

Fall 2016



Genesee County Land Bank Welcomes Michele Wildman as Executive Director From The Board Chair, Deborah Cherry



Michele Wildman

The Genesee County Land Bank is pleased to welcome Michele M. Wildman as its Executive Director. Following a thorough interview process, Michele was chosen from a field of over 40 candidates. Ms. Wildman comes to us from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). There, in the role of Chief Housing Investment Officer, Michele oversaw the rental development, asset management, and historic preservation divisions.

In addition to over 16 years' experience in housing and community development, Michele holds a Master of Arts degree in Economics from Walsh College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy & Public Administration from MSU. Michele knows Genesee County well. She is native to our county and has lived here most of her life. Let's all give a big welcome to Executive Director Michele Wildman.



- *Deborah Cherry, Genesee County Treasurer and
Genesee County Land Bank Authority, Chair*



at Chevy Commons

More than 80 residents participated in the 1st Annual Cycling Circles at Chevy Commons on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Sponsors hosted stations around the Chevy Commons bike route with healthy snacks, health, safety and nutrition information and freebies. Every child was checked for the proper helmet and bike fit. Over 35 bikes, along with helmets, were given to children who didn't have a bike to ride.

Fun activities included yoga, toss a cross, trivia, exercise stations, reading with AmeriCorps members, education on area wild life, and bicycle repair. Stories about the old site and its history were shared by participants and volunteers.

The Genesee County Land Bank, in collaboration with the City of Flint, developed the trails and green space with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). With more trails to come, the current paved area offers 1.5 miles of flat and rolling hills for walking, biking and hiking.

Thanks to Cheryl McHallam for organizing this fun filled event along with partners and sponsors from the Genesee County Land Bank, Genesee County Health Department, Genesee County Parks, The CRIM, Hurley Medical Center, McLaren Health Services, Kettering University, Wade Trim, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and AmeriCorps members serving in Flint.



- *Renee Harvey AmeriCorps- LISC
Land Access Coordinator*



2016 Vacant Property Maintenance Results

The Land Bank, City of Flint, community groups, and residents worked together to maintain vacant properties in 2016. By collaborating and following the strategy of the *Beyond Blight Framework*, these partners produced unprecedented vacant property maintenance results this year. In Flint alone their blight removal efforts were valued at more than \$5.298 million as they completed more than 89,000 vacant property “mowings,” removed more than 1,500 tons of trash and debris from vacant properties, and boarded more than 900 vacant structures.

The **Land Bank’s crews** remove blight by sweeping the city of Flint and visiting Land Bank properties throughout Genesee County. This year the crews:

- Mowed 48,000 vacant properties with tractors and brush hogs in Flint. The crews returned to 30,000 of these properties to finish each site with a second mow using a zero-turn mower and Weed Wacker’s. Crews mowed and finished 4,500 vacant properties throughout Genesee County.
- Removed 1,055 tons of garbage from vacant properties from Flint and surrounding areas
- Produced 1,900 cubic yards of woodchips from removed tree limbs and brush
- Renovated 10 houses
- Boarded and secured 450 vacant structures and provided boarding materials to community groups and organizations to board more than 250 vacant structures.

The Land Bank’s **Clean & Green** program supports innovative community groups in cleaning, greening, and beautifying otherwise vacant properties in Genesee County. This year, the program:

- Maintained more than 3,200 vacant properties every three weeks
- Completed more than 25,000 vacant property “mowings”
- Engaged more than 600 youth in improving their neighborhoods, including more than 345 who were paid
- Invested more than \$480,000 in community groups that engaged more than 750 residents and community members in improving neighborhoods in and around Flint
- Contributed to eliminating blight in and around Flint valued at more than \$1.2 million

The **City of Flint’s Blight Elimination Division** works in partnership with the Land Bank to eliminate blight in neighborhoods across Flint by following the vision laid out in the *Imagine Flint Master Plan* and the *Beyond Blight Framework*. The City currently responds to problem property complaints from the community and has **Love Your Block** resources to assist residents working to improve their neighborhoods. This year, the City’s Blight Elimination Division responded to 3,500 resident complaints, supported approximately 100 neighborhood cleanup efforts, boarded 109 homes, removed nearly 259 tons of dumping, and supported Land Bank crews to clean an additional 71 problem properties across Flint.

Residents are maintaining hundreds of Land Bank lots through the Land Bank’s **Lots Available** program. This year to date, community members adopted 456 vacant lots, leased 285 vacant lots, and purchased 840 vacant lots as Side Lots.

Thank you from the Land Bank to every resident, community group, and community partner who contributed to maintaining vacant properties in and around Flint in 2016!

- By Natalie Pruett

Clean & Green 2016 Celebration

The Clean & Green program celebrated its thirteenth year during the 2016 End of Season Celebration. The event took place on Thursday, October 13 at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan Hunger Solution Center. More than 150 Flint and Genesee County residents, community leaders, and elected officials attended the event. The evening honored the dedicated life of Barbara Griffith-Wilson, a founding Clean & Green member. Thank you to all of those who participate in Clean & Green and make its impact possible.

- Natalie Pruett



Lots Available Spotlight

Ryan Harvey & Alana Lloyd of Lincoln Dr. in Flint leased this vacant lot next to their home in April 2015 through the Genesee County Land Bank's *Lots Available* Program. Ryan is the dedicated gardener spending most of his free time doing improvements to the lot. They re-used wooden fence posts to create a pathway between the garden beds, which are made from wood from trees that were once on the site.

Terrific job, Ryan & Alana!!! We appreciate the way that you are caring for vacant land in your neighborhood.

If you are interested in gardening and caring for vacant land in your neighborhood, please contact Renee` Harvey, the GCLBA's Land Access Coordinator, at 810-257-3088 Ext. 541 or rharvey@thelandbank.org.

- Renee Harvey AmeriCorps-LISC



Vacant Lot on Lincoln Dr.

Demolition Status Update

- 508 residential structures demolished with Hardest Hit Funds (HHF) in 2016
- 358 residential structures are being prepared to be demolished with Hardest Hit Funds (HHF) in 2017
- 43 residential structures demolished with Genesee County Treasurer funds
- 1 commercial structure demolished with Genesee County Treasurer funds; 4 additional commercial structures will be demolished by the end of 2016
- Preparing to demolish approximately 1,075 residential houses starting in January, 2017 with Hardest Hit Funds (including 75 houses to be demolished in partnership with the Genesee County Land Bank and the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission).

- Lucille James

Genesee County Land Bank Authority
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THANK YOU!

The Genesee County Land Bank Authority thanks every resident, community group, and community partner who contributed to maintaining vacant properties in and around Flint in 2016!

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Two (2) Vacancies

Michele Wildman
Executive Director

To receive our e-newsletter please sign up on our website at:
http://thelandbank.org/news_rpts.asp

Holiday Hours:

The Land Bank will be closed December 23rd—26th & 30th and January 2nd in observance of Christmas and the New Year.