

edible flint Hosts Third Annual Food Garden Tour

Summer 2011

Genesee County residents are improving their health, reducing their weekly grocery bill and transforming their neighborhoods by creating urban gardens in both their own yards and on neighboring vacant lots.

The movement to utilize urban properties to produce food is growing nationally, and Genesee County is right in step. The third annual "edible flint Food Garden Tour" offered a close-up look at innovative and inspiring food gardens in the Flint area.

The 2011 tour attracted over 250 participants and took place on Thursday, July 28th, 2011. While most participants were transported to the garden sites by bus, a few dozen participants visited the gardens by bike. The tour was free and open to the public. After arriving at the Flint Farmers' Market participants received a light meal made from locally-produced delicacies before boarding buses and bikes.

Tour participants met local food producers, including some who are growing food year round and raising bees and chickens. They also saw firsthand how local residents of all ages are transforming community concerns, such as vacant land into valuable neighborhood assets. With more than 12,000 vacant residential lots in Flint alone, residents now have more opportunities than ever to turn available properties into productive places.

Immediately following the tour, members of *edible flint* hosted an after-glow at the Flint Farmers' Market with live music and dessert.

The entire evening was free, although donations were welcomed and received. Donations for *edible flint* Food Garden Tours are accepted year round, are tax-deductible, and can be given by e-mailing foodgardentour@edibleflint.org or calling (810) 257-3088 ext. 541.

edible flint is a network of individuals and organizations unified by the mission, "to support Flint residents in growing and accessing healthy food in order to reconnect with the land and each other." *edible flint* formed in 2009 and since then has hosted three Food Garden Tours, collectively sold produce through the *edible flint* Co-op at the Flint Farmers' Market, offered introductory classes on urban food gardening, completed an assessment of some food vendors in the City of Flint by youth, and has distributed Garden Starters kits and services. For more information on *edible flint* contact Terry at (810) 244-8530 or info@edibleflint.org.

By Natalie Pruett



From The Board Chair

Foreclosure Prevention



After several months of meeting together and sharing information with various social service agencies and local officials we have completed a draft report with recommendations designed to prevent tax foreclosures where possible. The report is being circulate for review and comment to the committee now and I expect to have a final document for the Land Bank's next newsletter.

Durant Receives Award

On May 26, the Genesee County Historical Society presented their Heritage Award to the Land Bank for "preserving and communicating the heritage of our past to the present and to the future as a voluntary service to our community" in connection with the restoration of the Durant. After sitting vacant and deteriorating for over 35 years, the Land Bank was instrumental in pulling together resources from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to restore the former Durant Hotel into a vibrant new space with 93 residential units and several commercial spaces. While Dan Kildee deserves the credit for seeing this project through, the Land Bank is very proud of this achievement. We are also very appreciative of this recognition from the Historical Society.

Deborah Cherry

Genesee County Treasurer
Genesee County Land Bank Authority
Chair

Land Bank Receives Fannie Mae Foundation Grant

Three homes are undergoing rehabilitation in Mott Park courtesy of a \$50,000 grant from the Fannie Mae Foundation. The homes that were selected are all recent foreclosures and they each will receive upgrades ranging from new kitchens to new roofs.

Mott Park remains one of Flint's nicest neighborhoods and we hope that these rehabs, in addition to others that will be done with Federal Neighborhood Stabilization Funds (NSP2) will help the neighborhood continue to thrive. Bids were recently opened and contracts signed with work now getting underway. The project is expected to be completed in August and the homes will be listed with realtors who work with the Land Bank.



2716 Golfside
(Before)

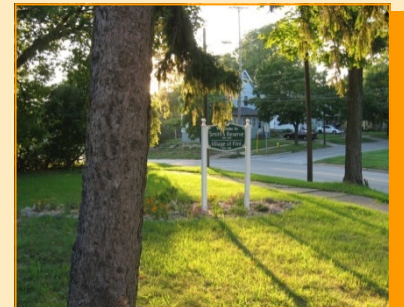
By Doug Weiland



This year marks the 8th consecutive summer of the Genesee County Land Bank's Clean & Green Program. Forty three community-based groups are maintaining a record 1,300 properties this season. The groups include churches, block clubs, neighborhood associations, gardening organizations, and many others. Each group that participates is responsible for cutting vacant lots within their defined service boundaries on six separate occasions throughout the summer. After each mowing cycle the groups receive a stipend based on the amount of properties they maintain. Funding for the Clean & Green program is made possible annually through the Land Bank general fund and external grants. This year the program was funded with support from the C.S. Mott Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Ruth Mott Foundation, and the University of Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center.

Through the application process groups were provided with an opportunity to apply to participate in our Signature Greening project. Twenty-eight groups were awarded a \$200 bonus to plant and maintain their Signature Greening project. At the end of the season the Land Bank will host a celebration to highlight some of the challenges and successes of the 2011 season.

By Brian Larkin



Seven Genesee County Communities and Nine Flint Neighborhoods See Improvements

Results are now being seen from the Federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) in seven Genesee County communities and ten Flint neighborhoods. The County's NSP1 program, administered through the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Land Bank, has been rehabbing homes and removing blight through demolition in seven communities: Fenton, Clio, Burton, Mt. Morris, Flint Township, Mt. Morris Township, and Genesee Township. So far 32 homes in these communities have been rehabbed and another 29 will be completed as the program moves into its final stages. In addition, over 180 blighted homes and other properties have been demolished and greened over. Two notable demolition projects included the former Farm Motel in Mt. Morris Township and nine blighted apartment buildings that had been part of Brookstone Apartments in Flint Township.

In the City of Flint work is underway in nine neighborhoods through the City of Flint and Land Bank's NSP2 program. Eight neighborhoods including: Mott Park on Flint's west side, the Northwestern Neighborhood near Northwestern High School, Carriagetown, the Grand Traverse District Neighborhood, Fairfield Village between Court Street and I-475, South Park near Thread Lake, Central Park near Central High School, and Flint's old eastside will see rehabs and/or demolition of blighted properties. Homes to be rehabbed have been selected with advice from neighborhood groups in each area along with their suggestions for demolition. Thus far the City has demolished over 300 blighted properties, many on the City's east side, and there will be nearly 400 more done in these nine areas before winter. The ninth neighborhood will see the construction of new homes in what the City now refers to as the New Smith Village just north of downtown across from Doyle Ryder School. The New Smith Village is now getting underway with the construction of the first ten of what will be 83 newly built homes in the neighborhood.



4461 Lawnwood

Dan Borgerding
Century 21 Woodland
810-659-3161
Listed at: \$79,900



6525 Dupont

Barbara Arvoy
ReMax Town & Country Realty
810-630-2200
Listed at: \$33,900

By Doug Weiland

Community Offers Input on NSP 2 Renovations and Demolitions

During the past several months the Genesee County Land Bank Authority and our community development corporation partners have met with neighborhood groups in seven HUD Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) areas to explain the program and prioritize foreclosed and vacant homes for renovation. The neighborhoods include: Mott Park on Flint's west side, the Northwestern Neighborhood near Flint Northwestern High School, Carriagetown, the Grand Traverse District Neighborhood, Fairfield Village between Court Street and I-475, Central Park near Central High School, and South Park near Thread Lake which is part of the South Side Neighborhood Planning Area.

The Land Bank and our CDC partners have attended neighborhood association meetings to work with residents to prioritize renovations and demolitions. Since there is not a neighborhood association covering the Northwestern corner of the city, the Land Bank hosted a community meeting at Living Word Ministry on June 27th. During the meeting, more than sixty-five residents gave feedback on the six renovations and forty-two demolitions that are currently prioritized for the area.

We would like to thank residents who participated in these meetings for all the time they have contributed to this process. With their assistance, a total of forty homes will be renovated and approximately 320 blighted houses will be demolished throughout the NSP 2 areas.

The fully renovated homes with new kitchens, bathrooms, and full make over will be available soon. Contact us at the Land Bank at 257-3088 ext. 520 to learn more about how to qualify and purchase an NSP 2 renovated home.



The date of the 2011 Genesee County Treasurer's Auctions of Tax Foreclosed Properties is as follows:

◇ **Friday, September 16, 2011**

Registration begins at 11:00 a.m.
Auction to begin at 12:00 noon

◇ **Friday, October 28, 2011**

Registration begins at 11:00 a.m.
Auction to begin at 12:00 noon



The auction takes place in the *Genesee County Administration Building, Harris Auditorium* (3rd Floor), 1101 Beach Street, Flint, MI.

Listings for the auction will be available around 30 days prior to the auctions as well as on the website www.tax-sale.info/genesee-county.

Auction Highlights



1115 Hunters Run Dr
Grand Blanc Township
Minimum Bid: \$37,838.90
13 Lots - Partially Built Condos



2926 Robert T Longway Blvd
City of Flint
Minimum Bid: \$26,366.45

Adjoining properties also available:

2910 Robert T Longway Blvd (Minimum Bid: \$18,952.21)

3010 Robert T Longway Blvd (Minimum Bid: \$21,275.56)

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