

Flint Diaspora

“SPREADING THE NEWS ABOUT FLINT”



Mission

“To connect people across boundaries and create channels of action to make Flint, MI a truly great community!”

Flint Club Highlights

Annual Meeting Teleconference

Flint Club will hold its first network-wide annual meeting in the form of a teleconference on Thursday, June 28 at 9:00pm EST. If there is a particular topic you would like addressed or if you have other questions, please email info@flintclub.org. The call-in number is 605.990.0200 and the access code is 523895. Please join us!

Riverbank Summer Kick-off

The second festival in the Riverbank Summer Kick-off Series is this Friday from 11-2 in Riverbank Park. The theme is “Celebrate Flint in the Park.” Come down for an afternoon of food and fun. Read all the details at www.Flintclub.org. The festival series is brought to you by Flint Club in partnership with United Way of Genesee County through the generous support of the Ruth Mott Foundation.

Community Corner

Community Challenge Update

The demand for the Spring Civic Engagement Training Series was so great that a summer session is currently being planned. Residents from all over the county are equipping themselves to lead others in creating the communities they desire. Almost 500 concerned citizens have signed up for the Town Hall Luncheon where interactive discussions will take place on how to position our region to compete in the new economy on Monday, June 18. Community Challenge is currently planning to lead visioning sessions that lead to concrete action in various municipalities within Genesee County. Continue to check www.thecommunitychallenge.org for more information on these and other activities.

Give Back

Flint Fund

Would you like to make a difference in the local economy AND reap a great return by making a small investment in a local business? Flint Club is working on an exciting new initiative that taps the power of our network to bring financial and technical resources to local businesses that have great potential to succeed but limited access to capital. If you would like to be a part of the solution please contact rhoda@flintclub.org.

Volunteer Here

Flint Club has lots of exciting events and programs coming up and we need your help to make these events a success!

Flint Club is hosting FREE events in the **Riverbank Park Summer Kick-off series!** Don't miss the next events:

June 15	11am-2pm	Celebrate Flint in the Park
June 29	11am-2pm	Around the World in the Park
July 13	4pm-7pm	Hold the Drama in the Park
July 20	11am-2pm	Fun & Games in the Park
	and 4pm-7pm	

We need volunteers for each event, including setting up and tearing down. If you have even an hour, we'd appreciate it greatly.

Fourth of July Festival July 3 and 4.

Flint Club is sponsoring a Checkers Tournament and a Human Checkers Face-off at the Fourth of July Festival at Atwood Stadium! Volunteers are needed during the following times:

July 3rd 10am - 11pm

July 4th 3:30pm - 11pm

July 5th 10am - ?? clean up - bring blowers, brooms, etc. so we leave no trace behind after our holiday fun!

We'd like at least a 2 hour shift commitment - and you'll receive free admission to the festival if you are on the volunteer list - this does not include friends and family who are not volunteers.

To volunteer, please contact Tina at support@flintclub.org or call 233-5468.

Thank you so much! Because of your dedication and commitment to Flint, we are able to make a difference and promote a positive image and attitude.

Mark your calendar for your next Flint Club Member Meeting on Thursday, June 28, 6pm at Flint Club Headquarters. At the meeting, we will have additional summer volunteer opportunities available! Refreshments provided.

Member Profile By Josh Devine

I'm West Virginia, born-and-bred. I went to Denison University in Granville, Ohio, Northwestern University in Chicago, then returned home to start my career in television news. Soon, when it was time to look for a new opportunity, I wound up in Flint, as a Reporter for WJRT ABC12. I've lived in Mid-Michigan for almost two years. Currently, I'm proud to co-anchor our weekend morning newscasts, and report three days a week. It's truly the "best of both worlds." I'm single. No children. No pets. Not yet, at least! I'm actively involved in my church (Grand Blanc's Mount Hope Church) as a youth leader. I'm an avid runner, and in 2006, completed my first 10-mile Crim! Can't wait for '07!

More than a strong professional opportunity, Flint offered a chance to expand my horizons. We're a "bigger city" with a story, a depth and a complexity. I wanted a place where I could grow as a

reporter and as a person. Flint offered the chance for this small-town guy to see a city with a rich past, a challenged present and ultimately, I believe, a positive future. I appreciate the fact that people in Flint have a real sense of perspective, a real sense of perseverance and increasingly, a real desire to see this part of the state grow and re-define itself. These people, I've found are genuine, hard-working, humble people who value family, faith and future generations.

Some of my favorite Flint spots include: Brown Sugar Cafe, the bricks on Crim Day (for that matter, the entire course!), the FIA, Whiting and increasingly, when I get a chance to stop by, the Flint Public Library. (Bonus: a friend from college works there!). Outside of that, you'll generally find me anyplace serving a good cup of hot coffee.

I'd like to believe, as a journalist, I've

not only caused people to have a deeper conscience to what happens in Flint, but also put the day's events in a greater perspective. We, as a community, in a lot of ways are a "work in progress." It's my hope my reporting puts the daily story in a broader context, causes people to think beyond the headlines and manages to encourage people to be a part of the change now underway. I'm hoping to increasingly become involved in the lives of people (partly through Flint Club, of course), volunteer opportunities and on a daily basis simply walking the streets of Flint. A journalism professor in graduate school wisely taught us, "News is people, and people are news." I've grown to believe many people in Flint have rich stories of the past, and truly are determined to write a story each day of turn-around, growth and character. It's a blessing to be a part of it. I honestly couldn't imagine my life anywhere else.

HOMETOWN HEADLINES

Flint Welcomes Lakisha Jones Back Home

Lakisha Jones was welcomed back to Flint with a warm reception at Atwood Stadium. Read about her homecoming celebration at:

http://blog.mlive.com/idolchatter/2007/06/thank_you_flint_idol_stars_family_fans_give_warm_w.html

CULTURE CONNECTION

This year's July 4th celebration kicks off with The Flint Symphony Orchestra performs with The 5th Dimension on Monday, July 2, 7pm at Riverbank Park

Then, Atwood Stadium will host Flint's X-Treme Fourth of July Festival and Fireworks celebration July 3 and 4.

July 3rd festivities begin at 5pm with the Creative Alliance Youth Talent Competitions, an Up Lift Flint Hip Hop Contest, live musical performances, and ending with a Teen Dance hosted by CK105 from 9-11pm.

Join Flint Club on July 4th when we host an all ages Checkers Tournament starting at 4:30pm. The top two finalists will face off in a Human Checkers game at 7:45pm! Festivities will also include the Cruze Flint First Car Show, X-Scape X-games with finals at dusk, a double-dutch contest, Stomp the Yard contest, and live music.

Both days will feature Skateboard demos, Graffiti Wall, ArtShare program, inflatables for the kids, great food and more!!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Flint Club is a virtual, community-based network for Flint, Michigan. The Club is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization with more than 600 members that aims to link people to the life of the city no matter where they live. Contact Rhoda Matthews, Executive Director, Flint Club at (810) 233-5468 and or rhoda@flintclub.org for more information.

Send correspondence to Flint Club, P.O. Box 7604, Flint, MI 48507. Visit Flint Club World Headquarters, Capitol Theatre Building, 134 E. Second St., Flint, MI 48502. Call locally (810) 233-5468 or toll-free 1-866-54-FLINT. Fax 810-233-5556.
