

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

Make plans now to attend Flint Club’s Holiday Soiree & Silent Auction on Thursday, November 29 from 6-9pm!!

Great items such as Flint Youth Theatre tickets, Massage and Salon Certificates, Party Rentals Certificates, Food Certificates, and MORE will be available to bid on for yourself or to give as gifts!

Come and get to know other Flint Club

members while enjoying great food and entertainment. Tickets are just \$10 and Silent Auction bidding will end at 8pm.

Buy your tickets to the Holiday Soiree & Silent Auction online, [click here!](#)

Because of holiday schedules, the next Member Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24 at 6pm.

Watch for our Fall mailing going out after the Thanksgiving Holiday!

Community Corner - Community Challenge Update

TOWN HALL MEETING - November 29, 2007, 11:30am-1:30pm

Northbank Center Grand Ballroom, 432 N. Saginaw St.

Community Challenge presents the “Creating an Environment Attractive to Young Mobile Talent” Town Hall Meeting focused upon developing attractive places to live for talented young people. This meeting is designed to go deeper into one of the three tenets of the *Michigan Future* report that was discussed at the June Town Hall Meeting.

The featured speaker is Carol Coletta, President and CEO of CEO’s for Cities (Chicago, Illinois) and host and producer of the nationally syndicated public radio show Smart City, which focuses upon urban life including the people, places, ideas, and trends that are shaping cities.

Questions that will be answered: What makes a community attractive? What local initiatives are underway? Where do we go from here?

Swartz Creek residents watch for your Community Action Planning Session on November 28 at the Country Carriage Restaurant.

For more information on these projects please visit the Community Challenge website at www.thecommunitychallenge.org or call Sonyita at (810) 233-5468 ext. 3.

Give Back

Join a Flint Club Committee

Have fun and make a difference! Join a committee to help Flint Club promote Flint in a positive light, make a difference in our community, and serve our members!

Help out with 2nd Friday Art Walk, Fund Development, Networking Events, Office Work, and more! The Non-local Network committee is also looking for people to assist in planning and coordinating non-local events. Please contact rhoda@flintclub.org for more details.

Did You Know?

You can do your Holiday Shopping and help support Flint Club at the same time? Just visit www.yabbadabbanews.com and the Flint Club page to purchase gift certificates from your favorite local merchants! Many are offered at a discount and Flint Club earns 10%!!

Merchants include Great Harvest Bread, Mr. P’s Wash World, Pizza Hut, Big Apple Bagels, Al’s Auto Service, Cranberries Café, Fuddruckers, Tropical Smoothie Café, Fazolis, Somerset Salon, Gaines Jewelry, Dixon Construction, and more!

Member Profile By Emanuel Johnson

I was born and raised here in Flint. I grew up on the north end of town. I've lived here in the city all of my life. I attended Flint Schools. I graduated from an excellent program at Mott Adult High, a second chance school that empowers students to recover their academic drive. I received a Flint Central High diploma.

Today at age 30, I still live in Flint. My Wife and I have been married for nine years. We have two children. I've also been employed full-time as the Interlibrary Loan Clerk at the Flint Public Library, since 2000. My passion is in my work as an independent short-form video producer/director of photography. I primarily work within Flint's gospel music community, producing concept music videos. I work together with many talented musicians and songwriters and their concepts for production. My main focus is typically on the video's cinematography and editing.

I've had many influences throughout my life, from family to friends, to clergymen and teachers. My Grandmother Addie Mae Harrison was the biggest influence in my life. She was also very active in the Flint Community.

As a child I drew lots of pictures. I desired to be an artist and/or architect. My Grandmother would use a simple ruler, pad, and pencil to draft mock house plans of her 'dream homes'. She taught me how to draw floor plans of my own. That was a past time for me on many afternoons. I developed into an artsy type. I learned graphic design my senior year in high school and even attended Baker College for graphic communications. So that early time with my Grandmother piqued my interest in art. Many of the commands that I would later learn in graphic design, I use today in video post-production.

My Flint heritage is deeply rooted. I'm always optimistic about Flint. I remember Flint in the early eighties during Mayor Sharpe's tenure. I can remember there being many things to do in Flint and in downtown Flint. My grandmother and I would catch the bus and spend an afternoon downtown. This was before there was a MTA terminal. We would have to transfer on Beach and Second streets, sometimes in poor weather conditions. There were cool shops and eateries. Even on Flint's North side there had been a makeover along North Saginaw Street and everything seemed so promising in my

young eyes. Those outings early in life and many others, shaped my views of Flint. As a result, I understand Flint's potential.

I would tell the people of Flint to dream big. Flint is no longer a small city. There aren't any small cities anywhere anymore. The internet has connected us all. Whatever it is that a Flint resident wants to accomplish, he or she can accomplish. Online commerce is what will begin to fill some of the voids that GM left.

At some point, I'd like for one of my accomplishments to be that I helped dozens of Flint's gospel music artists get to the place where they could share their message with larger audiences.

I'd also like to give back by dialoguing with other aspiring video producers via some form of an online community and perhaps contribute a weekly column dedicated to film and video in the Flint community.

Next for me will be to look for a new space to work in. 1000-1,200 square feet which will lend enough space to house an area for a set/backdrop, editing suite, and office duties.

HOMETOWN HEADLINES

[A Hint of Flint](#)

Author Patrick Jones' books sprinkled with area images

"The rebellious teenage characters in Patrick Jones' books kick back at Donna's Donuts, paint grand statements on The Rock and cause all kinds of trouble at Flint Southwestern High School (not Academy).

Think the Minnesota resident has spent some time here in Flint? No doubt about it." Jones is a Flint Township native and emerging teen fiction author.

Read the rest of the article - click here

<http://www.mlive.com/features/flintjournal/index.ssf?base/features-6/1194279781110890.xml&coll=5>

CULTURE CONNECTION

**FIM Holiday Sneak Peek - [Flint Institute of Music](#)
1025 E. Kearsley St. Flint, MI
November 17, 12:00 noon - 2:30 pm**

Take a fun, fascinating look behind the scenes of two of this area's favorite holiday programs. You'll find lots for you and your children to do and see at this FREE family event!

- Get your souvenir photo in the giant Nutcracker chair (There is a \$5 charge which is refundable when you buy Nutcracker or Holiday Pops tickets that day.)
- Watch ballet dancers rehearse for the big events
- Creative movement for little mice and soldiers
- Meet little mice and soldiers from the Nutcracker battle scene
- Hear a brass ensemble play Holiday Pops highlights and a choir sings your favorite carols
- Enjoy free refreshments, provided by the FSO Crescendo Club
- Win free tickets and other prizes

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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.