

FLINT

Our Community, Our Voice

FLINT NEIGHBORHOODS UNITED: Standing Together For Positive Change

Volume 16 Issue 1 January 2026

Flint's History Alphabet

By: *Michael R. Madden*

U is for University

The University of Michigan-Flint, formerly the Senior College, how it started in the College Cultural Center and then its move to the Riverfront.

Plans for a branch campus in Flint were very modest in 1954 when the Flint Board of Education passed a resolution asking the Regents of the University of Michigan to consider sponsoring third and fourth-year classes in Flint to complement courses offered at Flint Junior College.

The Flint Board of Education envisioned a branch of the Ann Arbor University that would allow area students to complete their college degrees without a lengthy commute to Ann Arbor. Flint was the largest urban area in Michigan without a four-year college in the 1940s, at a time when college attendance was rapidly growing.

In January, 1955, the Regents approved the plan for an experimental branch in Flint. The University was also considering additional branch campuses in the state, including Dearborn; Flint would be a test of the concept.

The University of Michigan in Flint would be called the Senior College and have a small faculty.

Then, in February, Charles Stewart Mott deeded 6.25 additional acres from the Applewood Estate to the Board of Education as a site for the Flint Campus. This was adjacent to the 30 acres he had given in 1952 for Flint Junior College.

Mott had also given \$1.45 million dollars to construct an Arts and Science building on the new junior college campus.

Next, the state legislature was asked for funding, and a bill was introduced in the State House Ways and Means Committee to appropriate \$37,000 (about \$450,000 in 2025) to fund the project.

Shepherded by Representative James J. Collins of Flint, the bill reached the floor of the State House on May 4th and passed unanimously. It was taken up by the State Senate, approved, and signed by Governor G. Mennen Williams on May 20th.

Plans were made, and third-year university classes were set to begin in September 1956 in Flint. The University stressed that the Flint program would be a 'quality' program and meet the same academic standards as offerings at the flagship campus in Ann Arbor.

Dr. David M. French was named the Dean of the Flint College of the University of Michigan on February 10, 1956. French, a Harvard graduate, Rhodes scholar, and formerly with the Bureau of International Organizations Affairs in the United States Department of State, was charged with recruiting faculty from Ann Arbor for the new program.

Many of those recruited made a lasting impact on the future University of Michigan-Flint, including William Murchie in biology; the Science Building on the later downtown campus was named after him.

Frank Richardson in foreign language, Joseph Firebaugh in English, Robert Schafer and Dorthea Wyatt in the history department, Alvin Loving in education, and Robert Cojeen in business administration were all founding faculty members who stayed and made their careers at U of M-Flint.

60 courses were to be offered in the first semester and over 200 applications for admission were received before August 1956.

The first year's classes were held in Flint Junior College buildings on the new campus on Court Street. This would change in 1957 when the Flint College of the University of Michigan would move into its own building, another gift from Charles Stewart Mott.

The Mott Memorial Building on the southwestern edge of what is now Mott Community College was built with a donation of one million dollars from Mr. Mott and was to house the 'senior college'. He requested that the building be named after his parents, John C. and Isabella T. Mott. The Flint College and Cultural Center Committee supplied \$200,000 for furniture and equipment.

The Mott Memorial Building, owned by the Flint Board of Education, served as the Flint Senior College's (University of Michigan-Flint) home.

Flint Junior College and the University of Michigan Senior College shared a library, the current Charles Stewart Mott Library, starting in 1961. The book collections were interfiled and available to students from both colleges.



As the university grew, so did the staff. The original plans for the Mott Memorial Building did not include room for staff offices, and soon neatly arranged trailers appeared on the lawn by the building. The Memorial Building also did not provide room for all of class offerings and space was rented at nearby Woodside Church and in Flint Junior College buildings.

In 1964, the Senior College began planning to evolve into a full-fledged four-year school and began offering freshman and sophomore classes in 1965. The need for additional space increased and the search for a new site in Flint began.

In 1971, a seventeen-acre site on East Court Street was proposed as the site of a new classroom-office building to house the growing University of Michigan-Flint. For many that seemed to be a short-term solution and would hamper any further expansion.

An alternative site was proposed, 42 acres in downtown Flint near the river that had been designated for urban renewal. There were objections to leaving the college cultural center area and to locating downtown; in the end, the "Riverfront Campus" option

was selected.



Mott Memorial Bldg.



Mott Library

See History, page 2

History, cont'd from page 3

FLINT



Editorial Board

Jane Richardson, Carma Lewis, Chris Frye,
Lucille James

Layout and Design

Christopher Frye
cfrye31@comcast.net
fnucommunications@gmail.com

Letters, Email & Telephone

FLINT Our Community Our Voice
3216 M.L. King Ave.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 348-5332
jrmjrichardson@sbcglobal.net
fnucommunications@gmail.com

FOCOV

Published monthly the first week of the month

Subscription Rates

\$20 year (12 issues, includes postage)

Follow Flint Neighborhoods United on
the web at
www.flintneighborhoodsunited.org/
and on Facebook at
[https://www.facebook.com/
FlintNeighborhoodsUnited](https://www.facebook.com/FlintNeighborhoodsUnited)
Flint: Our Community, Our Voice at
www.focov.org

Editorial Policy This newspaper is the voice of our neighborhoods. We will share the views of our neighbors, groups and leaders for your evaluation and edification. We welcome articles from any community member. We also reserve the right to refuse articles. While we welcome your contributions, we ask that they be constructive. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of our community and its residents. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of our views of Our Community. We look forward to hearing from you.

FLINT Our Community Our Voice
You may also email your information to
jrmjrichardson@sbcglobal.net, or
fnucommunications@gmail.com

Thank You in Advance FOCOV Staff of Volunteers

The placement of any political or other advertisement in FOCOV does not indicate nor imply an endorsement of any candidate, service or product whatsoever.

The editors of *Flint: Our Community, Our Voice* welcome opinion pieces from our readers. Be aware that we reserve the right to edit them, or suggest revisions. We also reserve the right to not consider them suitable for publication.

The Power of "Positude"

By: Sylvia Pittman

A new year.

We survived the holiday season, we look forward to the year to come.

The darkness of fear threatened to overwhelm us. The light of Positude undergirded us with hope. So we boldly declare we believe in dreams. That one day we will awaken to the possibility of unity.



Attitude is everything!

Faithtude helps us to go forth.

Feartude places shackles on our feet.

Joytude inspires us.

Sorrowtude drains us.

A Darktude causes us to stumble.

A Lightude causes us to dance.

May the new year be filled with the Power of Positude!

Be well my beloved friends.

Always Agape,

Sylvia

Elder Sylvia Pittman holds a B.M. Degree (education) from Northern Michigan University; A M.M. Degree (performance) from the University of Michigan. Sylvia has over 18 years experience teaching private voice, public schools and directing choirs. She performs vocal styles from jazz to opera, works as a vocal coach for recording artists and is greatly sought as a studio musician. Sylvia is Music Director at Asbury Church, Davison Road, Flint.

Editor's note:

We did not receive a new Positude message from our good friend, Sylvia Pittman, in time for insertion into this edition of FOCOV

With that in mind, we reached back into the archives for this inspiring message from January, 2021

Flint Neighborhoods United

Flint Neighborhoods United is a coalition of block clubs, neighborhood associations, neighborhood watch 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.

Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month 9:30 - 11:30am at the Flint Public Library 1026 E. Kearsley St. Flint, MI 48503

fnucommunications@gmail.com
flintneighborhoodsunited.org

History: cont'd from page 1

Plans for the University did not include retention of any of the existing structures and saw the vacation of the original streets within the area. The University would truly remake the area, erasing the first settled area of Flint.



V is for Paul Vasquez

Paul Vasquez, labor representative, politician, and activist, was the first Hispanic/Latino elected to the Flint City Council.

Paul was second-generation American; his grandfather had emigrated from Mexico to Texas in 1918.

Paul Vasquez was born in San Antonio, Texas, but grew up in Michigan. The Vasquez family worked in migrant camps in Northern and Western Michigan before they settled in Flint.

Paul Vasquez graduated from Flint Northwestern High School and went on to attend Mott Community College.



He transferred to the University of Michigan-Flint, from where he graduated. He served in the United States Army and the Michigan National Guard.

Like many in the Flint area, he worked for General Motors and joined the United Auto Workers. Vasquez married Elodia 'Gloria' Soto, on February 16, 1974. He was very involved in his church, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and in the wider Hispanic community.

He entered politics with two unsuccessful attempts at the Board of Mott Community College in 1977 and 1979. Despite the disappointing results he continued to seek political office and in 1983 announced his run for Flint City Council for the fourth ward.

Vasquez won the primary and the endorsement of the Flint Journal in October 1983. His campaign stressed that he was an hourly General Motors production worker, an ordinary citizen concerned about the neighborhoods in the fourth ward. He won the November General Election polling 2,403 votes to Earl Emerson's 1,636, becoming the first Hispanic elected to the Flint City Council

He ran for reelection in 1985, again with the endorsement of the local paper. His victory for his second term was impressive; Vasquez garnered 1,133 votes to his opponent's, James Grondin, receiving only 327 votes.

A notable achievement during his second term was the successful initiative to rename the I-475 service drive section of Lewis Street as Cesar Chavez Drive in honor of the farm labor and civil rights leader, Cesar Chavez.

See History, page 6



FCS Board of Education president. “Strong, intentional partnerships — with local businesses, colleges, nonprofits and cultural institutions — expand our learning ecosystem far beyond the classroom.”

Demolition of the two schools, located on Crapo Street next to the Flint Cultural Center, is scheduled for early next year. Demolition and design work are expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

Plans for New School on the Flint Central Campus

Mott Foundation Provides More than \$5 Million to Support Design Work and Demolition for Flint High School Site

Through a fund the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation established at the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, more than \$5.3 million will be awarded to support planning and development for a new Flint Community Schools high school.

The funding will support demolition of the former Flint Central High School and Whittier Classical Academy, while preserving select architectural elements of the buildings for reuse and advancing design development for the site of a new high school.

“We’re excited that FCS has crafted a vision for how to bring the former Central campus back to life,” said Ridgway White, president and CEO of the Mott Foundation. “FCS leaders and the board of education are working alongside the community to create a welcoming and vibrant space that Flint kids and families deserve. The Mott Foundation is pleased to support the project as we all work together to help Flint kids thrive.”



The Mott Foundation previously granted \$750,000 to FCS to support community engagement and the first phase of design work.

“As we build the new high school, we are building more than a facility. We are building a future for Flint’s scholars. Our instructional vision is rooted in innovation, career pathways, opportunity and purpose,” said FCS Superintendent Kevelin Jones. “Every space, every program and every partnership will be designed to prepare our scholars not just for graduation, but for greatness, equipping them with the skills, confidence and curiosity to lead in the careers and communities of tomorrow.”

Community engagement sessions with neighborhood groups have been ongoing over the past several months, and FCS leaders hope to continue conversations throughout the rest of the year.

“Our community is the co-creator of this new high school. When educators, families, students, residents and local partners shape the vision together, the school truly becomes a space that belongs to everyone,” said Joycel Ellis-McNeal, →

As reported by Faud Shalhout of MLive/Flint Journal, ten Flint residents spoke publicly at the Flint Community Schools Board of Education meeting on December 17, asking the board to reconsider an approved conceptual plan for the new high school on the Flint Central campus in favor of one that prioritizes preservation of unique elements of the original structure.

Ezekiel Harris, a Flint resident who said he’s a parent of two and eventually three Flint Community Schools students, told the board that preserving as much of Central’s unique architecture as possible should be a priority.

“This is our only real chance to preserve a historic building that defines Flint’s identity,” Harris said. “Once it’s gone, you can’t get it back. So many schools build new schools that all look the same. Central gives Flint something unique, something no other district can replicate. Scenario one sends a clear message to our students, your history matters, your city matters, and you are worth this investment.”

The board had previously approved a plan (as noted above) for a new high school at a special meeting on December 3. That plan preserved an iconic tower that is part of the original Flint Central design, but much of the other historic elements would be replaced.

While it is not clear at this point what the final plan for the school will be, it is clear that citizen input will be a larger part of the equation.

**Thank you to our Benefactors
Who help us bring this publication to you.**



Ruth Mott Foundation



NARTEL FAMILY
FOUNDATION
www.NartelFamilyFoundation.org



Community Foundation
Greater Flint

For good. For ever.
For everyone.



Martin Luther King, Jr Day of Service January 19, 2026 9:00am - 1:00pm Dort Event Center 3501 Lapeer Road-Flint

Dr. King believed that many social ills could be defeated through citizen service.

Recognizing that 1 in 5 Genesee County families deal with hunger, we are setting out to combat this by engaging neighbors to help neighbors.

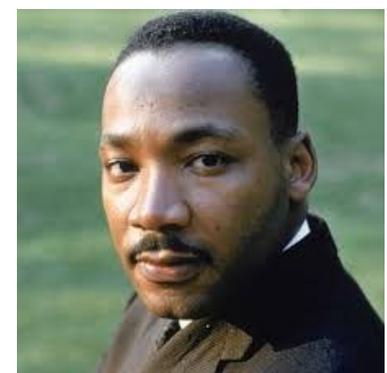
Please join us for a day *ON* rather than a day off on Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

We will be packing 200,000 meals to provide to local Genesee County residents who are experiencing food insecurity.

No experience needed and all ages can participate - great for kids (ages 5+).

Registration is required for each volunteer

- ◆ Volunteers should be between the ages of 5 & 101
- ◆ Is Family Friendly
- ◆ Register by January 16, 2026
- ◆ INDOORS
- ◆ Is wheelchair accessible
- ◆ Families encouraged
- ◆ Lunch included



*“Everybody can be great...
because anybody can serve.”*
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Image: Freepik

How Local Businesses Can Adapt to Economic Shifts Through Practical Action and Community-Centered Strategy

By: Patrick Young

Local businesses—from bakeries and barbershops to HVAC companies and childcare centers—sit closest to the real-time pulse of economic change. Whether shifts come from inflation, supply chain unpredictability, hiring swings, or new customer behaviors, owners often feel them first and have the least wiggle room. But those same businesses also hold a unique advantage: proximity to people. That closeness creates agility, feedback loops, and community influence that larger corporations can't replicate.

Summary

Small, local, and service-driven companies stay competitive during economic disruption when they double down on clarity—understanding where revenue comes from, how customer needs are shifting, which expenses matter most, and how to strengthen the community relationships that keep demand resilient.

What's Changing in Your Market? (and, How to Stay Ahead.)

Economic shifts rarely happen in isolation. Rising material costs, interest rate changes, or transitions in local employment all ripple through small businesses. Many owners instinctively react by cutting back—but adaptation works better than contraction.

Economic Change	Business Impact	Adaptive Response
Higher supply costs	Margin compression	Introduce tiered pricing , renegotiate vendor terms
Slower foot traffic	Declining weekly revenue	Add micro-offers, curbside pickup, or mobile service
Hiring difficulty	Labor shortages	Flexible scheduling, cross-training, local talent partnerships
Customer uncertainty	Lower discretionary spending	Loyalty incentives, community events, subscription-style packages

Local Business Stability Checklist

- ⇒ Review 90 days of expenses and rank items as essential, variable, or deferrable.
- ⇒ Identify your top 3 revenue drivers and analyze how each is affected by current conditions.
- ⇒ Refresh customer communication: post weekly updates, clarify hours, and highlight deals.



- ⇒ Strengthen one community partnership (school, nonprofit, neighboring business).
- ⇒ Create or [update a "slow season" plan](#)—service bundles, seasonal promos, or prepay packages.
- ⇒ Revisit pricing using simple cost-plus logic, not fear-based decisions.
- ⇒ Document what customers ask most often and turn those into marketing topics or FAQs.

Fast, Community-Focused Tactics You Can Use Today

Local economic resilience improves dramatically when businesses collaborate rather than compete in isolation. Here's a fast-moving list of actions owners can deploy without much overhead:

- Host a shared pop-up event with another business (coffee shop + florist = easy win).
- Swap customer reach—each business promotes the other for a week.
- [Use neighborhood Facebook groups](#) or local newsletters to surface customer needs.
- Move one service outdoors or offsite to increase visibility in high-traffic areas.
- Build a "local perks" card for loyal customers and partnering shops.

These small collaborations consistently lead to higher foot traffic and stronger customer loyalty during uncertain periods.

Sharpening Leadership Skills With a Business Degree

As markets evolve, local businesses often gain the most stability from leaders who deeply understand financial management, operational efficiency, and organizational strategy. Some owners invest in continued education—sometimes through short workshops and sometimes through [getting a business administration bachelor's](#) degree. These programs help owners strengthen their ability to interpret market signals, evaluate opportunities, and pivot confidently when conditions shift.

A Simple Framework for Adapting Your Business

1A structured mini-process helps owners shift from reaction to direction.

1. **Define what's changed** Write down the top two [economic pressures affecting your business](#) (e.g., cost spikes, customer slowdown).
2. **Identify exposure points** For each pressure, list where your business feels it most—inventory, staffing, marketing, supply chain, pricing.
3. **Set one adaptive move per exposure** Examples: renegotiate supplier minimums, introduce service tiers, adjust hours, or add a lower-cost product.
4. **Run a simple forecast** Estimate the effect of each adjustment on revenue and workload.

5. **Communicate early** Tell customers what's changing and why. Transparency builds trust—and trust maintains demand.
6. **Review weekly** Adjust quickly. Small corrections compound faster than major overhauls.

FAQs

Q1: Should I raise prices during economic uncertainty?

Yes—when costs rise, price adjustments are normal. Communicate clearly, offer value tiers, and consider [loyalty rewards to keep longtime customers comfortable](#).

Q2: How do I maintain customer loyalty when budgets are tight?

Provide smaller, lower-commitment options (mini services, starter bundles, punch cards) and increase communication. People stay loyal to businesses that feel human and consistent.

Q3: What if my suppliers won't negotiate?

Explore alternatives: local vendors, co-op purchasing with nearby businesses, or reducing minimum order sizes. Many suppliers will negotiate once they see you're evaluating options.

Q4: Is it worth investing in marketing right now?

Yes—visibility declines quickly in slow periods. Focus on low-cost channels: email, partnerships, community events, and Google Business Profile updates.

Conclusion

Local businesses thrive during economic shifts when they stay close to customers, communicate proactively, and make decisions based on real financial clarity rather than pressure or guesswork. Community relationships—combined with lean, adaptive operations—create stability even in volatile periods. With the right structure, partnerships, and leadership development, local owners can turn economic uncertainty into a season of growth and renewed neighborhood support.





Gloria Coles Flint Public Library Welcomes You to the New Year!

By: *Symantha Foreman*

As we conclude our holiday cheer of December, we would like to extend our invitation to continue to stay warm and healthy to all for this new year! At the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library, we strive to curate events for all ages year 'round to bring library joy to the hearts of our patrons. Library staff invite all to come by, stay warm, and check out the next quarter of programs we have available.

Our annual **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Event** is Saturday, January 17th, and the theme is "Mission Possible II: Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way." All are welcome to come enjoy music and celebrate MLK's life and teachings together.

Have some New Year's resolutions you want to start getting into? We have **Yoga with Black Amor** available to help you stay accountable *and* flexible. Looking to try something new? We have a **Junk Journaling** program and **Hang Out & Hobby** to meet up with different hobbyists to talk shop and work on projects together and meet like-minded individuals.

For the children in our lives we have a **Mindfulness series with Ms. Amy from MSU Extension** where kids can decompress after school with some mindfulness practices. There is a new **Homeschool Group** program where all ages are welcome for homeschoolers to come and enjoy activities together. **Kid's Favorite Book Club** meets on the last Friday of the month to discuss the book *Futureland: The Nightmare Hour* by H.D. Hunter. And just as a reminder: our ongoing events in the children's area is the **Children's Book Council** voting display, where we need your help to promote *your* favorite books to others! Also come by and enjoy an after-school meal with others during **Meet Up & Eat Up** from 4:00-5:30pm Tuesday-Friday.

For our teens, we have a plethora of events, including **Teen Movie Night** featuring *The Bad Guys* →



and a separate **Game Night**, where teens can try our computer games, video games, and board games! We always encourage our teens to be involved in the **Teen Advisory Board** to help our Teen Librarian curate what programs teens would like to see here in the library.

For adult readers, we are still going strong with our **Black Life & Literature Book Club**, **Fiction Only Book Club**, and **Silent Book Club** groups that meet monthly. We also have the **Flint Community Read** that kicked off at the beginning of November, and folks are still welcome to be a part of the monthly conversations via Zoom or in person at GCFPL. The book we're discussing is *Hood Feminism: Notes from Women That a Movement Forgot* by Mikki Kendall. Interested in picking up a copy? We have copies available at our main desk on the first floor, where you can register and catch up for our next discussion either this month on January 3rd, or for February 7th! These books are available first come, first serve thanks to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and Arts Clinic.

Coming up in the beginning of February, we are happy to welcome back **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** on Saturdays, starting February 7th. VITA volunteers provide income tax assistance to those with low to moderate income filing 2025 tax returns. Registration starts at 9AM and ends when slots are full.

As always, all events listed are available digitally on the online calendar through www.fpl.info/events. Please be aware that some events do require registration below. (notated with *)

- 1/3- **Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting**, 9:30am
- 1/3 – **Friends Book Drop Off**, 10:00am-Noon
- 1/3- **Community Reads Zoom Room**, 11:00am
- 1/3 – **El Ballet Folklorico**, 2:00pm
- 1/5 - **Executive Director Interviews**, 5:30pm
- 1/6 – **Executive Director Interviews**, 5:30pm
- 1/6 - **Positive Parenting 2.1-Mothers of Joy**, 6:00pm
- 1/7 - **Time Travel Club**, Noon
- 1/7 – **Lego Club**, 4:30pm
- 1/8 – **Rough Draft Café Community Writing Center**, 2:00pm
- 1/8 – **Mindfulness Series with Amy from MSU Extension**, 4:00pm
- 1/8 – **Empower Your Health-Becoming a Better You**, 5:30pm
- 1/8 - **Teen Lounge- Teen Advisory Board/ Karaoke**, 5:30pm
- 1/8 - **FPL Board Regular Meeting**, 5:30pm
- 1/8 - **Thursdays with For-Mar**, 6:30pm
- 1/9 - **Toddler Time**, 10:00am
- 1/10 -**MoMCo- Mothers of Joy Institute**, 9:00am
- 1/10 -**Flint Parent Collaborative Resource Fair**, 10:00am
- 1/10- **Super Saturday**, Noon
- 1/10- **Black Life & Literature Book Club**, 1:00pm

- 1/10- **Next Gen Pen: 1st Ward Project** 2:00pm
- 1/13- **Homeschool Group**, 12:30pm
- 1/13- **Teen Writers Workshop** 4:30pm
- 1/13- **Friends of the Library Board Meeting**, 5:30pm
- 1/14- **Lego Club**, 4:30pm
- 1/15- **Rough Draft Café Community Writing Center**, 2:00pm
- 1/15- **Mindfulness Series with Amy from MSU Extension**, 4:00pm
- 1/15- **Teen Lounge-Line Dancing**, 5:30pm
- 1/15- **Hang Out & Hobby**, 6:30pm
- 1/16- **Silent Book Club**, 10:00am
- 1/17- **Little Explorers**, 10:30am
- 1/17- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Event**, Noon
- 1/17- **Teen Movie-The Bad Guys**, 3:00pm
- 1/20- **Positive Parenting 2.1 – Mothers of Joy**, 6:00pm
- 1/21- **Fiction Only Book Club**, Noon
- 1/21- **Lego Club**, 4:30pm
- 1/22- **Rough Draft Café Community Writing Center**, 2:00pm
- 1/22- **Mindfulness Series with Amy from MSU Extension**, 4:00pm
- 1/22- **Teen Lounge-Game Night**, 5:30pm
- 1/22 -**FPL Finance Committee Meeting**, 5:30pm
- 1/22 -**Thursdays with For-Mar**, 6:30pm
- 1/23 -**Toddler Time**, 10:00am
- 1/24- **MoMCo- Mothers of Joy Institute**, 9:00am
- 1/24- **Yoga with Black Amor-Yoga & Life**, 11:00am
- 1/27- **Homeschool Group**, 12:30pm
- 1/27- **Teen Writers Workshop** 4:30pm
- 1/28- **Lego Club**, 4:30pm
- 1/28 - ***Junk Journaling**, 6:00pm
- 1/29- **Rough Draft Café Community Writing Center**, 2:00pm
- 1/29 - **Mindfulness Series with Amy from MSU Extension**, 4:00pm
- 1/29 - **Teen Lounge-Craft Night**, 5:30pm
- 1/30 – **Kids' Favorite Book Club**, 4:00pm
- 1/31 -**Yoga with Black Amor-Yoga & Life**, 11:00am
- 1/31 - **Super Saturday**, Noon
- 1/31 - **Sensory Inclusive Magic Show w/Kevin Spencer brought to you by the FIM**, 1:00pm
- 2/3 - **Positive Parenting 2.1-Mothers of Joy**, 6:00pm
- 2/4 - **Time Travel Club**, Noon
- 2/4 - **Lego Club**, 4:30pm
- 2/4 - **Storytime Yoga**, 5:30pm

Registration is required for some events. (Marked with *) Please visit our website for more information and to sign up. www.fpl.info

Online Calendar

Our Website calendar features the most current information about library programs. Please visit www.fpl.info for more information and a complete event listing.



Flint was believed to be the first in the nation to have named a roadway in honor of Chavez.

In 1986 Vasquez was robbed. When he chased his assailants, they shot at him. Forty minutes afterward, he was in an automobile crash when he fell asleep at the wheel after drinking. He denied being drunk but acknowledged to having an alcohol problem.

The poor press coverage after the accident and the negative reaction from people who were upset about naming a street after Cesar Chavez were enough to cost Vasquez the next election in 1987.

He was defeated by Flint attorney Frank Yiannatji and lost his seat on the City Council.

Two latter forays into the political arena also ended in defeat; he ran for the County Board of Commissioners in 1988 and faced off again against Yiannatji for City Council in 1989.

Vasquez found that working with the United Auto Workers, the United Farm Workers, and the AFL-CIO allowed him to make a positive contribution to those who were struggling to make a living.

He became a full-time representative for the AFL-CIO and worked in Florida.

He was promoted to Senior Field Representative in the Southwest Region and relocated to his native Texas.

Vasquez became ill and died of cancer at the young age of 56 on April 12, 2009, in Austin, Texas.

“Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. **Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.**”

“If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of convenience and comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



First Two Bills Authored by Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet Signed into Law

By: Tom Grandon

President Trump recently signed the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA), which included two bills authored by Congresswoman Kristen McDonald Rivet.

These are her first two bills to be signed into law.

The bills support local economies, jobs, and public safety throughout the Great Lakes, and accelerate the clean-up of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at and surrounding military sites across the country.



The NDAA also includes a [provision authored by Congresswoman McDonald Rivet](#) requiring the U.S. Coast Guard to study the impact of reduced search-and-rescue operations at Coast Guard Station Saginaw River and other stations following the elimination of 24/7 operations last year.

“I made a promise to my constituents that I’d work to pass common-sense policy to make our communities stronger. We’ve brought Republicans and Democrats together around two important solutions for mid-Michigan,” said **Congresswoman McDonald Rivet**. “These bills will protect the Great Lakes, as well as the economy and jobs that rely on it, and clean up forever chemical pollution on and around military bases.”

Congresswoman McDonald Rivet’s legislation included in the NDAA is as follows:

[The Great Lakes Icebreaker Act of 2025](#) instructs the Coast Guard to develop a plan to design and build a new icebreaker for the Great Lakes and analyze the effectiveness of the current icebreaking fleet.

[The Military PFAS Transparency Act](#) requires the U.S. Department of Defense to commit to more efficient cleanup strategies for PFAS and to create a public dashboard to display updated cleanup data, funding, timelines, and community points of contact.

In addition to her efforts to pass these pieces of legislation, Congresswoman McDonald Rivet is a member of the bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force and a co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional PFAS Task Force.

Chessfrog Farms

By: Marcus Brown

Some think that a gardener's life is easy. Tip-toeing through the tulips and smelling roses, only working in spring and summer, and making their own schedule. The most successful ones use this fallow winter time to plan, innovate, network, and learn. This “lazy time” of year for gardeners, farmers, and other adventurers in agriculture, but this is actually the time for repairing and reflecting on what worked and what needs improvement.

-Right now, we at Chessfrog Farms are placing orders for replacement and new fruit trees. Most counties in Michigan have spring tree and plant sales, but orders have to be placed soon for spring planting. You can also contact local nurseries to reserve specialty plants and ensure availability. i.e. Finding pomegranate or pecans that can survive in Michigan.

-With cold weather, fellow beekeepers should have already treated varroa mites and ensured their hives are insulated from extreme cold and protected from shelter-seeking rodents. A cheap stethoscope and a moment at your hives can tell you if they are buzzing and generating heat in the hive. If possible or feasible, and preferably on a warm winter day, check to see if the sugar, syrup, or whatever winter nutrition you provided is still in good supply.

-Mapping out planting for spring and making sure tools and supplies are ready should be added to the winter checklist. If you broke that shovel, replace it. Gas-powered equipment may need to have gas drained and battery disconnected; they need to be stored and covered so that when they are needed, hours or days are not wasted with costly tune-ups and repairs.

-Staff on winter hiatus need to be contacted to ensure available workers in spring. I give holiday bonuses and make sure they know they are appreciated, even if I have no work for them currently.

-Using social media to communicate with fellow gardeners and share ideas and successes is not a waste of time. The Genesee Master Gardeners and Michigan State University Extension are great and mostly free resources to get advice and news on many agricultural endeavours.



Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: His Meaning to Us, the Latinx Community, and Our Work

By: Jose Lopez

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy continues to guide the mission and values of the Latinx Technology and Community Center (LTCC). His unwavering commitment to justice, dignity, and economic equality aligns deeply with our organization's work to empower individuals, strengthen families, and uplift neighborhoods. For the Latinx community, Dr. King's life and leadership remind us that lasting change is achieved through unity, service, and purposeful action.

Dr. King believed that civil rights and economic opportunity are inseparable. He understood that true equality requires access to education, meaningful employment, healthcare, and safe, thriving communities. This belief reflects the holistic approach of LTCC, which provides workforce development, health and family services, technology access, and community revitalization efforts designed to remove barriers and expand opportunity.

At LTCC, empowerment extends beyond employment. Our work focuses on restoring dignity, building stability, and investing in people and neighborhoods. Dr. King's advocacy for workers' rights, fair wages, and economic justice echoes in our efforts to support economic mobility, access to resources, and pathways to self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Dr. King also emphasized the importance of strong, connected communities. His vision of justice included safe neighborhoods, shared responsibility, and collective care. This principle is reflected in LTCC's neighborhood improvement initiatives, community clean-ups, and resident engagement efforts that promote pride, safety, and collaboration. These actions embody Dr. King's belief that meaningful change begins at the local level.

For the Latinx community, Dr. King's message of nonviolence, solidarity, and coalition-building continues to resonate. His leadership encourages Black, Brown, and allied communities to stand together, recognizing that our struggles for equity, respect, and opportunity are deeply interconnected. At LTCC, this spirit of unity is reflected in our partnerships with residents, organizations, and community stakeholders working collectively toward shared goals.

Dr. King's legacy also challenges us to lead with compassion, courage, and accountability. He reminded us that service to others is a moral responsibility and that progress requires sustained commitment. This principle guides LTCC's culturally responsive

services, community-centered programs, and dedication to honoring the identities and lived experiences of those we serve.

As we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we reaffirm our commitment to carrying his vision forward through action. His dream calls us to continue advocating for justice, expanding access to opportunity, and investing in the strength and potential of our community.

For LTCC and the Latinx community, Dr. King's legacy is not only remembered—it is reflected in our work, our partnerships, and our ongoing pursuit of equity and collective progress.

Honorando al Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Su Significado para Nosotros, la Comunidad Latinx y Nuestro Trabajo

Por: Jose Lopez

El legado del Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. continúa guiando la misión y los valores del Centro Latino de Tecnología y Comunidad (LTCC). Su compromiso inquebrantable con la justicia, la dignidad y la igualdad económica se alinea profundamente con el trabajo de nuestra organización para empoderar a las personas, fortalecer a las familias y elevar a los vecindarios. Para la comunidad Latinx, la vida y el liderazgo del Dr. King nos recuerdan que el cambio duradero se logra a través de la unidad, el servicio y la acción con propósito.

El Dr. King creía que los derechos civiles y la oportunidad económica son inseparables. Entendía que la verdadera igualdad requiere acceso a la educación, empleos dignos, atención médica y comunidades seguras y prósperas. Esta creencia refleja el enfoque integral de LTCC, que ofrece desarrollo de la fuerza laboral, servicios de salud y familia, acceso a la tecnología y esfuerzos de revitalización comunitaria diseñados para eliminar barreras y ampliar oportunidades.

En LTCC, el empoderamiento va más allá del empleo. Nuestro trabajo se centra en restaurar la dignidad, construir estabilidad e invertir en las personas y en los vecindarios. La defensa del Dr. King por los derechos de los trabajadores, salarios justos y justicia económica se refleja en nuestros esfuerzos por apoyar la movilidad económica, el acceso a recursos y los caminos hacia la autosuficiencia para individuos y familias.

En LTCC, el empoderamiento va más allá del empleo. Nuestro trabajo se centra en restaurar la dignidad, construir estabilidad e invertir en las personas y en los vecindarios.



La defensa del Dr. King por los derechos de los trabajadores, salarios justos y justicia económica se refleja en nuestros esfuerzos por apoyar la movilidad económica, el acceso a recursos y los caminos hacia la autosuficiencia para individuos y familias.

El Dr. King también enfatizó la importancia de comunidades fuertes y conectadas. Su visión de justicia incluía vecindarios seguros, responsabilidad compartida y cuidado colectivo. Este principio se refleja en las iniciativas de mejora comunitaria de LTCC, las jornadas de limpieza y los esfuerzos de participación vecinal que fomentan el orgullo, la seguridad y la colaboración. Estas acciones encarnan la creencia del Dr. King de que el cambio significativo comienza a nivel local.

Para la comunidad Latinx, el mensaje del Dr. King de no violencia, solidaridad y construcción de alianzas sigue teniendo un profundo impacto. Su liderazgo alienta a las comunidades negras, latinas y aliadas a unirse, reconociendo que nuestras luchas por la equidad, el respeto y la oportunidad están profundamente interconectadas. En LTCC, este espíritu de unidad se refleja en nuestras alianzas con residentes, organizaciones y actores comunitarios que trabajan juntos hacia objetivos compartidos.

El legado del Dr. King también nos desafía a liderar con compasión, valentía y responsabilidad. Nos recordó que servir a los demás es una responsabilidad moral y que el progreso requiere un compromiso sostenido. Este principio guía los servicios culturalmente responsables de LTCC, los programas centrados en la comunidad y nuestra dedicación a honrar las identidades y experiencias vividas de quienes servimos.

Al honrar al Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., reafirmamos nuestro compromiso de llevar su visión adelante mediante la acción. Su sueño nos llama a seguir defendiendo la justicia, ampliar el acceso a oportunidades e invertir en la fortaleza y el potencial de nuestra comunidad. Para LTCC y la comunidad Latinx, el legado del Dr. King no solo se recuerda, sino que se vive a través de nuestro trabajo, nuestras alianzas y nuestra búsqueda continua de la equidad y el progreso colectivo.



Latinx Technology and Community Center Reflects on a Year of Impact in 2025, Sets Vision for a Prosperous New Year

By: Jose Lopez

The Latinx Technology and Community Center (LTCC) closed out 2025 with significant accomplishments that highlight its continued commitment to workforce advancement, neighborhood revitalization, and community well-being. Through the collective efforts of its Workforce and Economic Development Department and allied service areas, LTCC served as a cornerstone for opportunity, stability, and growth across the community.

Over the course of the year, LTCC welcomed 3,732 visitors, demonstrating strong and consistent community engagement. Residents relied on the Center for a wide range of services, including employment support, economic development resources, health and family assistance, and neighborhood improvement initiatives. This level of participation reflects both growing community trust and the Center's expanding reach.

The Workforce and Economic Development Department served 171 individuals in 2025, offering job readiness training, employment navigation, skill development, and economic empowerment services. These efforts were designed to help participants overcome employment barriers, strengthen career pathways, and build long-term financial stability. By centering culturally responsive programming and practical workforce solutions, the department played

a critical role in supporting both individual success and local economic growth.

LTCC's Health and Family Services supported 233 individuals, ensuring families had access to essential resources that promote stability, resilience, and overall quality of life.

These services complemented workforce initiatives by addressing the broader social and economic factors that impact employment and household well-being.

Neighborhood improvement remained a major focus throughout the year. LTCC coordinated the maintenance of 421 parcels and 26 expressway ramps, contributing to cleaner, safer, and more welcoming environments. These efforts helped reduce blight, improve public safety, and foster a renewed sense of pride among residents.

Community engagement was further strengthened through seven neighborhood clean-up events, which brought together 92 participants. These events not only improved physical spaces but also encouraged civic involvement, collaboration, and shared responsibility for neighborhood care.

"As we reflect on the impact of 2025, the numbers represent more than statistics," said a representative from the Workforce and Economic Development Department. "They represent people served, neighborhoods strengthened, and progress made toward economic stability and community resilience."

8

WE WISH YOU A

Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

May Christmas find us united, with faith and hope, and may the New Year come loaded with blessings, fulfilled dreams, and much joy.

Looking ahead, the Latinx Technology and Community Center enters the new year with optimism and purpose. Plans include expanding workforce pipelines, strengthening partnerships with employers and community organizations, and increasing access to technology and economic development resources. With the momentum built in 2025, LTCC is well-positioned to continue creating pathways to prosperity for Flint residents.

Community members, employers, and partners interested in getting connected or learning more about workforce and economic development services are encouraged to reach out. To get involved or access services, contact Jose Lopez, Workforce and Economic Development Coordinator, at jlopez@latinxflint.org or 810-715-5050.

As LTCC moves into the new year, its mission remains clear: empower individuals, uplift families, and strengthen neighborhoods through opportunity, collaboration, and community-driven solutions.

El Centro Latino de Tecnología y Comunidad Reflexiona sobre un Año de Impacto en 2025 y Establece una Vision para un Año Nuevo Prospero

Por: Jose Lopez

Al comenzar 2026, el Centro Latino de Tecnología y Comunidad (LTCC) te invita a ser parte de algo más grande, una oportunidad para generar un verdadero impacto en nuestra comunidad. Este año, estamos ampliando nuestros programas de voluntariado, y nunca ha habido un mejor momento para involucrarte.

Continúa en la página 10



ACADEMIC TUTORING

- Personalized, one-on-one support with ongoing progress tracking
- For K-12th Grade Students | All Subjects
- Flexible Learning Options:
In-Person and Online Sessions
- Available Monday - Thursday
During after-school hours

REQUIREMENTS

- » Enrolled in a Genesee County school
- » In K-12th grade
- » Able to regularly attend sessions

CONTACT US

☎ 810.715.5050 | ✉ info@latinxf Flint, MI, 48506

latinxf Flint, MI, 48506

Enroll Today!
Contact us to start your student's journey to academic success!

Language Services



- ✓ TRANSLATION
- ✓ ON-SITE INTERPRETATION
- ✓ OVER THE PHONE INTERPRETATION
- ✓ VIDEO REMOTE INTERPRETATION

☎ 810.715.5050
✉ info@latinxf Flint, MI, 48506
📍 2101 Lewis St. Flint, MI 48506



THE LATINX TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNITY CENTER, A NON-PROFIT 501(C)3, HAS BEEN A FIXTURE IN FLINT'S EASTSIDE COMMUNITY SINCE 2001. THROUGH SUPPORT FROM LOCAL PHILANTHROPY, OUR COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOCUS ON MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT FLINT AND GENESSEE COUNTY.

THE REVENUE GENERATED FROM OUR SERVICES SUPPORT OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER OPERATIONS. !SHOP LOCAL!



MI Bridges

Usando MI Bridges Usted Puede...

- 📄 Solicitar Beneficios usando un formulario sencillo y fácil de entender
- 📍 Explorar recursos y guardarlos como parte de su perfil de MI Bridges
- 🔍 Ver información detallada sobre beneficios o cartas enviadas por MDHHS
- 📄 Ver las verificaciones que fueron pedidas por MDHHS y subir documentos a su caso
- 📁 Reportar cambios en relación a su caso o renovar sus beneficios
- 📱 Usar MI Bridges en inglés, español o árabe desde su teléfono o computadora

MDHHS www.michigan.gov/mibridges

CURSO DE INGLÉS

- Básico
- Intermedio
- Avanzado

¡REGÍSTRESE AHORA!



(810) 715- 5050 ☎
info@latinxf Flint, MI, 48506 ✉
www.latinxf Flint, MI, 48506 🌐

A lo largo del año, LTCC recibió a 3,732 visitantes, lo que demuestra una participación comunitaria sólida y constante. Los residentes recurrieron al Centro para acceder a una amplia gama de servicios, incluidos apoyo para el empleo, recursos de desarrollo económico, asistencia de salud y servicios familiares, así como iniciativas de mejora de vecindarios. Este nivel de participación refleja tanto la creciente confianza de la comunidad como el alcance en expansión del Centro.

El Departamento de Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral y Económico atendió a 171 personas en 2025, ofreciendo capacitación para la preparación laboral, orientación para el empleo, desarrollo de habilidades y servicios de empoderamiento económico. Estos esfuerzos estuvieron diseñados para ayudar a los participantes a superar barreras de empleo, fortalecer sus trayectorias profesionales y construir estabilidad financiera a largo plazo. Al centrar su trabajo en programas culturalmente responsables y soluciones prácticas para la fuerza laboral, el departamento desempeñó un papel clave en el apoyo al éxito individual y al crecimiento económico local.

Los Servicios de Salud y Familia de LTCC apoyaron a 233 personas, asegurando que las familias tuvieran acceso a recursos esenciales que promueven la estabilidad, la resiliencia y una mejor calidad de vida. Estos servicios complementaron las iniciativas laborales al abordar los factores sociales y económicos más amplios que influyen en el empleo y el bienestar de los hogares.

La mejora de los vecindarios siguió siendo una prioridad importante durante todo el año. LTCC coordinó el mantenimiento de 421 parcelas y 26 rampas de autopista, contribuyendo a entornos más limpios, seguros y acogedores. Estos esfuerzos ayudaron a reducir el deterioro urbano, mejorar la seguridad pública y fomentar un renovado sentido de orgullo entre los residentes.

La participación comunitaria se fortaleció aún más a través de siete eventos de limpieza de vecindarios, que reunieron a 92 participantes. Estos eventos no solo mejoraron los espacios físicos, sino que también promovieron la participación cívica, la colaboración y la responsabilidad compartida en el cuidado de la comunidad.

“Al reflexionar sobre el impacto de 2025, los números representan más que estadísticas”, expresó un representante del Departamento de Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral y Económico. “Representan a las personas atendidas, a los vecindarios fortalecidos y al progreso logrado hacia la estabilidad económica y la resiliencia comunitaria”.

De cara al futuro, el Centro Latino de Tecnología y Comunidad inicia el nuevo año con optimismo y propósito. Los planes incluyen la expansión de las rutas hacia el empleo, el fortalecimiento de alianzas con empleadores y organizaciones comunitarias, y el aumento del acceso a la tecnología y a recursos de desarrollo económico. Con el impulso logrado en 2025, LTCC está bien posicionado para continuar creando caminos hacia la prosperidad para los residentes de Flint.

Se invita a los miembros de la comunidad, empleadores y socios interesados en conectarse o

en conocer más sobre los servicios de desarrollo de la fuerza laboral y económico a comunicarse. Para participar o acceder a los servicios, comuníquese con Jose Lopez, Coordinador de Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral y Económico, al jlopez@latinxfint.org o al 810-715-5050.

Al avanzar hacia el nuevo año, la misión de LTCC sigue siendo clara: empoderar a las personas, fortalecer a las familias y mejorar los vecindarios a través de oportunidades, colaboración y soluciones impulsadas por la comunidad.

Progress: New Bilingual Center Takes Shape in Flint

The Latinx Technology & Community Center is buzzing with excitement as construction of the new Bilingual Early Childhood Education and Technology Center progresses at a rapid pace. What was once a cherished dream is quickly transforming into reality, brick by brick.

The construction site has become a focal point of pride for the **entire Flint community**. Watching the early childhood education structure take shape so quickly is like witnessing the accelerated growth and unity of the community itself. This center is more than just a building; it represents a significant investment in the future of our children and the strengthening of community bonds.

This new facility will provide essential bilingual education and care, addressing a critical need for local Latinx families and **servicing all people in the Flint community**. The speed of the construction process is a testament to the dedication driving this project, promising that the LTCC will open its doors soon and begin serving the next generation.

Progreso: El Nuevo Centro Bilingüe en Flint Toma Forma

El Latinx Technology & Community Center está vibrando con emoción a medida que la construcción del nuevo Centro Bilingüe de Educación Infantil y Tecnología avanza a un ritmo acelerado. Lo que alguna vez fue un sueño acariciado se está transformando rápidamente en realidad, ladrillo a ladrillo.

El sitio de construcción se ha convertido en un punto focal de orgullo para **toda la comunidad de Flint**. Observar cómo la estructura de educación infantil toma forma tan rápidamente es como presenciar el crecimiento acelerado y la unidad de la comunidad misma. Este centro es más que un simple edificio; representa una inversión significativa en el futuro de nuestros niños y en el fortalecimiento de los lazos comunitarios.

Esta nueva instalación proporcionará educación y cuidado bilingüe esenciales, abordando una necesidad crítica para las familias Latinx locales y **sirviendo a todas las personas de la comunidad de Flint**. La velocidad del proceso de construcción es un testimonio de la dedicación que impulsa este proyecto, prometiendo que el LTCC abrirá sus puertas para comenzar a servir a la próxima generación.

Make 2026 a Year of Impact: Volunteer with the Latinx Technology and Community Center

By: Jose Lopez

As we step into 2026, the Latinx Technology and Community Center (LTCC) invites you to be part of something bigger, an opportunity to make a real difference in our community. This year, we are expanding our volunteer programs, and there's never been a better time to get involved.

Whether you're passionate about workforce development, neighborhood revitalization, community events, or supporting families, LTCC has a variety of opportunities where your time, energy, and talents can create meaningful change. Volunteers will play a key role in initiatives like community clean-ups, educational programs, technology training, and workforce support services, directly impacting the lives of our neighbors.

Volunteering isn't just about giving back, it's about connecting with others, building skills, and helping shape the future of Flint. Every hour you contribute strengthens our neighborhoods, uplifts families, and empowers individuals to reach their full potential. Together, we can create safer, healthier, and more vibrant communities.

This year, we want YOU to join us in making 2026 a year of action and impact. Sign up and get involved today, let's work together to make a difference that truly matters.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities and get started, reach out to me, Jose Lopez, at jlopez@latinxfint.org or 810-715-5050. Let's make 2026 a year where our community thrives, together.

Haz de 2026 un Año de Impacto: Se Voluntario en el Centro Latino de Tecnología y Comunidad

Por: Jose Lopez

Al comenzar 2026, el Centro Latino de Tecnología y Comunidad (LTCC) te invita a ser parte de algo más grande, una oportunidad para generar un verdadero impacto en nuestra comunidad. Este año, estamos ampliando nuestros programas de voluntariado, y nunca ha habido un mejor momento para involucrarte.

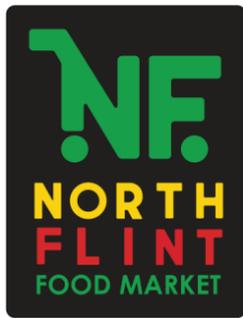
Ya sea que tengas pasión por el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral, la revitalización de vecindarios, los eventos comunitarios o el apoyo a las familias, LTCC ofrece una variedad de oportunidades donde tu tiempo, energía y talentos pueden generar un cambio significativo. Los voluntarios desempeñarán un papel clave en iniciativas como jornadas de limpieza comunitaria, programas educativos, capacitación tecnológica y servicios de apoyo laboral, impactando directamente la vida de nuestros vecinos.

Ser voluntario no se trata solo de ayudar, sino también de conectar con otros, desarrollar habilidades y ayudar a construir el futuro de Flint. Cada hora que dediques fortalece nuestros vecindarios, eleva a las familias y empodera a las personas para alcanzar su máximo potencial. Juntos, podemos crear comunidades más seguras, saludables y vibrantes.

Este año, queremos que TÚ te unas a nosotros para hacer de 2026 un año de acción e impacto. Regístrate y participa hoy mismo; trabajemos juntos para hacer una diferencia que realmente importe.

Para obtener más información sobre oportunidades de voluntariado y comenzar a involucrarte, comunícame conmigo, Jose Lopez, al jlopez@latinxfint.org o al 810-715-5050. Hagamos de 2026 un año en el que nuestra comunidad prospere, juntos.





Editor's Note: Over the past couple of months I have been invited to a couple of events featuring food provided by the North Flint Food Market. I was a food giveaway sponsored by the Brownell Holmes Neighborhood Assn. prior to Thanksgiving and the other was an "awards ceremony" of sorts held at the Neighborhood Engagement Hub thanking supporters and contributors to programs of the King Avenue Plus neighborhood group. The prepared food is quite delicious and the packaged goods as good as any chain grocery. I encourage you to give them your support and a try. Meanwhile, here are some photos of those 2 events. Many thanks to both organizations for the kind invitation. cf



January Free Food Pantries

Monday, Jan 5, Jan 12, Jan 19, Jan 26, Feb 2
Bethel AME Help Center – 773 E. Gillespie Avenue
 9:00am-11:00am

Tuesday, Jan 6, Jan 13, Jan 20, Jan 27, Feb 3
Every Nation Church (Riverside Tabernacle) – 429 North Bound Chavez
 9:00am-11:00am

Asbury United Methodist Church – 1653 Davison Road
 9:30am-11:30am

Our Lady of Guadalupe– 2316 E. Coldwater Rd.
 10:00am-Noon

Tuesday, Jan 13, Jan 27
Helping Individuals Succeed - 1315 Bristol Road
 11:00am-1:00pm

Wednesday, Jan 7, Jan 14, Jan 21, Jan 28, Feb 4
Greater Flint Outreach - 1114 University Ave.
 11:00am-12:30pm

Thursday, Jan 8, Jan 15, Jan 22, Jan 29, Feb 5
Greater Holy Temple – 6702 N. Dort Highway
 10:00am-Noon

Saturday, January 3, January 17, February 7
Flint City Church-3230 Richfield Road, Flint
 10:00am-11:00am

Find others at: <https://www.fbem.org/find-food/>



THE NUMBERS

<https://flintregistry.org/>

BY THE NUMBERS

22,275
 PEOPLE
 ENROLLED

35,157
 REFERRALS
 TO SERVICES

Resources and Programs

From health care to housing to transportation, the Flint community offers many resources for individuals and families. Enrolling in the Flint Registry allows participants to potentially get connected to available resources that promote health and development.

Do you have a new phone number or address? The Flint Registry wants to stay connected with you. From future surveys to providing new resources in the community to seeing how you are doing, giving the Flint Registry your updated information helps keep you supported and connected.

Visit: <https://flintregistry.ctsi.msu.edu/surveys/?s=FPALMFF7RD>

Things to Do

In and Around Flint

Jan 5, Jan 12, Jan 19, Jan 26, Feb 2

My Trivia Live @ Timothy's Pub

6:45-9:10pm

Timothy's Pub

2890 Robt. T. Longway

21 questions, 1 team per table,

1 answer per team

Event is free. Food and drinks are on you!

Rules and other Info: <https://bit.ly/4aE0btW>

January 6

Melting Snowman

Watch a snowman made of packing peanuts dissolve in water.

Flint Children's Museum

11:00am-1:00pm

Tickets: \$8.00 (members free)

Info: <https://flintchildrensmuseum.org/admission/>

January 8 - January 11

FCP Presents:

The New Works Weekend

Two staged readings of brand new plays written by Michigan playwrights!

Flint Community Players

2462 S. Ballenger Hwy

Tickets : \$10.00 online or at the door

Tickets: [https://flintcommunityplayers.ludus.com/](https://flintcommunityplayers.ludus.com/index.php)

[index.php](https://flintcommunityplayers.ludus.com/index.php)

(810) 235-6963

January 24

Good For the Soul Comedy 2

Flint Farmers Market

Includes Dinner

Dinner 6:00pm

Show 7:00pm

\$50/person (includes both)

Website: tinyurl.com/CFIComedyShow2026

January 25

Mrs. Doubtfire

The Musical

Whiting Auditorium

7:00pm

Tickets starting at \$43.20

\$31.90 for Genesee County residents

Tickets: <https://tickets.thefim.org/mrsdoubtfire>

January 30

Play Doh Snowmen

Flint Children's Museum

11:00am-2:00pm

Tickets: \$8.00 (members free)

Info: <https://flintchildrensmuseum.org/admission/>

Block Club, Neighborhood Association and Crime Watch Meetings

Please check with your group to see if there is a meeting this month

- Ballenger Highway Association, (2nd Thursday,) 6:00pm
- Ballenger Square Community Assn, (2nd Saturday,) 10:00am, New Community Baptist Church, Lavender @ Mackin
- Bel-Aire Woods Neighborhood Association #1, (4th Saturday), 10:00am, Police kiosk, Clio @ Pierson
- Brownell-Holmes Neighborhood Association, (2nd Thursday), 5:00pm, Holmes STEM Academy
- Carriage Town Historic Neighborhood Association, (2nd Tuesday,) 7:00pm, Good Beans Café, Grand Traverse @ West 1st Ave. <http://www.cthna.org/info@cthna.org>
- Central Park Neighborhood Association, (2nd Thursday), 6:00pm, Walker Place
- Circle Drive Neighborhood Association, (On hiatus)
- Civic Park Neighborhood Association, (3rd Tuesday,) 5:00pm, Haskell Community Center
- College Cultural Neighborhood Association (CCNA), (3rd Thursday), 7:00pm, RTC
- Columbia Heights Neighborhood Association, (As needed), Grace Community Christian Fellowship, Davison Road @ Dexter - next door to McDonald's
- Eastside Coalition, (2nd Thursday), 2:00pm, Grace Community Christian Fellowship, Davison Road @ Dexter - next door to McDonald's
- Eastside Franklin Park, (1st Tuesday), 5:00pm
- Evergreen Valley Block Watchers, (2nd Saturday), Times vary, Dort Mall Service Ctr.
- Fairfield Village Neighborhood Council, (1st Saturday), 1:00pm, Walker Place
- Flint Neighborhoods United, First Saturday of the month, 9:30am, Gloria Coles Flint Public Library
- Flint North-Central Neighborhood Association, (4th Thursday), 5:00pm, Flint Development Corp. (Bunche)
- Friends of Max Brandon Park, 5:00pm (2nd Thursday), Call (810) 789-2214
- Genesee Landlords Association, (2nd Monday,) 7:30pm, Locations vary
- Glendale Hills Neighborhood Association, (3rd Thursday,) 6:30pm, @ Court Street Church of God, 2920 W. Court
- Grand Traverse District Neighborhood Association, (3rd Wednesday), 6:00pm, Stockton Center
- Kearsley Park Neighborhood Association, (2nd Tuesday), 6:30pm, Flint Public Library, Various rooms
- King Avenue PLUS, (4th Thursday), Call (810) 336-9897 for time and location
- Metawanenee Hills Neighborhood Association, (3rd Thursday,) 5:45 pm, Folts Residence, 509 Welch Blvd.
- Mott Park Neighborhood Association, (1st Monday, bi-monthly), 7:00pm, Mott Park Clubhouse, Nolen Dr.
- Neighborhood Restoration Coalition, (Tuesdays), 10:00am, Mini-station, M. L. King @ Bishop
- Neighborhood Without Borders, (2nd Monday), 5:30pm, Oak Business Center, 2712 N. Saginaw
- New Community Block Club, (2nd & 4th Thursday,) 12-2pm, New Community Baptist Church, Lavender @ Mackin
- North Flint Neighborhood Action Council (NFNAC), (3rd Thursday), 5:00pm, Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village, 4119 Saginaw St
- Northeast Village CDC, (2nd Friday), 5:00pm, Great Lakes Tech Center (IINN)
- Northend Recreation Ctr/Northside Block Club, (1st Tuesday), 10:00am, Mini-station, M. L. King @ Bishop
- Odette, Witherbee, Iroquois Restoration Assoc., Call (810) 875-4202
- Potter-Longway Neighborhood Association, (3rd Monday), 7:00pm, Eastwood Church
- Sharp Manor, 3rd Monday, 3:30pm, Rosewood Manor, 100 Rosewood Manor Drive, (810) 836-4155
- Smith Village Circle Block Club, 5:30pm, (2nd Thursday every other month,) New Zion Baptist Church, 1601 Chippewa.
- South Parks Neighborhood Assn. (3rd Thursday), 5:00pm, Brennan Center, or Howard Estates
- Southside Business & Residential Association, (3rd Tuesday), 11:45am, Applegate Chevrolet, Saginaw St.
- Sterling & Myrtle Streets Neighborhood Assn. On Hiatus
- Stevenson Sq. Neighborhood Assn. (3rd Thursday), 6:30pm, Prince of Peace Church
- University Avenue Corridor Coalition (3rd Tuesday), Noon, Factory One, 303 Water Street.
- University Park, On Hiatus
- Washington Neighborhood Assn, (2nd Monday), 7:00pm, Asbury UMC, Davison Road
- West Dewey Street Block Club, On Hiatus
- West Flint Community Watch, (2nd Thursday,) 7:00pm, Grace Lutheran Church, 2526 Corunna Rd @ Farnum.
- West Pulaski Block Club, On Hiatus
- Woodcroft 1, (3rd Thursday,) 6:30pm, Eisenhower School, 1235 Pershing St. @ Miller Rd.

Please send ANY changes of location, dates and times of your meetings in 2025.

There have been many and we would not wish to provide poor information.

fnucommunications@gmail.com



ASK KIA

(For Sound Solutions)

Q. *Kia, I'm finding myself falling into the usual solemn state of mind during this time of year. It seems that with all the bright lights, decorations, caroling, and shopping, there would be an automatic sense of joy and happiness. But I find myself feeling sad and lonely. Mostly because I can't afford the shopping, and I am a long distance away from most of my relatives. What can I do to change this and experience the excitement that I see in many others?*

A. *I suggest you consider the true reason for the Christmas Season. When our focus is on what Christmas is really all about, we might very well find that it doesn't cost any amount of money; there is no need to compete with our neighbors as far as shopping, decorating, partying, or anything that causes us to feel less than. Try focusing on the fact that Jesus, our Lord and Savior, is what Christmas is all about. It does not require anything more than being thankful for His great love for us and knowing that He has blessed us with a gift above all others. Eternal Life with Him.*

Q. *Kia, I find myself feeling more and more depressed every time I watch the news. And yet I can't seem to avoid watching it. I feel if I don't keep up with what's going on in the world I won't know how to take care of myself and my family. What can I do to ease or even escape the sadness of watching the news?*

A. *I suggest that you arrange a daily schedule with no space for watching the news, and commit yourself to following your schedule faithfully. A strong and helpful replacement for watching the news would be to spend quiet time in communion with your Lord and Savior. Rather than watching the news, commit to reading your Bible and focusing on what God says about 'Fear.' Ask God to strengthen you in your commitment and thank Him for the blessing of joy and peace rather than sadness and depression.*

Do YOU have a question for Kia?
I'd be happy to accept questions. They can be sent to me through my email account: lailai1044@comcast.net.
With the subject being ASK KIA.



2026
Happy New Year

ReAbled Veteran's Rave

By: Marcus Brown

I am what is considered a disabled vet. I was injured during my service in the military. My life did not end just with that chapter.

My service did not end.

I taught K-8, volunteered, built a community center, and still advocate for the neighborhood, children, elderly, and vets.

I never liked the label disabled. I took a paint marker, scratched out the prefix dis- on one of my hats, and replaced it with Re-. ReAbled Veteran has a better, more optimistic ring to it. ReAbled Vets should be more than a t-shirt slogan!

I am proposing the creation of a new organization.

ReAbled Vets will focus on helping vets adjust to civilian life, finding positive ways to deal with depression, anxiety, PTSD, and other issues by sharing resources, advice, networking, and opportunities with fellow vets, their families, and community members who want to support them.

We are in the planning stage, but it is my hope to create, in collaboration with others, a program that will afford veterans, disabled vets, spouses, children, and military supporters to engage in healthy activities, volunteer for positive projects, and re-engage the world in a constructive and supportive ways.

I suffer from depression, anxiety, OCD, and chronic pain.

I am limited but not dead. I have found art and writing classes offered by the FIA, playing guitar, photography, exercise and physical therapy at the YMCA, gardening, and beekeeping to be helpful, healthy ways to deal with mental and physical issues. (Many veterans slip into substance abuse or negative ways of dealing with some of these issues.)

I would like to offer my skills as a certified teacher to share my talents with other veterans and their loved ones as ways of dealing with stress and disabilities.

I would love to have other like-minded and skilled people to join me in creating this organization to support those who offered their service and sacrificed their health protecting our freedom.

- ♦ I see the potential for a micro triathlon in Flint (canoe, swim, bike, run, walk, wheelchair) that can offer a friendly competition between branches of the military around Memorial Day
- ♦ I see a volunteer league to help with tree planting and park clean-ups to demonstrate our ability to still have a positive impact on the world.
- ♦ I see resources and information being shared pertinent to vets from the Genesee Veteran Services to the Community-Based Outpatient Clinic and beyond.
- ♦ I see friendships, sponsorships, and a friendly ear for veterans to discuss solutions or alternatives to situations vets sometimes face.
- ♦ I see beginning beekeeping classes, photography share groups, writing groups, fishing groups, biking groups, art classes, and gardening to be potential activities and enrichment offered...

I do not want to limit this group to just veterans but include their loved ones and supporters to share in activities, classes, and planning.

This group is not about money, politics or hidden agendas but about serving those who were willing to sacrifice for all of us.

If you are interested, please post how you would like to be involved and what skills you may be able to share, from leadership to planning, to teaching, to being a friend or counselor.

Search Facebook for ReAbled Veterans (<https://bit.ly/499RPcW>)

and post or message me ideas, advice, and suggestions that are needed.

Our goal is to improve veteran family quality of life through well-planned and executed activities and create an institution to promote veteran physical, mental, and social health.

"I had a dream I was sleeping, and when I woke up, I woke up." - Joseph S. Black

"Words are like shoes; they're just something to stand on. Isn't life a little better with a good pair of shoes?" - Anon

"Don't let your children watch television until they know how to read or else all they'll know how to do is cuss, fight, and br/bleed" - Prince

"Think! It ain't illegal yet!" - George Clinton

RxKids FLINT
A Prescription for Health, Hope, and Opportunity
Cash for Pregnant Moms and Babies



No-Strings-Attached Love

Rx Kids is the first-ever citywide cash prescription program for pregnant moms and babies. Rx Kids provides all pregnant moms in the City of Flint with no-strings-attached cash of \$1,500 during pregnancy and \$500 each month throughout a baby's first year.

Pregnancy and First-Year Help for All!

To participate, you need to be:

1. A City of Flint resident.
 2. At least 20 weeks pregnant OR the parent/guardian of a **baby born in 2024 or later.**
- You may sign up until your baby is six months old.



Apply Today at
FlintRxKids.com



Share Your #FlintRxKids Story

RxKids FLINT
A Prescription for Health, Hope, and Opportunity
Cash for Pregnant Moms and Babies

Apply Today at FlintRxKids.com

Signing Up is as Easy as 1, 2, 3!

You and your baby deserve the life-changing benefits of Rx Kids. Follow these three steps to participate:

1 Gather your documentation. You will need to verify your identity, residency, and pregnancy (at least 20 weeks) or guardianship. A list of approved documents is at FlintRxKids.com.



2 Apply online at FlintRxKids.com. If you are pregnant or have a baby born in 2024 or later, you can start the application and submit documents at a later time.

3 Await verification and receive your cash prescriptions. After verification, you will receive a message letting you know when to expect your first payment. Payments begin at the point of enrollment.

It Takes a Village of Love and Support

Rx Kids is brought to you by the following partners:



Made possible with generous support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, State of Michigan, and a growing family of funders and supporters. See all the love at FlintRxKids.com.

2025-2026 Winter Camps & Workshops!

Join us for seasonal, hands-on FUN for ages 4-17!

MLK Jr. Day / January 19, 2026
President's Day / February 16, 2026



SloanLongway.org/Winter
or call (810) 237-3409, or scan this QR code

Chessfrog: cont'd from Page 6

-Right now is the time to plan and act, designing compost piles, building chicken coops, placing trellises, and inventorying.

-We generally wait until after the bitter cold of January to plant seed starts in our greenhouses but we gather pots and trays now so we are ready in February to grow heartier vegetables.

-There is a great grant offered by NCRS [High Tunnel Initiative](#) | [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) to build a large 30 by 72 greenhouse for free.

I recently bought a small 6x12 polycarbonate greenhouse from Temu for \$150.

Right now is the time to search out grants, sales, and other resources. A lot of big box stores have to clear out lawn and garden items like soil, wood chips, and plants because they may not survive winter or are too cumbersome to store as they biodegrade or begin self-composting

It does not hurt to ask what is on clearance in lawn and garden retailers this time of year.

Those who fail to plan, plan to fail. Farmers, gardeners, beekeepers, and chicken ranchers can rest and play catch-up in spring, or they can take a few moments each week to make sure they are ready when Mother Nature is, and she keeps her own schedule.



Need a job? Want a Job? Employment Opportunities

**HELP
WANTED**

GECS

Genesee Education Consultant Services

G-6235 Corunna Road, Suite C

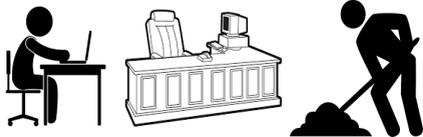
Flint, MI 48532

Phone: 810-396-1100

E-mail: contactus@gecs-inc.org

Website: www.gecs-inc.org

Immediate job openings available in pre-school classrooms!
Competitive pay and benefits! Please visit the website to apply.



City of Flint Jobs
YOU Can Make a Difference in YOUR Hometown!



Police Officer-Full Time ★

Full-Time Permanent - \$20.92 - \$30.71 Hourly

Police Officer-Part Time ★

Part-Time Permanent - \$23.25 - \$25.04 Hourly

Police Academy-Trainee ★

Police Academy Trainee - \$15.25 Hourly

Parking Enforcement Officer (DDA) ★

Full-Time Permanent

Ombudsperson Analyst

Full-Time Permanent - \$19.25 - \$20.73 Hourly

Truck & Heavy Equipment Mechanic

Full-Time Permanent - \$18.61 - \$26.05 Hourly

Automotive & Equipment Mechanic Helper

Full-Time Permanent - \$17.00 - \$18.92 Hourly

Plumbing & Mechanical Inspector

Full-Time Permanent - \$29.94 - \$37.04 Hourly

Part Time Plumbing Inspector

Part-Time Permanent - \$29.94 - \$37.04 Hourly

Department of Public Works Director

Appointed - \$109,200.00 - \$129,695.34 Annually

City Engineer

Full-Time Permanent - \$43.50 - \$48.23 Hourly

Senior Building Maintainer

Full-Time Permanent - \$35,360.00 - \$45,465.37 Annually

Job Descriptions, Qualifications, Salary Structure, Job number and other information
available online at:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cityofflint>

ICE DINOSAURS

THE LOST WORLD OF THE ALASKAN ARCTIC

imagine



Ideal for the whole family!

Explore paleontology's final frontier in the new traveling exhibition *ICE DINOSAURS: The Lost World of the Alaskan Arctic*. Groundbreaking discoveries, animatronic displays, real fossils, and more. ICE Dinosaurs invites visitors to learn about the unique adaptations of polar dinosaurs who lived in cold, dark, and snowy conditions year-round.

JANUARY 20 - MAY 3, 2026

SLOAN
MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY

1221 E. Kearsley St. Flint, MI 48503



EXHIBIT INFO & TICKETS! SloanLongway.org/Ice-Dinos

PREMIERES
JANUARY 20, 2026

A new immersive cinematic experience starring the Greatest of All Tyrants, the Tyrannosaurus rex.

RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 10+

NARRATED BY **SAM NEILL**

TREX

GREATEST OF ALL TYRANTS



1310 E. KEARSLEY ST. FLINT, MI 48503 | Longway.org

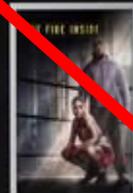


AAFS11
11TH ANNUAL
AFRICAN AMERICAN

FILM SERIES

Flint Institute of Arts
1120 E. Kearsley St. | Flint, MI 48503

DINNER | 5:30 PM
MOVIE | 6:45 PM
In-person discussion to follow conclusion of film



NOVEMBER 13
THE FIRE INSIDE



DECEMBER 18
SING SING



JANUARY 15
LOWNDES COUNTY & THE ROAD TO BLACK POWER



FEBRUARY 12
JAMES HEMINGS: GHOST IN AMERICA'S KITCHEN

REGISTER HERE: TINYURL.COM/AAFS2025

