive committee that she too, will not be able to continue in her position as treasurer for Mott Park. I don't know how many of you know this, but Sandy was also the Events Planner/Coordinator for Mott Park. Those tents did not put themselves up by themselves for the picnics we held every year! Thanking you seems somehow inadequate, Sandy. Your presence will be greatly missed by all of us. You have been a tremendous asset to all of us who live here. Your dedication and commitment to “Mott Park being a wonderful place to live” has been nothing short of exemplary.

We have a terrific executive committee that are working very hard for all of us here in our neighborhood. Ginny Braun, Nena Woodall, Arther Mance just give their all to help make things better for us. Holly Shaker, our secretary, works like crazy trying to make certain that we are doing things “by the book”. She also updated and infused our blogspot with new life, and was instrumental in providing much of the content for our new website (not to mention that she has been my right arm!). Thank you, Holly Shaker! Rob Jewell has been trying to teach me the “ins-n-outs” of a neighborhood association, and I don't know how he puts up with me!

Thank you, Rob! Also, Chris Del Morone is out there, attending city council meetings, trying to keep all of us informed as to what is going on around town. Thank you Diana Phillips for the time you have been able to donate. For those of you who are not aware, there are two brilliant genies who have been donating their time and ability to make our park a better place. I'd like to take a moment in this newsletter to express to Denny Gardner and Tom Awad the gratitude that ALL OF US feel for what you guys have been doing down in the park itself. Wow! All of the equipment you have soldered, scraped, repaired, painted, replaced, the posts on the tennis courts - THANK YOU!

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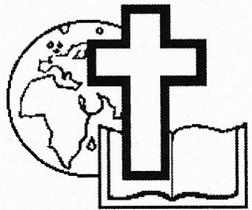
The children's equipment, the park benches - everything down there you guys - thank you. It's been an amazing transformation that has taken place, and it has been because of you two. Thank You All, from the bottom of our hearts!

Volunteering is a gift that makes an impact on many. Thank you, all who live in our wonderful neighborhood and who have been giving of yourselves in this way. It has made such a difference! For me, it has been an honor to serve in this capacity for Mott Park. Yours truly, **Nada**

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“Hello Mott Park friends and neighbors”

continued from page 2

- The treasurer will have to file an additional tax return each year. Fortunately our income qualifies us for the internet postcard filing, so it’s not too bad.
- The MPNA cannot ever present even the appearance of endorsing any political candidate. The organization will have to be entirely non-partisan. That doesn’t mean that YOU can’t have an opinion as a member – it just means that the ORGANIZATION can’t have a political opinion. Since we have always pretty much done this – it won’t be too bad either.

Identity theft: Yes, the MPNA did experience an identity theft. Someone (or “someones”) used our information to pay bills all over the county. Thanks to the diligence of a committee of your MPNA, along with a detective from the Flint Police Dept., all of the transactions (except 2 payments to Consumers Energy – and we’re still working on those) have been reversed and the money recovered. Special thanks to Holly Shaker and Nada Radakovich for their persistence in resolving this situation.

The shed: Some of you will remember that we received a grant to build a shed to store MPNA equipment and supplies a few years ago. Since that shed sits in my yard, it presents a problem when my house sells. Here is the solution that the Executive Board (Steering Committee) and I came up with: They have found other storage for the MPNA materials at the golf course and I have agreed to reimburse the cost to build the shed to the organization. MPNA still has secure storage for its materials and I can sell my property unencumbered.

Statements, records and archives: A closing financial statement for this year will be available at the first 2015 meeting. I will, of course, turn over the financial records to the new Treasurer and the rest of the archives (including a dozen or so boxes of The Mott Park Chronicles) to whomever the Board designates.

Goodbye: I just want to say that it has been a privilege to work for this fine organization. I have received far more than I have put into it. I am going to miss living here in Mott Park and, most of all, I will miss all of you.

- Sandra McKellar - MPNA Treasurer



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We want to extend a special THANK YOU to St. John Vianney Catholic and Calvary United Methodist churches. For years now both churches have opened their doors to us and made it possible for us to hold our MPNA meetings in their banquet/Parish halls! Thank you! Too, we would like to thank Kettering University for allowing us to hold our candidates forum in their lecture hall this past August!

A few years ago we made repeated complaints to Parks and Rec because the trash barrels in Mott Park were continually overflowing and no one was emptying them. They told us that due to budget cuts they had no manpower to empty them (they don't) and that the only solution was to remove the barrels. That didn't sound like an acceptable solution to us so the Barrel Brigade was born. Four to six Mott Park neighbors have each adopted a barrel for the season. They check the barrels weekly and take the trash home with them because Sanitation will only pick up trash in front of a house. The Association provides the bags. A huge thank you is due to each of these people for their effort in making Mott Park an nicer park. I would like to extend my personal thanks along with the gratitude of the neighborhood for a job well done. Many thanks are due to Edith Campbell, Massoud Tavakoli, Tom Awad and Jill Germand for doing this for the whole season. Thanks guys!! We will need an organizer for this project for the coming season as well as volunteers. If you would like to participate – please contact Nena Woodall at 241-1869 or norma32516@sbcglobal.net

A very special THANK YOU goes out to Blaise Bradley, Mike Gould, Cal Chase, Bob Knox, Dave Wilson and Joe Columbo for keeping the golf course mowed and maintained. The grounds look wonderful!

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Let's shine up Mott Park to show unity & welcome our holiday guests.

Display your luminaries on Christmas Eve or at your next Holiday gathering.

Did you? know

According to the City of Flint's Code of Ordinances:

(a) *Unsafe sidewalk or approach. Whenever any sidewalk or approach or portion of the same by reason of the surface defects, want of repair or any other reason, becomes dangerous or unsafe to persons passing along or upon the same or in such condition as to constitute a hazard to the safety of the public, the Director of Transportation shall be authorized to tear up and remove the dangerous and unsafe portions or cause the same to be done and to replace the portion with earth, gravel or cinders, or to make permanent repairs to the same as to render it safe for persons to pass along and upon the sidewalk or approach. The cost and expense of the work shall be charged against the owner, or agent or occupant of the subject property. The amount thereof may be recovered by the City in a suit brought for that purpose in a court of competent jurisdiction, or may be assessed against the subject property or premises in the manner provided in § 42-52.*

(b) *Prohibition. It shall be unlawful for any owner or occupant to permit snow, ice or slush to remain on any sidewalk in front of or adjacent to any building or lot longer than 24 hours after the same has fallen or formed.*

(c) *Penalty. Violation of subsection (b) hereof shall be a municipal civil infraction pursuant to §§ 1-10 through 1-21.*

*(Ord. 296, passed 5-9-1939; Ord. 2702, passed 3-26-1979; Ord. 3323, passed 2-12-1996; Ord. 3571, passed 6-9-2004)
Bookmark§ 42-47.1 DEPOSITING SNOW, ICE OR SLUSH ON SIDEWALK OR RIGHT-OF-WAY.*

It shall be unlawful for any person engaged in snow removal activity to deposit snow, ice or slush on any City sidewalk or in the right-of-way.

(Ord. 3193, passed 1-27-1992)



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“Thanks to Brian Barkey, a member of our board, we have a new lease agreement with the city of Flint”



But because of the high cost of returning the course to a usable golf facility, the city and the board have come to the conclusion that a “Multi Use Recreational Facility” will be

a better fit for the property. We have been looking into various uses which might include a disc golf course, a dog park, walking and running trails and a canoe/kayak/fishing area (on the river of course). We might also be able to fit in a driving range and a putting green. If you have any great ideas let us know. We want to thank all of you that have donated money to help us keep the course looking good and hope that you have been pleased with our efforts and we hope that you will continue to donate in the future.

We received a grant from the Flint Community Foundation which was used for daily mowing costs and new tires, but we can always use additional money for servicing the mower and any needed repairs.

We are a tax exempt organization and your donations would be tax deductible. You could send your donations to the Mott Park Public Golf Course Association c/o Diana Phillips, 510 Dougherty Place, Flint, MI 48504

One of these days I guess we’ll have to change the name of the association to reflect our new outlook. We’re in the process of adding security cameras (donated by Hurley) around the clubhouse and are looking into some type of shutters for the windows to keep them from being broken. Again any and all ideas will be considered, so let us know if something great comes to mind. The course is so beautiful with or without golf. We live in a beautiful place, don’t you think?!



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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.

Beanie Art

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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

State Representative Woodrow Stanley 888-966-3034
Woodrow-Stanley@house.michigan.gov

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

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

Council Sheldon Neeley
810-766-7418 ext. 3165
sneeley@cityofflint.com

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



Light up Mott Park!
Turn your porch lights on.

Until next time...

During the holiday season be sure to reflect on the good things in your life... family, friends and neighbors. Enjoy the sledding hill, cross country skiing and winter time walks. Mott Park is even more magical covered in snow! As always look out for your neighbors, especially those who can't get around as much in the colder weather. The next issue of the Mott Park Neighborhood News will be out in February 2015.

Contact us:

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