

## 2012 Weed and Trash Abatement

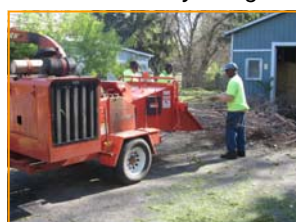
The Land Bank began its 2012 weed and trash abatement program on April 2. Thanks to funding from the County Board of Commissioners and the City of Flint, the Land Bank will be able to operate a program at about the same level as last year. The County Board is providing \$458,000 for the 2012 program and the City redirected Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$400,000 for 2012 and another \$500,000 for 2013.



These funds will allow the Land Bank's property maintenance crews to cut weeds and pick up trash on vacant properties in Flint twice from April through October. Outside of Flint another four crews will concentrate on Burton, the Townships of Mt. Morris, Flint, Genesee and Grand Blanc as well as other outlying communities. As we have done in the past three years, other crews will be

boarding and securing properties and another will be available to deal with special complaints responding to dumping and other immediate issues.

Over the past three years Land Bank crews have picked up a cumulative total of 3,600 tons of trash (7.2 million pounds) mostly within the City of Flint. The first two years Land Bank crews picked up 1,500 tons each year while last year the total was 600 tons. After picking up years of accumulated trash we are now picking up trash that has been dumped more recently. In other words, it appears that we are keeping up with new dumping and spending less time cleaning up trash that was dumped in years past.



By Doug Weiland

### From The Board Chair

Deborah Cherry



### Tax Foreclosures Still Too High But Coming Down

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> this year the County again foreclosed on a high number of properties where owners failed to pay taxes for more than two years.

The good news is that the total number of properties foreclosed this year (2,703) was down about 9% from the total foreclosed in 2011 (2,962). While the number of foreclosures is still too high, it appears that it may be beginning to trend downward after four straight years of significant increases.

The number of foreclosures in Flint was down 18% from 2,185 in 2011 to 1,783 this year.

Another trend is that the number of foreclosures outside the City of Flint has increased significantly. In 2011, the total number of foreclosures outside of Flint was 776. This year the number of foreclosures in the suburbs was up 19% over last year to 920.

For the past several years, suburban foreclosures have included a significant number of failed subdivisions and condominium developments. That trend appears to be continuing.

Genesee County Treasurer  
Genesee County Land Bank Authority  
Chair

## Newly Renovated Homes Featured in Home Tour

On Saturday, April 21, 2012 the Genesee County Land Bank and City of Flint held a Home Tour of newly renovated homes in the Carriage Town Historic Neighborhood and the New Smith Village. The event featured 612 W University Ave, 818 Lyon St, 426 W First Ave in Carriage Town and 517, 521 and 557 Williams St in Smith Village. The community was invited to walk through the homes and talk with realtors about how homeownership can become a reality, for as little as \$1,000 down.



**818 Lyon Street**

**(Carriage Town)**

**Theresa Allen**  
Royal Realty  
810-732-9210  
Listed at: \$41,900



**426 W. First Avenue**

**(Carriage Town)**

**Ryan Eashoo**  
ReMax Real Estate Team  
810-234-1234  
Listed at: \$38,500



**612 University Avenue**

**(Carriage Town)**

**Dan Borgerding**  
Century 21 Woodland  
810-659-3161  
Listed at: \$39,900

If you are interested in finding out more about homes that have been fully renovated with funds from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) in great neighborhoods like Carriage Town, Central Park, Fairfield Village, Grand Traverse, Metawanenee Hills, Mott Park, Northwestern, South Parks and The New Smith Village go to our website at [www.thelandbank.org](http://www.thelandbank.org) for a complete list of homes available and details about each property. Most NSP2 renovated homes range in price from \$20,000 - \$55,000. Buyers can also receive 20% off the purchase price. Contact the realtor listing one of these homes or visit our website for details.

*By Heidi Phaneuf*

## City of Flint South Side on the Move

The South Side Neighborhood Planning Group established goals and objectives for several South Side of Flint Neighborhoods. The Neighborhoods include Evergreen Estates, Evergreen Valley and South Parks.

One of the objectives established for the group was to create new investments in housing renovation and to create new future development. Renovation on six homes owned by The Genesee County Land Bank has been approved utilizing NSP2 funds. Four of the homes are currently being renovated and the other two will be renovated in the near future.

A housing fair will be held to attract individuals that are interested in purchasing these affordable newly renovated homes. The public will be notified about the housing fair and the roll out of the South Side Neighborhood Plan. The Plan also includes economic development, public areas (such as open spaces & infrastructure) and multigenerational programming.

*By Sharon Hurd*



**Before**

**2026 Maybury**

**(Southside)**

**Mary Taylor**  
Mary Taylor Realty  
810-789-8551  
Listed at: \$30,800



**After**



## Clean & Green Kicks-Off in 2012

The Land Bank's 2012 Clean & Green program is underway. Block clubs, schools, non-profits, churches, neighborhood associations, and other local community-based groups received applications for the 2012 Clean & Green Program in early March and were required to complete and submit them no later than March 30th. As the word spread and the temperatures rose community-based groups returned applications with record numbers. The 2012 Clean & Green program recorded its highest number of applicants in the program's history.

Between May and September of this year, 44 community-based groups will care for more than 1,200 lots in and around the City of Flint every three weeks. In return for their work, Clean & Green groups receive annual stipends between \$3,000 and \$4,500.

Participating groups were introduced at the 2012 Kick-Off on May 10th. During the kick-off groups connected with each other, received information on relevant community resources, discussed the schedule for the 2012 season, and participated in exercises on rethinking and reimagining urban land. The 2012 Clean & Green program is funded by the C.S. Mott Foundation, the Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center, and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint's Youth Advisory Council.

By Natalie Pruett

## Lots Available for Greening and Gardening



The Land Bank initiated its *new* Lots Available for Greening and Gardening campaign this spring. The Land Bank currently owns thousands of available lots. While they do pose maintenance challenges, available lots also present many opportunities. The new campaign is intended to focus on the possibilities that available lots bring. Greening and gardening available lots can improve urban ecosystems, create opportunities for residents to grow their own food, and even enhance property values over

time.

The new campaign explains the options that the Land Bank has created for accessing available lots. The Land Bank's policies and programs support greening and gardening by making its lots available to groups and individuals. There are three options for accessing an available lot: Adopt-A-Lot, Lease-A-Lot, and Lease-A-Lot with the Option to Purchase. The Adopt-A-Lot option is free and lasts for one growing season. Lease-A-Lot costs \$1 per year and lasts between two and five years. Lease-A-Lot with Option to Purchase mirrors Lease-A-Lot and adds the opportunity for the lessee to purchase the lot during the lease. Groups and individuals can access available lots through the Land Bank's options simply by completing applications. The Land Bank asks that applicants allow 30 days for processing and always explains that an application is a form of interest and does not guarantee access.

By making its lots available the Land Bank hopes to challenge and inspire residents to rethink the role of available land as an urban asset.

By Natalie Pruett

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To receive our e-newsletter please  
sign up on our website at:  
[http://www.thelandbank.org/  
newsroom.asp](http://www.thelandbank.org/newsroom.asp)



**2012**

**food garden tour**

**Thursday, August 9, 2012**

**4:30pm - 8:30pm**

depart from the **Flint Farmers' Market**  
FREE and open to the public. Suggested donation \$1-\$20.