

Carriage Town

County property agency gives area something to bank on

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It's difficult to marry new development to historically significant neighborhoods, but a proposal for rebuilding and renovating two blocks in Flint's Carriage Town seems to have won over its dedicated residents.

Credit the Genesee County Land Bank's ambitious and creative leadership for backing a \$2-million plan that envisions building seven homes and renovating five others in this pocket west of downtown, where many notable houses have been restored over the past quarter century.

Continuing this renewal is crucial, as this area is part of a vital link between Kettering University and downtown. Yet despite its significance, Carriage Town's concerns about crime and other insults to its integrity often have been ignored.

However, with the Land Bank, a county agency that mainly focuses on acquiring decrepit properties whose taxes are unpaid, Carriage Town has found a true partner.

Not only has this project buoyed sagging spirits, but the Land Bank's thoughts of acquiring and razing - for more housing - a vacant, 200-bed nursing home in the vicinity has beleaguered homeowners thinking that their long-held dreams for this special community may come true.

Leanne Barkus, president of the Carriage Town Neighborhood Association, says she sees "light at the end of the tunnel." If her assessment is indeed correct, many thanks will be owed the Land Bank for seeing the light, too.
