Flint River Watershed Coalition

Voice of the River
Annual Celebration Success
Marking 25 Years of Flint River GREEN

Fun Times in the Cold
Annual Celebration, January 28, 2014
Flint Institute of Arts

The Flint River Watershed kicked off 2014 with a celebration marking the start of ‘25 Years of Flint River GREEN.’ For the first time, the Flint Institute of Arts served as the venue for the evening of networking, learning about the FRWC, and fundraising for watershed programs.

Through the generosity of our sponsors and silent auction donors, we raised over $19,000.

Over 125 supporters braved the cold to join us. After a dinner of hearty hors d’oeuvres, our guests got a chance to peruse our program booths, bid on our silent auction items, and meet our staff and board. The FIA very generously opened their exhibit halls, so an evening of art was a treat for our environmental friends. Most importantly, everyone learned about Flint River GREEN, and the importance of this program in the schools in Genesee and Lapeer counties.

A short program included a presentation to our 2013 award recipients, John Maksimchuk, the Volunteer of the Year, Olof Karlstrom, the Joe Leonardi Leadership award recipient, and Michael Freeman, the ‘Golden Gloves’ Flint River and Community Cleanup winner. In conclusion, departing board members, Brent Nickola, David Churchill, and Jim Ananich were thanked for their service to the FRWC.

Thank you to all who attended. The Annual Celebration is our way of showcasing the great work of the FRWC. We plan to return to the FIA next year.

Join us in January 2015 and find out what we have in store for our 26th year of GREEN!

Award Winners

Volunteer of the Year Award
John Maksimchuk, III (pictured at left)

Joe Leonardi Leadership
Olof Karlstrom (pictured below)

“Golden Gloves” - Michael Freeman

Our Valued Supporters
Silent Auction Donors


Through the generous support of our sponsors, silent auction donors, and members, we are able to carry out our important programs, such as Flint River GREEN!

See our GREEN kids in action
Voice of the River
Annual Celebration Sponsors

Voice of the River
Key Sponsor – $4,400

A collection of gifts made in loving memory of
Linda Joyce Fedewa

Pike – $1,000 Sponsor Level

Walleye - $500 Sponsor Level

Bass-$250 sponsor level

PPG Industries
Bringing innovation to the surface.

Dr. Bobby Mukkamala

Blue Gill - $100 Sponsor Level

Deborah Cherry  E&L Construction  Mary Porte
Quaker Chemical Corporation  Vern’s Collision, Mr. Mike Herriman
Celebrating 25 Years of Flint River GREEN

Lots to do in the Watershed

Join us on Saturday, April 26, 2014 for our first activity on the River!

2014 FLINT RIVER AND COMMUNITY CLEANUP

9:00 am to noon
Lunch and an insulated bag provided to all volunteers

Meet at any of our sites in Genesee and Lapeer counties.

- Downtown Flint by Café Rhema
- Atwood Stadium
- Flushing Riverview Park
- Gilkey Creek by Pierce Park
- Vietnam Veterans’ Park
- Riverbank Park in Flint
- Holloway Dam Canoe Access
- Kearsley Park
- Thread Lake in McKinley Park
- Mott Park
- Happy Hollow
- Thread Creek
- Carriage Town by Durant Hotel in Flint
  & our new site at Carriage Town Ministries (NEW)
- All Lapeer volunteers report to Cramton Park in Lapeer

FROM THIS IN APRIL:

TO THIS ALL SUMMER:

Make a Difference!
SUMMER FUN IN THE WATERSHED!

**Paddles**

We hope you can join us all summer long on the first and third Saturdays of the month. See page 4 for a detailed paddle schedule. We provide equipment, transportation, and fun! Please pre-register with Jaime Welch at 810-767-7140, jwelch@flintriver.org.

**Friends of the Flint River Trail**

Ride your bike on the trail every Sunday
Meet at 1:45 at the former site of the Flint Farmers’ Market, E. Boulevard Drive

**Or, Join the FFRT for rides on the third Saturday of every month**

July - Paint Creek Trail  ● August - Lansing River Trail  ● September - Bay City Loop  ● October - Kensington Metro Park
See the FFRT Facebook page, or contact jacksonmin@aol.com, or bnbaton@gmail.com.

**Flint River FLOTILLA**

Hosted by the Flint River Corridor Alliance, a chapter of the FRWC
The first annual ‘FLOTILLA’ will launch on August 2, 2014 at 3:00 pm
Bring your inflatable raft, float, pool, etc, and join the fun!
Details:  www.flintriver.org, or send an email to info@flintriver.org.  Call 810-767-6490.

**Flint Park Lake and Thread Lake Community Celebrations**

The FRWC is partnering with the Genesee County Parks and neighborhood groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>‘Love Your Lake’ - Flint Park Lake Picnic</th>
<th>‘Love Your Lake’ - Thread Lake Picnic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 17, 5:30 – 7:30pm</td>
<td>Thursday, July 24, 5:30 – 7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet at the pavilion off Winthrop Boulevard</td>
<td>McKinley Park near the Vista Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Join us for a picnic! Food, games, music, and water activities at these fun celebrations. If you are interested in helping out, contact Sondra at sssevern@flintriver.org, or 810-618-5969.

**River Path Clearing is ongoing in Lapeer!**

Join our volunteers in Lapeer County to help clear the river of woody obstructions. Supervised by the Department of Natural Resources, this activity ensures clear canoe and kayak passage all summer long. Contact Joe Leonardi to participate. leonardij@michigan.gov.

**Fall Season Benthic Monitoring Will Be Here Before We Know It**

Get trained and help us monitor the quality of our watershed
Monitoring Training: Saturday, September 13, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at For-Mar Nature Preserve
Genesee County fall monitoring labs are on Saturday, October 11 and Thursday, October 16
Lapeer lab dates and times will be announced later. Join us.
Created in 1989, the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) is a nationally replicated program that offers a unique and hands on experience for middle and high school students. Students and their teachers collaborate with mentors from environmental professions to perform water quality tests on bodies of water within their watershed. They use their findings to develop action plans to improve or maintain their area’s water. They then share this information with their peers and community officials at the annual student summit.

On May 16, 2014 GREEN mentors, community members, students from 23 schools, teachers, and volunteers gathered together at Kettering University for the annual Student Summit.

2014 was a great year to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this important curriculum.

Participating GREEN Schools in 2014

- Atherton High School
- Beecher Middle School
- Bendle High School
- Brandon Middle School
- Carman-Ainsworth High School
- Chatfield School - Lapeer
- Carter Middle School
- Davison Middle School
- Flushing High School
- Grand Blanc East
- Grand Blanc West
- Kearsley Armstrong Middle School
- Lakeville Middle School
- Linden Middle School
- Marshall Greene Middle School
- Mt. Morris Junior High School
- North Branch High School & Middle Schools
- Rolland-Warner Middle School
- St. John Vianney
- Swartz Creek Middle
- Westwood Heights/Hamady High School
- Zemmer Middle

Thank you to our partners
City of Flint, Earth Force, Genesee County Drain Commissioner’s Office, Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission, Genesee Intermediate School District, General Motors Corporation, General Motors Foundation, Kettering University, Lapeer Intermediate School District, Michigan State University 4-H Youth Development
River and Community Cleanup

FROM THIS IN APRIL:

TO THIS ALL SUMMER!

2014 Flint River and Community Cleanup

We could not do it without our sponsors

$500 Clean Up Advocates

$250 Clean Up Supporters

$100 - $200 Basic Supporters

Addition In-Kind Donations

Rich Rhein Disposal - Lapeer  City of Flint  Flint DDA  Kroger
Environmental Rubber Recycling  City of Flint  City of Lapeer  City of Flushing
Join us on the first and third Saturday each month!

2014 FLINT RIVER PADDLING SCHEDULE

Meet at the designated paddle location at 9:45. Paddles leave at 10:00 unless noted.

$15 per person if you are providing your own canoe/kayak, and $20 per person if you need to rent equipment

- **July 5th** – Dog Days of Summer Paddle - Mitson Canoe Launch
- **July 19th** – Summer Getaway - Holloway Dam
- **August 2nd** – Flint River Corridor Alliance ‘Flotilla’ *(Starts at 3:00 pm)*
- **August 19th** – Fun Times Picnic on the Flint River – Meet at Montrose Barber Park with bag lunch
- **September 6th** – Bike and paddle - 2nd Annual Pedals to Paddles. *See [www.flintriver.org](http://www.flintriver.org) for meeting times and locations*
- **September 20th** – Experience the Fall Colors - Flushing Riverview Park
- **September 23rd** – (TENTATIVE) Celebrate the Fall Solstice Evening Paddle - Morseville Road launch
2014 Annual Report
Flint River Watershed Coalition
Partnering to Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Flint River Watershed Since 1997
2014 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Amy McMillan  Genesee County Parks and Recreation
Board Chair

Irene Bashore  General Motors LLC, Flint Assembly
Board Vice-Chair

Darren Bagley  Michigan State University Extension, Genesee County
Board Secretary

Derek Bradshaw  Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission
Board Treasurer

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Duane Elling  Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Steve Hester  Zoom Digital Media
Brad Hill  Genesee Conservation District
Daugherty Johnson  City of Flint
S. Olof Karlstrom  Attorney-At-Law (Retired)
Ryan Londrigan  AKT Peerless
Dr. Robert McAllister  Kettering University
Jack Minore  Friends of the Flint River Trail
Steve Montle  Resource Recycling Systems
Greg Palinsky  Palinsky Tools and Engineering
Sandra Robinson  South Park Neighborhood Assoc
Patrick Ryals, Sr.  Flint Park Lake Neighborhood Assoc
Doug Schultz  Rowe Professional Services
Raynetta Speed  Genesee County Land Bank

Staff

Rebecca Fedewa  Executive Director
Lauri Elbing  Outreach and Events Manager
Sondra Severn  Project Coordinator
Jaime Welch  Program Coordinator
Edythe Westhoff  Business Manager
Stephanie Nummer  Program Coordinator*

Copies of this report are available on our website or by contacting:
Flint River Watershed Coalition, 400 N. Saginaw Street, Suite 233, Flint, MI 48502
(810) 767.6490  |  info@FlintRiver.org  |  www.FlintRiver.org

*Left the organization in 2014
The Voice of the River
Partnering to Protect, Preserve & Improve the Flint River Watershed

What is a watershed? A watershed is an area of land that drains to a particular stream, lake or wetland. The Flint River Watershed is increasingly healthy and strong, and offers many recreational, educational, and environmental opportunities. It is home to more than 600,000 people who live within its 1,400 square mile area. It encompasses 59 townships, 25 cities and villages and 43 school districts within 7 counties. The Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC) believes that all people should have access to the Flint River, its tributaries and lakes for recreation, swimming, and fishing as well as the ecosystem services and economic values it provides to our communities: it is a right, but also a collective responsibility to keep our watershed healthy.

FRWC is an organization representing individuals, businesses, community organizations, and local units of government sharing a vision of a healthier Flint River Watershed. As the leading community-based advocate for clean water resources in the region, the FRWC promotes efforts to protect, preserve, and improve the region’s ecosystem through partnership, public education, scientific projects, and community involvement. The FRWC provides the necessary resources, knowledge, and capacity to area resident and decision makers to protect local water quality through science-based resource management and citizen stewardship.

You can read more about FRWC’s programs and successes here and on our website at www.FlintRiver.org.
2014 Watershed Moments
Dear Friends:

If you want to get something done, you can just do it yourself. But if you want to make great strides in pursuing your mission and goals, partnerships are where we get the biggest bang for your buck. The Flint River Watershed Coalition was established and has flourished on a foundation of partnership, cooperation, and collaboration across our seven-county region. Together, we are achieving steady gains on water quality and quality of life for those living in the Flint River Watershed.

We are thrilled to share a few of the highlights from 2014 with you in this report.

Working with the MSU Institute for Water Research, we now have a powerful web-based decision making tool that can be accessed by anyone interested in developing incredibly sophisticated maps (see page seven for more information on ELUCID). And with MSU’s Planning and Zoning Center (PZC), we now have detailed action plans for improving access and water quality for two of the lakes within the City of Flint boundaries (see page 7 for more information). In the process of both projects, we’ve developed many new relationships and exciting opportunities for partnerships in the coming years.

Our work with PZC happened to dovetail beautifully into the long and productive history of partnership between the FRWC and the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission. Our organizations’ common interest in ensuring the lakes within the City of Flint are safe, accessible, and used by area residents culminated this year in the “Love Your Lakes” celebrations at Flint Park Lake and Thread Lake. At Thread Lake, we also are excited to work with the International Academy, Diplomat Pharmacy, and other members of the South Saginaw Task Force to implement ambitious economic, recreation, and safety developments in the neighborhoods.

In addition, long-term partnerships with the Genesee County Drain Commission has meant sustainable funding for all of our education programs. Their support means more residents experience first-hand the beauty of our river, water quality data is consistently collected and shared, hundreds of students are “learning by doing” about water quality and watershed protection, and citizens stewards remind us all that storm drains go directly to their nearest river or stream.

And from the halls of the capital to city hall, and from boardrooms to streambeds, our Chapters get things done. Our cyclist and paddlers bring our river to the masses through recreation. Our newest chapter, Flint River Corridor Alliance, is ensuring plans for substantial improvements along the Flint River in downtown Flint are realized. The Lapeer Chapter, our oldest, continues the work of maintaining canoe paths throughout the county, coordinating water quality monitoring and cleanup efforts, as well as advocating for water quality protection measures…and this team gets results. You can read more about our Chapters on pages nine and ten.

Yes, 2014 had been an inspirational and fulfilling year here in our Flint River Watershed thanks to the constancy and friendship of our members, volunteers, funders and partnerships. We are stronger together and look forward to another rewarding year ahead as we join together as a community to care for and share all that is great about our corner of the world.

Thank you for all you do…with our best wishes for a healthy, happy, prosperous year.

Rebecca Fedewa
Executive Director

Amy McMillan
Chair, Board of Directors
Water Quality Monitoring is undertaken every Spring and Fall at 35 sites in the Flint River Watershed across Genesee and Lapeer Counties by FRWC staff and citizens scientists trained according to Michigan DEQ standards. Volunteers take measurements and collect insect nymphs and larvae (a.k.a. benthics) that spend a good portion of their lives in the substrates of our local rivers and streams. Once analyzed, the number and variety of benthics collected reveals stream health. The data is then compared to previous seasons and analyzed for trends and anomalies. While most monitoring sites are steadily increasing with scores of “good” or “excellent,” FRWC identified a decreasing score at one particular site for the last 3 years, prompting an investigation into the causes by the Genesee County Drain Commission. Data is reviewed by our monitoring committee and shared with local and state agencies, as well as on the FRWC website: www.FlintRiver.org.

Flint River GREEN offers students a hands-on experience to assess the water quality of their local stream by conducting nine different tests, including levels of dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, and biological oxygen demand. Students can investigate what contributes to their local water’s conditions and create action plans to improve or maintain their local water quality. Flint River GREEN culminates in the annual Student Summit, which was generously hosted by Kettering University in 2014. At the Student Summit, students present their findings and recommendations to an audience made up of peers and local officials. Sixteen schools from around the Flint River Basin participated in the 2014 Student Summit. Flint River Green Annual Reports are on the FRWC website at www.FlintRiver.org.
“Our Water” Program Partnership
Creating Citizen Stewards and Memorable Experiences

Thanks to the generous support of the Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium and the Genesee County Drain Commissioner, the FRWC implements several public education programs that educate residents and promote citizen stewardships through ways to prevent stormwater pollution and to keep our water clean. Genesee County Drain Commissioner also generously supports the Flint River GREEN program, as well as the annual Flint River and Community Clean Up.

Storm Drain Stenciling program is part of the “Our Water Campaign” to promote storm water awareness. This project educates communities about the water that runs into the storm drains in the area. The Storm Drain Stenciling project addresses how storm drains can transport pollutants. Volunteers stenciling the message “Dump No Waste, Drains to River,” near the storm drains and distribute door hanger to local homes that provide information on simple steps residents can take to help reduce pollution runoff into storm drains. Adults and children of all ages volunteer with this program to protect the waters of the Flint River.

Educational Presentations are another way the FRWC promotes citizen stewardship around the watershed. The goal of the presentations are twofold: to educate citizens on specific actions they can employ to avoid contributing nonpoint source pollution to our watershed, and to share stories and opportunities on the wonderful recreational activities the river provides right here in our own back yard. The presentations cover the Seven Simple Steps of the “Our Water” program sponsored by The Genesee County Water Quality Consortium. For more detailed information on The Seven Simple Steps look on our website at www.FlintRiver.org.

Paddles in 2014 were more popular than ever and it was a great year to be on the water! Every first and third Saturday from May through October, the Flint River Watershed Coalition hosts paddles through various stretches of the Flint River. These trips allow participants to experience the true beauty of the Flint River, while reinforcing the importance of preserving it. One trip last summer included an unexpected treat: a bald eagle nest with three lively juveniles. Bald eagles only have a 4% chance of laying 3 or more eggs and the sight of three juveniles is a wonderful testament to the health of the Flint River. You can read about the Press and Friends Paddle FRWC sponsored on August 10, 2014: “The Flint River isn’t what you think it is, and here’s why you should check it out.” A powerful and persuasive article written by Scott Atkinson with photos by Jake May of the Flint Journal created positive reverberations across the watershed, enticing even more people to give paddling a try in this gorgeous river.
Engaging the Community

City of Flint Master Plan Moves Forward: After serving on various advisory committees during the Mater Planning process, this year the FRWC shifted from planning to implementation strategies. FRWC staff and board members serve on the Environmental Features, Parks & Open Space and the Infrastructure & Community Facilities Implementation Task Groups. Projects that focus on recognizing, protecting, and bringing awareness to the river and surrounding areas were selected and initial assignments were made. We look forward to the coming year to fine tune the plans and begin implementation.

Thread Lake and Flint Park Lake get some TLC: The FRWC along with MSU Planning and Zoning Center (PZC) engaged City of Flint residents, businesses, and organizations from the neighborhoods surrounding the three lakes within the City of Flint borders: Flint Park Lake, Thread Lake, and Kearsley Reservoir. In this final year of the project vision documents were developed by PZC from resident feedback for Flint Park Lake and Thread Lake, and a future engagement strategy document was created for Kearsley Reservoir. With the intent to maintain the momentum driven by residents, this summer the FRWC successfully partnered with the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission at both lakes and also with the International Academy of Flint at Thread Lake to hold ‘Love Your Lake’ events. With over one hundred in attendance at each event, residents enjoyed food, games, give-a-ways, and bounce houses along with the company of their neighbors. In 2015, we will continue to find ways in which to implement the “visions” articulated by the residents surrounding Thread and Flint Park Lakes.

Web-based Tools to Identify and Mitigate Non-Point-Source-Pollution: During a two-year partnership with Michigan State University Institute of Water Research (IWR) the FRWC worked to provide and deliver feedback from a variety of potential user groups during development of an innovative land management tool: Environmental Learning Using Computer Interactive Decisions (ELUCID). This tool is web-based and currently available to the public online. ELUCID will enable users from across the Flint River watershed to assess their current or potential land use practices with precision, to illuminate risks and test solutions to improve water quality outcomes. FRWC and staff presented ELUCID to teachers taking part in the Flint River GREEN program, local and county planning officials, and shared ELUCID on the FRWC website. For more information on this project and to see how we partner with IWR on other efforts please visit www.FlintRiver.org under the “Programs” tab, then clicking on “Mapping Tools.”
Outreach and Advocacy

FRWC is the “Voice of the River” and serves as the region’s principal resource on the Flint River Watershed. FRWC promotes and advocates for the Flint River watershed on issues that impact the function and integrity of the basin in part or as a whole at the local, regional, state, and federal level. Examples of our outreach and advocacy work include: partnering to secure implementation of watershed management plans across the watershed; collaborating with partner organizations on common priorities within the greater Saginaw Bay watershed; taking a leadership role in the Flint River Corridor Alliance mission to transform the Downtown Flint stretch of the Flint River from a distressed waterway to a natural resource that is an asset to the community; serving on City of Flint Master Plan development and implementation teams; and providing testimony to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the Rover Pipeline proposal.
Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) host Sunday rides every week from May through October. Along with a core group of cyclists that have been riding on Sundays for more than ten years, these rides bring new cyclists to the trail almost every week. FFRT also leads rides on a several Saturdays to explore trails within an hour drive from Flint. The Flint River Trail and Genesee County Parks are included in the current draft of the Governor’s “State to State Showcase Trail;” a trail from Detroit, across the Straits of Mackinac, and across the UP to Wisconsin - a little over 1,200 miles.

Flint River Corridor Alliance (FRCA) is a community-based organization of government, non-profit, and private sector stakeholders organized to initiate, support, and sustain projects in the Flint River Corridor that revitalize the river as a community asset while enriching the quality of life for the area’s residents, businesses, and visitors. FRCA is leading efforts to support the naturalization of the Hamilton Dam. FRCA secured critical funding and local cooperation to move this economically, ecologically, and socially significant project forward. FRCA also hosted the first annual Flint River Flotilla in August, bringing well over 100 people together for a fun float through Chevy Commons.

Flint River Paddlers (FRP) is group of paddle sport enthusiasts who share common goals for paddling and conservation on the Flint River. FRP promotes recreational canoeing and kayaking, and advocate to increase and maintain public access sites. FRP invests countless volunteer hours at paddle events promoting the Flint River as a safe, family friendly outdoor experience, including the FRCA Annual Flotilla and the FRWC Paddles, among other events.
Lapeer County Chapter (LCC) is one of FRWC’s oldest chapters, and the volunteers in Lapeer County are tireless in their conservation and protection activities. Maintaining canoe paths throughout the county, coordinating water quality monitoring and cleanup efforts, as well as advocating for water quality protection measures with local officials and decision makers are the LCC’s highest priorities, and this team gets results.

On January 8, 2015, the Lapeer County Commissioners voted in favor of allowing LCC to move forward with the development of the Saginaw Street Canoe Landing. In 2006, FRWC volunteers passed the hat to come up with the $1,250 needed to buy 5 acres that were in foreclosure. LCC purchased the land and then donated it to the county to add to the inventory of other canoe landings they own and maintained. We now have drawings of the proposed parking lot/landing, preliminary cost estimates of $27,000, and have begun the permitting process and fundraising. This stretch of the South Branch of the Flint River is the closest to town, usually the first to be cleared of obstructions, and the most widely used by student groups. The development of this landing and LCC’s plans to improve access at Rotary Park will showcase this amazing section of the river and highlight the important work done by Lapeer’s amazing team of obstruction removal volunteers.

The obstruction removal partnership with the DNR and Lapeer County Probation Department continues to battle poison ivy, mosquitoes, and a seemingly endless amount of fallen trees. This project concluded its 9th consecutive year. Crews cleared 16 sections and put in over 450 hours to remove 58 obstructions, clearing 11.7 miles of river.

LCC’s Benthic Monitoring crew covered the majority of sites again this year and even recruited a college trained entomologist to work at the lab! The river cleanup was composed of about 75% students, with many repeat volunteers reporting that there was less trash. LCC had several Lapeer County schools participate in Project Green again, testing local streams, storm drain stenciling, and attending the Green Summit.

LCC’s #1 goal in 2015 is to recruit more volunteers.
Grants & Major Sponsors

The following individuals and organizations are the major source of grants and financial support for the operations and projects of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. Without the generosity of these foundations, businesses, and individuals, we would not be able to carry out the FRWC mission. We look forward to a continued strong relationship with our supporters in 2015 and beyond. Thank You

Grants and Program Support in 2014

Reinvent Michigan, Senator James Ananich
Captain Planet
Center for Community Progress
Ms. Deborah Cherry, Genesee County Treasurer
The Conservation Fund
Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy
E & L Construction Group
Flint Institute of Arts
Flint River Corridor Alliance
General Motors, LLC
Genesee County Drain Commissioner’s Office
Health Plus of Michigan
Dan Kildee for Congress
King Par Superstore
Land Bank of Genesee County
Lotus H2O, Lotus Dragon Bodywork & Massage, Tammie Heazlit
C. S. Mott Foundation
C. S. Mott Foundation, Matching Gifts Program
Drs. Bobby & Srinivas Mukkamala
Laura Jane Musser Fund
Michigan State University
Michigan State University - Institute for Water Research
Michigan State University - Planning and Zoning Center
Mott Community College
MPS Group
Ruth Mott Foundation
PPG Chemical
Quaker Chemical Corporation
Rowe Professional Services Group
Security Federal Credit Union
Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
Steve's Plumbing and Heating Company, Inc., Mr. Rick Figula
Suski Automotive, Birch Run
Tetra Tech
University of Michigan - Flint, Rec Center
Vern's Collision, Mr. Michael Herriman
Wade Trim, Inc.
Security Federal Credit Union
Waste Connections, Inc.
The Yoga Loft of Flint, and SHARP Fitness, Ms. Lois Schneider

We have dozens of sources of valued in-kind support, and wish that space would allow individual recognition for all. Please contact the offices of the FRWC for a list of our in-kind donors, or to find out how you can offer support to our programs.
Partnerships

The Flint River Watershed Coalition would like to thank the following partners who have helped build the success of the organization and its many programs.

C. S. Mott Foundation
Ruth Mott Foundation
Genesee County Drain Commissioner
Genesee County Water Quality Consortium
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission
University of Michigan – Flint
Genesee County Conservation District
Lapeer County Conservation District
Michigan State University Planning and Zoning Center
Michigan State University Institute of Water Research
Flint Institute of Arts
Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy
Keep Genesee County Beautiful
Flint Downtown Development Authority
Genesee Intermediate School District
Lapeer Intermediate School District
Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
City of Flushing
City of Flint
City of Lapeer
Epic Technology Solutions
Earth Force
General Motors

Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.

- Ryunosuke Satoro

Thank you!
The Flint River Watershed Coalition is a grass roots organization that depends on its supporters and members for financial and volunteer viability. We have made a lot of progress in increasing our membership and sponsorship base, and in expanding the ways that we reach out to those who share our love of the Flint River.

There are many ways that the community, businesses and individuals can become members of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. We accept contributions in the traditional way with cash and checks, but now, at any time during the year, members can use the convenience of the internet. By going to the FRWC website at www.flintriver.org and pressing the ‘Donate Now through Network for Good’ button on the home page, credit card users can become new members or renew their membership in the Coalition.

There are seven levels of membership available, and four ‘Big Fish’ sponsorship opportunities. Please contact any one of our Board members or staff if you are interested in membership, sponsorship, or volunteer opportunities with the Coalition.

**FRWC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

- Student . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $10.00
- Individual . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $25.00
- Family or Group . . . . . . . . . $40.00
- River Sponsor . . . . . . . . . $100.00
- River Patron . . . . . . . . . . $250.00
- Watershed Protector . . . . $500.00
- Watershed Patron . . . . $1,000.00

Community Support from Memberships, Sponsorships, and Local Program Awards: $53,037.00
**Flint River Watershed Coalition**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**31-Dec-14**  
**UNAUDITED**

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<td><strong>Total revenue, support and net assets released from restrictions</strong></td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
<td>76,290.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$200,719.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets | 159,856.00 |

| Beginning Year Assets - All Funds | 104,546.68 |
| Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets | 159,856.00 |
| **Total Ending Year Assets - All Funds** | **264,402.68** |

| Restricted Fiduciary Funds | 94,704.00 |
| Unrestricted Funds - Available for Programs and Operations | 169,700.00 |
| **Total Ending Year Assets - All Funds** | **264,404.00** |
Thank You!

...for your continued support of the Flint River Watershed Coalition and its mission to protect, preserve and improve our region’s most important natural assets.
Flint River GREEN
Annual Report 2013
Every year, through the Flint River GREEN program we watch students from across the Flint River watershed as they experience their local stream in an entirely new way. For many, it’s the first time they’ve ever visited that, or any, stream. The wonder and excitement they show is certainly contagious! We’re so pleased to be a part of bringing that experience to our local schools. It’s an invaluable experience that simply can not be replicated in the classroom.

And once again, we are excited to partner with Kettering University as the host of the 2013 GREEN Student Summit. Our GREEN students had a great time while experiencing one of the premiere engineering colleges in the country. Many thanks to Kettering for providing a wonderful venue for this year’s event.

Flint River GREEN wouldn’t be possible without the support of our participating schools, funders, mentors, speakers, and myriad other volunteers who make this program a success, year after year. We thank you!

See you in 2014,

Rebecca Fedewa
Executive Director
The GREEN Planning Committee meets monthly to prepare and plan for the year’s GREEN season. This dedicated group brings their expertise, resources, and enthusiasm to the GREEN program. The planning committee oversees the planning for the summit and professional development day for teachers, mentor and teacher pairings, seeks funding sources, and works with community partners to increase the scope of GREEN. This year’s Professional Development Day for teachers was hosted by Mott Community College. The planning committee collaborates to improve and expand the program year to year. Its efforts ensure that GREEN continuously provides the best experience possible for teachers and students.

“During GREEN, I learned that our creek is in good condition.”
— Grand Blanc West Middle School 8th grade student

Planning Committee
Darren Bagley
Irene Bashore
James Emmerling
Rebecca Fedewa
Tammie Heazlit
Lisa Hook
Tom Hutchings
Tom Jones
John Maksimchuk III
Ashley Miller-Helmholdt
John Moldovan
Holly Rosser
Jan Sneddon
Deb Wilson
Edythe Westhoff
The Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) is a nationally replicated program that offers a unique and hands on experience for students in the field of water quality testing. It was created in 1989 by University of Michigan professor, Dr. William Stapp and assistant Mark Mitchell.

Students and their teachers collaborate with mentors from environmental professions to perform water quality tests on bodies of water within their watershed. They use their findings to develop action plans to improve or maintain their area’s water, and then share this information with their peers and community at the annual student summit. Teachers participate in a Professional Development Day to learn about GREEN, and learn about performing the various field tests.

Beginning in 1989, GREEN worked with Flint schools, and later expanded to include many high schools and middle schools within Genesee County. The success and value of GREEN later led to the inclusion of schools in Saginaw, Lapeer, and Oakland counties. GREEN continues to grow and is now incorporated into many teacher’s annual curriculum. The 2014 season will mark 25 years of GREEN!

“I learned that you can kayak all the way from the Flint River to Niagara Falls.”
— Swartz Creek Middle School 8th grade student

“I learned that many chemicals, objects, rats, etc. can be found in wells.”
— Davison Middle School 7th grade student
## GREEN Participating Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beecher Middle School</td>
<td>Teacher: Don Hammond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendle High School</td>
<td>Teacher: Todd Barden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birch Run (Marshall-Greene) Middle School</td>
<td>Teachers: Tammy Daenzer &amp; Roger Rothe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Middle School</td>
<td>Teacher: Dave Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carman-Ainsworth-High School</td>
<td>Teacher: Julie Lawrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatfield School</td>
<td>Teachers: Annette Young, Karla Pretty &amp; Lori Raymond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clio (Carter) Middle School</td>
<td>Teachers: Chip McCallum &amp; Ryan Niemi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davison Middle School</td>
<td>Teacher: Jodi Kosiara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flushing Middle School</td>
<td>Teacher: Steve Groulx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Blanc Middle School-East</td>
<td>Teachers: Deb Lacki &amp; Lauren Drury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Blanc Middle School-West</td>
<td>Elizabeth Lemerond &amp; Vicki Skrisson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kearsley (Armstrong) Middle School</td>
<td>Teacher: Cindy Sierra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeville Middle School</td>
<td>Teacher: Cheryl Butterfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapeer East High School</td>
<td>Teachers: Josh Henley &amp; Andrea Thelen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linden Middle School</td>
<td>Teacher: Charlene Nester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Morris Jr. High School</td>
<td>Teacher: Carrie Wenta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Branch High School</td>
<td>Teacher: Julie Tumblin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Branch Middle School</td>
<td>Teacher: Julie Wenta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolland-Warner Middle School</td>
<td>Teachers: Anne Prill, Wyatt Stevens &amp; Mike Wiltse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John Vianney Catholic School</td>
<td>Teacher: Janice Matlon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swatrz Creek Middle School</td>
<td>Teacher: Brandolyn Forbes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamady High School</td>
<td>Teacher: Tammy Wylie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“During GREEN I learned that anything we do can affect the watershed that we live in.” — Marshall-Greene Middle School 7th grade student
The Water Quality Index rating, (WQI), is the overall score the body of water receives after the field tests have been preformed and the results tabulated.

Water Quality Field Tests

- Dissolved Oxygen
- Fecal Coliform
- B.O.D
- pH
- Nitrates
- Turbidity
- Total Solids
- Temperature
- Total Phosphate

Water Quality Index Ratings

- 100-90: Excellent Water Quality
- 89-70: Good Water Quality
- 69-50: Average Water Quality
- 49-25: Marginal Water Quality
- 24-0: Poor Water Quality

A * denotes that complete testing results were not available due to inclement weather on the testing day, calculation, or testing errors. Trial and error is part of the scientific process. Students were able to learn about what factors may have contributed to these results and correct them for next season. GREEN is a valuable and continuous learning experience.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GREEN School</th>
<th>Testing Location</th>
<th>WQI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beecher Middle School</td>
<td>Kalamazoo River, Talmadge Creek</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendle High School</td>
<td>Thread Creek at Bristol Rd.</td>
<td>68.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birch Run Marshall-Greene Middle School</td>
<td>Silver Creek</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carman-Ainsworth High School</td>
<td>For-Mar Nature Preserve</td>
<td>77.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatfield School-Lapeer</td>
<td>Farmer’s Creek</td>
<td>82.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clio Carter Middle School</td>
<td>Pine Run at Clio Park</td>
<td>77.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davison Middle School</td>
<td>Black Creek-Abernathy Park</td>
<td>68.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flushing Middle School</td>
<td>Unidentified Location</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Blanc East Middle School</td>
<td>Armstrong Creek at Dodge Road</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Blanc West Middle School</td>
<td>Frost Gardens</td>
<td>85.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kearsley Armstrong Middle School</td>
<td>Thread Creek, Grand Blanc</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeville Middle School</td>
<td>Swartz Creek, near school.</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapeer East High School</td>
<td>Unidentified Location</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linden Middle School</td>
<td>Linden Middle School Grounds</td>
<td>77.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Morris Junior High School</td>
<td>Farmer's Creek</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Branch High School</td>
<td>Unidentified Location</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Branch Middle School</td>
<td>Gravel Creek, North Branch</td>
<td>77.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolland Warner Middle School, Lapeer</td>
<td>Silver Creek</td>
<td>72.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John Vianney Catholic School</td>
<td>Flint River, Mott Park</td>
<td>59.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swartz Creek Middle School</td>
<td>Swartz Creek, Hill Road Bridge</td>
<td>77.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood Heights-Hamady High School</td>
<td>Clio Bike Path</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“We can talk to farmers near the creek about the fertilizers they use.”

— Marshall Greene Middle School 7th grade student
On May 17th, 2013, GREEN students, teachers, mentors, community members, and volunteers gathered for the pinnacle of every GREEN season: the annual Student Summit. This year’s summit was hosted by Kettering University. Here, the students presented their water testing results, action plans, and other information gathered from their days of study and field testing. Presentations and follow up inquires from the audience were facilitated by emcee, Mr. Tom Jones from the Genesee County Drain Commissioner’s Office and the Our Water Program.

When not presenting, students participate in a variety of break out sessions. These sessions are led by community members excited about sharing their knowledge with the GREEN students, and include demonstrations and activities focused on the environment.

**Summit Break Out Sessions**

**Beyond Sim City:**  
*Geospatial Technologies & Our World*  
Laura Young, *Michigan State University Institute of Water Research*

**Being A Bee Keeper**  
Carol Winn, *Bee and Nature Specialist*

**Sewer CSI**  
Thad Domick, Eric Brubaker, Tom Hutchings,  
*City of Flint - Water Pollution Control Specialists*

**Incredible Edible Plants**  
Peter McCreedy, *Ecology Director - Chatfield School*

**Paddling the Flint River**  
Riley McLincha, *Watershed Enthusiast*

**Rats In Your Drinking Water**  
Darren Bagley, *Michigan State University Extension, 4-H Youth Development Coordinator*

**Chevy In The Hole Tour**  
Joel Parker, *Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.*

**Be A Fly Fisher**  
Josh Henley, *Trouts Unlimited & Lakeville Schools*

**Meet The Macro Invertebrates**  
Mike Haley & Denny Crispell, *Flint River Watershed Coalition Monitors*

“*I learned that our meals travel about 1,500 miles to get to our table. When we need food, we should think about looking for edible plants and making natural foods.*”

— Rolland Warner Middle School 8th grade student
### Flint River Project GREEN Summit Evaluation 2013

#### Pre/Post Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Answer Options</strong></th>
<th>1 (Strongly DISAGREE)</th>
<th>2 (DISAGREE)</th>
<th>3 (AGREE)</th>
<th>4 (Strongly AGREE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Flint River is clean and healthy.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can make a difference in the health of the Flint River.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understand how a river may become polluted.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want to do things to help the environment.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know about jobs in the environment field.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Answer Options</strong></th>
<th>1 (Strongly DISAGREE)</th>
<th>2 (DISAGREE)</th>
<th>3 (AGREE)</th>
<th>4 (Strongly AGREE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Flint River is clean and healthy.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can make a difference in the health of the Flint River.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understand how a river may become polluted.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want to do things to help the environment.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know about jobs in the environment field.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“**I learned to put plants along the creek to absorb fertilizer.**”
— Clio Carter Middle School 8th grade student

“**I learned that seagulls and other birds affect the fecal coliform levels.**”
— Linden Middle School 8th grade student
GREEN mentors offer assistance in both the classroom and at the testing site. Working closely with the teachers, they visit classrooms and speak with the students about GREEN, the tests they will perform, the proper way to carry out those tests, safety procedures, and how to interpret their results. They offer insight as to what may cause a certain result to be high or low, as well as help the students develop action plans. Mentors are key to the success of GREEN. The knowledge they bring from their respective fields, as well as the hands-on assistance at the testing sites, further exposes students to the value of environmental stewardship and potential career paths in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field.

“During GREEN, I learned that there are lots of jobs in the environmental field.”
— Rolland-Warner Middle School 8th grade student

GREEN Mentors

Marv Ashbury
General Motors, CCA Swartz Creek

Darren Bagley
Michigan State University Extension - Genesee County 4-H

Irene Bashore
General Motors, Flint Assembly

Craig Buike
Quaker Chemical

Thad Domick
City of Flint-Water Pollution Control Division

Rob Fenn
General Motors, Flint Engine Operations

Heather Griffin
Naturalist, University of Michigan-Flint

Tom Hutchings
City of Flint-Water Pollution Control Division

Tom Jones
Genesee County Drain Commission-Our Water Program

John Maksimchuk III
General Motors, Flint Metal Center

Renee Mietz
General Motors

John Moldovan
Retiree, General Motors

Pat Schultz
General Motors

Brent Wilson
General Motors, Flint Tool & Die
The Flint River Watershed Coalition is very thankful for the many financial and in-kind supporters of Flint River GREEN. Such generosity makes it possible for GREEN to continue its mission to educate our young people about their watershed and their environment. Your support will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

Thank You!

City of Flint, Water Pollution Control Department
Dort Federal Credit Union
Earth Force
Flint River Watershed Coalition
Genesee County Drain Commissioner’s Office
Genesee County Drain Commissioner’s Office, Our Water Program
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission
Genesee Intermediate School District
Genesee Intermediate School District, Office of Education and Learning
General Motors Corporation
General Motors Foundation
Kettering University
Lapeer Intermediate School District
Michigan State University 4-H Youth Development
Merit Labs
Mott Community College

“I learned how small things can affect the water in many ways.”
— Grand Blanc West Middle School 8th grade stu-
Flint River Watershed Coalition
400 N. Saginaw Street, Suite 233
Flint, Michigan 48502
www.flintriver.org

Join us, as we celebrate
25 years
of GREEN in 2014!
MONDAY, JUNE 2
Ultimate Dash Training - Program - Intermediate/Advanced
Linden County Park, Beaver Brook Pathway
Time: 7:30am - 9:30am
Pre-registration required by 6/21.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3
African Adventures:
Cavities
E.A. Greenwich Event Center
Time: 1pm - 5pm
Cost: $20 per person

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
Knee-High Naturalists:
Nature's Helper
For children ages 3-5, all abilities.
Linden County Park, Beaver Brook Pathway
Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm
Cost: $10 per child
Pre-registration required by 6/21.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5
Wild Adventures:
Frog Frenzy
E.A. Greenwich Event Center
Join us for a fun-filled day exploring the world of frogs! Pre-registration required by 6/21.
Time: 9am - 12pm
Cost: $15 per child
Pre-registration required by 6/21.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5
We're One Step Closer to Nature!
E.A. Greenwich Event Center
Join us for a day of exploration and learning about nature. Pre-registration required by 6/21.
Time: 10am - 2pm
Cost: $15 per child

FRIDAY, JUNE 6
Explore the Wild!
E.A. Greenwich Event Center
Join us for a day of exploration and learning about nature. Pre-registration required by 6/21.
Time: 10am - 2pm
Cost: $15 per child
Pre-registration required by 6/21.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
Mini BioBlitz: What's in Your Neighborhood?
E.A. Greenwich Event Center
Join us for a fun day of exploring your neighborhood and identifying the plants and animals living there. Pre-registration required by 6/21.
Time: 9am - 12pm
Cost: $15 per child
Pre-registration required by 6/21.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
Birding for Beginners
E.A. Greenwich Event Center
Join us for an introduction to birding! Pre-registration required by 6/21.
Time: 9am - 12pm
Cost: $15 per child
Pre-registration required by 6/21.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8
Fun for All Ages!
E.A. Greenwich Event Center
Join us for a day of exploration and learning about nature. Pre-registration required by 6/21.
Time: 10am - 2pm
Cost: $15 per child
Pre-registration required by 6/21.
Mondays, August 5-28
Summer Playground Program
(juniors through teens)
Goffstown Park Pavilions
1 and 2, Goffstown Pavilions
The free summer playground program is set to begin. Children will be enjoying daily for crafts, games, nature, gym and sports. Themes will vary by day.

Mondays, August 5-28
Tour
For children ages 6 to 12, led by a naturalist or volunteer. This will be an after hours simulated craft experience. Cost: FREE. Pre-registration not required.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Preschool Story Time
For children ages 3-4.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Dinosaur Discovery Time
For children ages 3-8.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Tots
For toddlers ages 2-3.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Toddlers
For toddlers ages 2-3.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Preschool
For children ages 4-6.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Kindergarten
For children ages 6-7.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature First Grade
For children ages 7-8.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Second Grade
For children ages 8-9.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Third Grade
For children ages 9-10.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Fourth Grade
For children ages 10-11.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Fifth Grade
For children ages 11-12.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Sixth Grade
For children ages 12-13.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Seventh Grade
For children ages 13-14.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Eighth Grade
For children ages 14-15.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Ninth Grade
For children ages 15-16.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Tenth Grade
For children ages 16-17.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Eleventh Grade
For children ages 17-18.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Twelfth Grade
For children ages 18-19.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Adult Education
For adults ages 18 and older.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Senior Center
For seniors ages 65 and older.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Social Services
For social services clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Behavioral Health
For behavioral health clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Art Therapy
For art therapy clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Music Therapy
For music therapy clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Occupational Therapy
For occupational therapy clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Physical Therapy
For physical therapy clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Speech Therapy
For speech therapy clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Mental Health
For mental health clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Substance Abuse
For substance abuse clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Addiction Recovery
For addiction recovery clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Recovery Support
For recovery support clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Mental Health
For mental health clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Addiction Recovery
For addiction recovery clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Recovery Support
For recovery support clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Mental Health
For mental health clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Addiction Recovery
For addiction recovery clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Recovery Support
For recovery support clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Mental Health
For mental health clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Addiction Recovery
For addiction recovery clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Recovery Support
For recovery support clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Mental Health
For mental health clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Addiction Recovery
For addiction recovery clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Recovery Support
For recovery support clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Mental Health
For mental health clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Addiction Recovery
For addiction recovery clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Recovery Support
For recovery support clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Mental Health
For mental health clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Addiction Recovery
For addiction recovery clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Recovery Support
For recovery support clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Mental Health
For mental health clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Addiction Recovery
For addiction recovery clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Recovery Support
For recovery support clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Mental Health
For mental health clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Addiction Recovery
For addiction recovery clients.

Tuesdays, August 6-28
3pm-4pm
Nature Nature Recovery Support
For recovery support clients.
The City of Flint’s Water Pollution Control Division (WPC) is responsible for maintaining a clean Flint River in a variety of ways. First, it operates and maintains a 50 million gallon per day capacity treatment plant and 9 remote pumping stations for conveying sewage through sanitary sewers. It cleans this wastewater from homes, businesses, and industries before discharging it to the river. WPC also supports the City’s Storm Water Management Plan, designed to prevent water pollution caused by illegal discharges to rivers via the street drains (storm sewers) that empty directly into them. WPC monitors chemical spills and other illicit discharges to the City’s storm water collection system. Finally, to prevent overloading of the plant or damage to sewers, WPC administers an Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP). The IPP tests and regulates discharges from industries into the sanitary sewers.

WPC is proud of its long history of protecting the Flint River, public health, and the environment through the operation of these programs and maintaining the cleanliness of wastewater discharge, consistently exceeding the standards set by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**How you can help keep the Flint River clean and healthy:**

Keep trash and pollutants out of storm sewers
Report dumping of polluting wastes to the Environmental Compliance Unit at (810) 766-7210
Report sewer backups or blockages to Sewer Maintenance at (810) 766-7079

For additional information or to schedule a tour, please (810) 766-7210

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Water Pollution Control Plant Historical Highlights

October 1925

Sewage flow diverted from Flint River to WPC through 50" force main
WPC included 4 Imhoff tanks and 40 sludge drying beds

1931 – 1932

Plant was expanded to include trickling filters, 2 secondary clarifiers and chlorination

1953 – 1956

Plant was expanded to include 2 sludge digesters, 2 final clarifiers, one grit removal chamber, northwest pump station, and modifications to influent structure and trickling filter piping

1962 – 1964

Plant was expanded to provide activated sludge secondary treatment. It then included 1 additional grit chamber, 6 primary settling tanks, 1 15,000 CFM and 2 30,000 CFM blowers, 3 aeration tanks, 3 final tanks, a digester building with 1 additional sludge storage tank and a gas storage sphere, pre-aeration tanks, chlorine contact tanks, two vacuum filters, two multiple-hearth incinerators, 1 ash lagoon (north), administration building and remodeling of the service building

1973 plant expansion

Plant underwent a major expansion to provide for tertiary treatment and biological nitrification in the secondary treatment process. The expansion increased the design capacity to 50 MGD. It included mechanical bar screens at Northwest and Third Avenue Pumping stations, grit removal and handling equipment (B-Grit), 4 more primary settling tanks, phosphorus removal equipment, 6 aeration tanks (Battery B), 3 40,000 CFM blowers (#4-6), 4 more final tanks, a trickling filter effluent lift station, 6 fine mesh microstrainers, chlorination equipment, 2 high pressure air compressor units, a dissolved air flotation sludge thickening system, a low pressure air oxidation system (Zimpro), 3 vacuum filter units, 2 new multiple hearth incinerators (& modification of the existing multiple hearth incinerators), an ash handling system, 1 ash lagoon (south), and various metering devices, instrumentation equipment and process pumping units

September 1983

East Pump Station, new relief sewers, and deep tunnel network put in service

August 1985

Primary effluent flow to trickling filters was terminated
April 1987  Two belt filter presses were put on line, and the zimpro process was shut down

September 1987  Liquid propane gas facility was put in service as an alternate fuel system

December 1987  Battery B aeration system was modified to incorporate sanitaire fine bubble diffusers

March 1988  Battery A aeration system was modified to incorporate sanitaire fine bubble diffusers

June 1988  The activated sludge aeration system was modified to route waste activated sludge to the primary tanks for co-settling purposes and the DAF thickener building was shut down

December 1988  Stockroom/vehicle storage building additions were completed.

November 1990  Completed modifications to women’s locker room and office area in the administration building

December 1990  Completed the removal of all category 1 asbestos containing building material from WPC and Third Avenue Pumping Station

April 1991  Sulfur Dioxide dechlorination system was brought on line

May 1991  Belt filter presses were modified to include rotary screen thickeners (RSTS)

1991  Polymer storage facilities added
      Blower monitoring (Bently-Nevada) established
      East digester floating cover removed and replaced with geodesic aluminum roof

1997  Microstrainers permanently bypassed, increasing peak hydraulic flow to 76 MGD
      Two additional belt filter presses with RSTs installed

1998  Third Ave. Pump Station - First variable frequency drive installed on Pump #1

1999  Closed north ash lagoon; installed overflow structure on south side

2001  Rerouted discharge from ash lagoon to plant headworks

2005  Began replacement of all motor control centers
2006  Incinerator feed system modifications

2007  Incinerator Control System replacement: digitally controlled, with variable gas burners

2009  Demolished gas storage sphere.
      Began reconstruction of North Digester (with Swedish Biogas)

2010  Completed replacement of North Digester equipment, flare, new pump house, and new digestate storage tank
      Resumed anaerobic digestion of all sludge

2011  Removed South Digester cover and cleaned out the tank to prepare for renewal.
      Replaced the two older BFP units with centrifuges

2012  Began rebuilding final settling tanks with new mechanical equipment
      LPG tanks removed

2013  Completed rebuild of B-Grit facility with all new mechanical equipment
      Replaced bar screen and other mechanical equipment at Third Avenue Pump Station.
      Added monitoring and control equipment and enabled operation from the WWTP
      Began using cellular equipment to monitor all remote pump stations

2014  Unmanned operation of Third Avenue Pump Station.
      Replaced chlorination equipment; began feeding chlorine gas only
      Replacing bar screen and raking equipment at East and Northwest Pumping Stations

2015  Biosolids Loadout Facility to be constructed; all biosolids diverted to landfill and Incinerators shut down.
Historical Perspective, 2014

There have been significant changes over the years in both the treatment plant itself, and the challenges it has had to face. Currently, the 50 MGD treatment plant handles a dry weather flow of about 20 MGD. The steady reduction in dry weather flows has occurred since the 70s due to loss of both population and industry.

This has affected the quality of sewage treated as well. In the 70s, about 40% came from various industrial sources, principally GM facilities. Today, most of those sources have been eliminated, and new ones that have replaced them use only a small fraction of the previous amounts of water. The new GM facilities are also designed to release very little waste in their effluent. Consequently, today only about 5% of the wastewater is from industrial sources, and Flint can no longer be characterized as an industrial city.

One thing that has not changed, however, are the wet weather flows, which still can exceed 100 MGD, although rarely. Since 1983, flows beyond the plant hydraulic maximum, about 75 MGD, overflow into a 10 MG Retention and Treatment Basin. If the RTB capacity is exceeded, these dilute flows are given basic treatment and disinfection only before discharge.

The City does have separated storm sewers, but most building footing drains still empty into the sanitary system. Leaks in the collection system (Inflow and Infiltration) contribute the rest. Wet weather flows and their management remain a great challenge.
Three Eaglets Nesting on Our Flint River

...and they are in the upper 4% among their peers.

The Flint River Watershed Coalition partners with the Genesee County Drain Commission to sponsor public kayak trips down the Flint River through the "Our Water" program. Just a few weeks ago, we had a once in a lifetime privilege to witness three fledglings in and around their nest under one of the parent's watchful eye during one of the public paddles. Only 4% of nesting eagles lay a “clutch” of 3 eggs. Given mortality rates for first flight attempts, this large family of bald eagles is profoundly unique. It would be a rare treat for anyone across this country to see, and yet they are right here in our backyard.
Bald Eagle Factoids\(^1\)

The bald eagle is both the national bird and national animal of the United States of America. The bald eagle appears on its Seal. It was chosen as the emblem of the United States of America because of its long life, great strength, and majestic appearance. This selection had its detractors, most notably Benjamin Franklin who expounded on the bald eagle’s “bad moral character.”

The bald eagle is a bird of prey found in North America. Its range includes most of Canada and Alaska, all of the contiguous United States, and northern Mexico and is found near large bodies of open water with an abundant food supply and old-growth trees for nesting.

The bald eagle is the second largest North American bird of prey, with an average wingspan of 7 feet. (California condor is largest). Body size varies widely, with adult total length 2.3 -3.1 feet and wingspans 5.5 - 8.0 feet. Adult body weights range from 10 -14 pounds. The female is about 25% larger than the male; otherwise there is no distinction between the sexes.

Bald eagles are not actually bald; the name derives from an older meaning of "white headed." The adult is mainly brown with a white head and tail. The sexes are identical in plumage. The distinctive white head, neck, and tail are not attained until 5.5 years of age, which is the age of sexual maturity.

The bald eagle is a powerful flyer, and soars on thermal convection currents. It reaches speeds of 35–43 mph when gliding and flapping, and about 30 mph while carrying fish. Its dive speed is between 75–99 mph, though it seldom dives vertically.

The bald eagle is an opportunistic feeder which subsists mainly on fish, which it swoops down and snatchers from the water with its talons. In 20 food habit studies across the species’ range, fish comprised 56% of the diet of nesting eagles, birds 28%, mammals 14% and other prey 2%.

When Europeans first arrived on the North American continent there were an estimated one-quarter to one-half million bald eagles. Bald eagle populations declined due to deliberate killing for feathers and trophies, loss of prey, loss of habitat, intentional poisoning, and unintentional poisoning, especially via widespread use of the pesticide DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane).

By the late 20th century, bald eagles were on the brink of extinction in the continental United States, and in 1963 the population reached a low with only 417 nesting pairs in the lower 48 states.

Although bald eagles had been protected at federal and state levels since 1940 and 1954, respectively, they received much greater protection after the ratification of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, and the Michigan endangered species act in 1974. Under the protection of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the banning of the use of DDT, the bald eagle population has nearly doubled every 7 to 8 years.

Bald eagles are sexually mature at four or five years of age. When they are old enough to breed, they often return to the area where they were born. It is thought that bald eagles mate for life. However, if one member of a pair dies or disappears, the other will choose a new mate.

\(^1\) Prepared using direct and paraphrased excerpts from the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources webpage on bald eagles](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-115-51808_51818-,00.html), the Species Assessment for Bald Eagle in Wyoming by Amber Travsky and Dr. Gary P. Beauvais in November 2004, and the Wikipedia [bald eagle webpage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bald_Eagle).
Bald eagle courtship involves elaborate, spectacular calls and flight displays. The flight includes swoops, chases, and cartwheels, in which they fly high, lock talons, and free fall, separating just before hitting the ground. Usually, a territory defended by a mature pair will be ½ - 1¼ miles of waterside habitat.

It builds the largest nest of any North American bird and nests may be used year after year, resulting in huge constructions approaching 12 feet in height and 8 feet in diameter. They are the largest tree nests ever recorded for any animal species.

From late March to early April, one to four pure white eggs, approximately twice the size of a chicken egg, are laid (referred to as a “clutch of eggs”). The clutch is most often 2 eggs (79%), occasionally 1 egg (17%) or 3 eggs (4%). Clutches of 4 eggs are extremely rare.

Incubation is primarily by females, with some assistance from males. Incubation lasts about 35 days. The first eaglet to hatch has a significant advantage in competing for food; mortality for subsequent hatchlings is relatively high.

In nests with more than one eaglet the largest chick often receives the most food. Adults preferentially respond to the most noticeable eaglet, both in terms of size and noise. Sibling competition and mortality is greatest early in the nestling period, when size differences are greatest. Nestlings are rarely killed by their nestmates. Similar to other young birds, juvenile eagles are particularly vulnerable to accidents, predation, or starvation during their first year.

When first hatched, a bald eagle is covered with thick, silky down. At about 3 weeks of age the whitish down is replaced by shorter, thicker, and darker down. At 5-6 weeks of age blackish feathers begin to appear on the body and wings; at 7-8 weeks eaglets are fairly well feathered, with only a little down showing between feathers.

Fledging (to become capable of flight) occurs 10-12.5 weeks of age, but up to half of nest departures are unsuccessful and the young may remain on the ground for weeks before regaining flight ability. In most such cases, the parents will continue to feed the young even if they’re on the ground. The adults continue to care for the young and they may remain around the nest for several weeks after fledging.

Juvenile bald eagles, with their generally all-brown appearance, can be confused with adult golden eagles.

The longevity record for bald eagles in the wild is >28 years. Captive birds have lived to 47 years, and they are believed to be capable of reproducing for 20-30 years.

Full grown bald eagles have few natural enemies, and the most frequently reported causes of adult bald eagle mortality are human-related. Major threats include habitat loss, disturbance by humans, biocide contamination, decreasing food supply, and illegal shooting.
The Flint River isn't what you think it is, and here's why you should check it out

Loading Photo Gallery

Scott Atkinson | satkins1@mlive.com By Scott Atkinson | satkins1@mlive.com
Email the author

on August 11, 2014 at 5:50 PM, updated August 11, 2014 at 5:51 PM

FLINT, MI -- We were just outside of town when we saw the thing we'd been most hoping to see.

"Bald eagle! Bald eagle!" I shouted as the bird emerged from around the trees that reached out over the river. It flew just over our heads, its white head and brown body clear against the blue sky.

"Did you see its talons?" Jaime Welch asked. She's the Flint River Watershed Coalition's education programs coordinator, and she was leading the group of local officials, professionals and media members on a kayak trip down a stretch of the Flint River. The goal: prove that the Flint River isn't what people think it is.

I hadn't seen the talons, but I wasn't disappointed. I'd already seen herons (or, as we suspected, one heron that we kept chasing down the river), dams on the riverbed, ducks, what we thought was a wood duck, and the eagle had flown right over my head. A few minutes before, we'd taken time to paddle against the slight current and stare at the eagle nest -- perhaps 5 feet wide, though it was hard to tell. They've been found as big as 10 feet wide, and this one was not made of twigs and grass, but branches, thick as your fingers, woven into the crook of a dead tree that the years had stripped of bark, making it as bald-looking as the eagles who nested there.

Mostly, though, what we saw was the river itself, and that was what Welch and her FRWC cohorts wanted. They had invited us out as part of a mission to prove that the Flint River was not what people still insisted it was.

They did a good job, or maybe once they got us out there, the river did it for them.

"Everyone goes up north to go on the river, and we've got this gorgeous river...two minutes from downtown Flint," said Rebecca Fedewa, who director of the FRWC.

I admitted that I myself had been up north, in Au Gres (if you count that as up north, which I do) that very morning, but had come back for the trip.

It was worth coming back, even if I was working -- in fact once out on the river, I joked with the dozen or
so people who showed up for the event that if you were to take a picture of where we were and show it to anyone from the state, they would believe they were in northern Michigan.

And it's safe. It's clean. You can eat the fish there. This is something the FRWC folks cannot say enough, mostly, they say, because people either don't know or don't believe them.

Laurie Elbing handles outreach and events for the FRWC. She grew up living on the Flint River and loving the outdoors, but as a girl said she thought she'd never get to enjoy it.

"I grew up on the river, and it was a place you did not go," she said, not long before she stepped into her kayak.

When she was 6 years old, in 1973, things began to change. That was the year that the Clean Water Act was signed, and companies had to start complying with regulations.

What pollution the river now has doesn't come from corporations dumping waste anymore, as it once had. Now it comes from surface runoff, with contaminants from roads, fertilizer and other chemicals from lawns and farmers' fields making their way to the river.

There's also the garbage. The river is home to the occasional empty bottle, milk crate, plastic bag. There were two orange traffic barrels along our stretch.

"I fill a garbage bag every time I go out," Welch said.

Tires are also a problem, and they're something the FRWC targets when they hold volunteer cleanup events.

Overall, the river looks clean and natural, aside from these occasional reminders that the work is never done.

There are still problems, but they are not like the problems the river used to have.

Those eagles are proof.

They and their offspring live off almost exclusively fish, and the fact that they can live in the the area shows that the river has bounced back.

The Flint River has the same fishing advisory as the Great Lakes. It's home to smallmouth bass, walleye, and some trout, and people can eat them all.

A note on those eagles: They're rare. Having them in the area is rare enough, but it's the fledglings that make them interesting. There are three. Elbing said there's about a 4 percent chance that a bald eagle nest
will have three eggs. To have all three hatch and thrive "is off the charts" she said.

The great part about kayaking with the FRWC people is that they know the river as intimately as anyone can. Welch led the float and is out on the water about once a week. For work, that is. She spends more time there on her own.

Every spring and fall they visit sites up and down the river and throughout the entire watershed -- a 1,400-square-mile area -- studying it to see how healthy it is.

Welch is just as fascinated by what's in the water that you can't see easily as she is in all the things you can see.

Her favorites are dragonflies.

They collect bugs and insects on all their outings. In general, finding bugs is good. There are some creatures, like leaches, that can grow anywhere. Many insects are more delicate. If you find them, especially several different species, the river is doing well.

She gets excited talking about the dragonflies. If you've ever seen a dragonfly, chances are you've seen it as it was approaching death, because for the first year or two of their lives, dragonflies live under the water. Once they get their wings and emerge, they're alive for seven to eight weeks.

They're interesting survivors. Dragonflies under the water have been found as far as 350 miles out to sea. When they feed, their bottom jaws detach and shoot forward to snatch their prey. Their jaws are what inspired the creepy anatomy of the mouths of the creatures in the "Alien" movies.

"They're beasts," Welch said. "I love them."

Welch's favorite stretch of the river is between the Halloway reservoir and Irish Road, because of the things she's seen there. Once, by passing by Richfield Park, they witnessed a traditional Irish wedding and a female bagpipe player, outfitted in full traditional dress, serenaded them as they paddled by. Another time, they passed a man playing a traditional Native American flute.

Our stretch of the river started in Flint Township, at a launch point near Flushing Road and Ballenger Road. We kayaked about five miles to another launch at River Road in Flushing.

It was a trip full of wildlife, but one that also took us past other things.

There are several back yards, and many of them may be emblematic of what Welch and her cohorts are trying to change. The river's edge is covered in brambles, and its clear that though the river is literally in their back yard, they're not using it. She can't believe this.
When we pass by a golf course, one golfer stopped his cart by the shore and shouts to whoever will listen. He was wondering where you can paddle, where the launch points are, how it all works.

Welch stuck her paddle in the river, keeping herself still against the current, and while the rest of us drifted on, she told him everything she can, more than he'll ever need to know to get him on the river.

_The Flint River Watershed Coalition will be hosting more kayaking events throughout the rest of the summer and fall. For more information, visit the FRWC website._

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Flint residents learn how to protect the environment and save money at 'Green Life' event

Glen Wilson, president and CEO of Communities First Inc., talks to Flint residents about how to lower energy costs and protect the environment at the organization’s first Green Life event in the Berston Field House Tuesday, June 3. (Nathan Clark)

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FLINT, MI – Flint residents looking to protect the environment and save on their energy costs gathered in the Berston Field House Tuesday, June 3, to learn what they can do.

Communities, First Inc., a nonprofit organization that works to better the lives of residents in distressed communities, hosted its first Green Life community education event in Flint providing residents with information about what they can do to save money and improve their community.

"It's our goal to educate and empower residents to make their communities environmentally friendly," said Glenn Wilson, president and CEO of Communities First Inc. "It's good for the environment and for other residents. People don't think about all the little things they can do to help the environment."

Wilson said little things like cleaning up litter on your property and keeping your lawn mowed can have a major impact on the overall environment in a neighborhood.

Flint resident Peggy Stribling came to the event looking to learn how to save more money on her energy bills.

"I want to put my energy into saving, not just paying the bill," Stribling said.

Stribling looked at one of the available pamphlets at the event and was happy to see she was already on the right track doing many of the things suggested by the program.

Wilson introduced representatives from various organizations to speak about how residents can save money and be more environmentally friendly.

Jef Johnson, education outreach coordinator for the Genesee Conservation District, told residents how letting grass grow to between 2 and half and 4 inches is better for a lawn than cutting it short.
"The longer you let the grass grow, the stronger the roots become and it will need less water," Johnson said.

Johnson also told attendees about some of the things residents used to do to the environment around the area and how some people still do it today, such as pouring used motor oil down storm drains.

The next Green Life event will be held 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 5, in the McCree Theater located at 5005 Cloverlawn drive.

Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be free food and a raffle for prizes at the end.

For more information about Green Life events and Communities First Inc., visit communitiesfirstinc.org

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