

## **Infrastructure Improvements and Economic Development in Every Ward of the City**

Flint is transforming itself into a strong, sustainable city for the 21<sup>st</sup> century through the leadership of Mayor Walling. The proof of our city's revitalization is all around us. We have diversified our economic base and become regional leaders in the emerging bio-medical and alternative energies industries. We were recently [named one of eleven "comeback cities" for 2011 by Kiplinger Magazine](#). Working together, there have been new infrastructure improvements and development projects in every part of the city.

In Flint's first and second wards, there are new road resurfacing and reconstruction efforts underway on Austin Avenue, Flint Park Boulevard and Clio Road. Through partnerships between the public and private sectors and local and state government, construction began earlier this year on [a new facility for the Michigan Department of Human Services \(DHS\) in Flint](#). The new building near the intersection of Clio and Pierson Roads, occupies the southern end of the Hallwood Plaza which has sat vacant for nearly 30 years. The project brings jobs for local workers and contractors, and when completed in October, it will allow 20 more caseworkers to be added to the staff and will provide families from across the city and the entire region a high-quality, comfortable, and convenient location to receive DHS services. Also on Clio Rd., Metro Medical Ambulance is moving in with help from a loan through the City of Flint Economic Development Corporation chaired by Mayor Walling. They bring their 85 employees to the city's tax base with plans to expand and hire over 100 more.

In the city's third and fourth wards, there are road construction projects in progress on Stewart Avenue, James P. Cole Boulevard, and Richfield Road. Construction is continuing on the [Hamilton Community Health Network's new headquarters](#) at the corner of North Saginaw and Leith Streets. The new location is twice the size of their former location and will provide a wide range of health, pharmacy, vision care and dental services. The expansion brings with it 20 new jobs and a much greater capacity to meet the medical needs of the surrounding community.

The only new residential subdivision being built this year in Genesee County is right here in Flint's fifth ward. [The Smith Village home development](#), which has been on hold for the past 13 years, is on track to complete 25 new homes this year. When completed, the development will provide 83 new homes for low to moderate-income families. Down payment assistance is available and in many cases home buyers in Smith Village will see a monthly mortgage payment lower than their current rental payments.

The fifth and sixth wards of the city have road reconstruction projects on Williams Street, Hamilton Avenue and Chevrolet Avenue. Work is also underway using federal stimulus funds to expand the [Flint River Trail](#) to connect the campus of Kettering University to Flint's cultural center, downtown businesses, and the Farmers' Market.

[Hurley Medical Center](#) in Flint's sixth ward serves over 90,000 people per year from across the county. Hurley was cited as one of the key factors in Flint's comeback by Kiplinger and it has recently completed a major renovation to its lobby. Work is underway that will also expand its emergency room by early 2012. These improvements total more than \$30 million and will decrease waiting time for patients and will allow Hurley to continue to serve the growing health care needs of the community. A state-of-the-

[art proton beam center](#) is also under construction at McLaren Regional Medical Center in Flint. One of only six such centers in the country, this \$50 million project will provide revolutionary cancer treatment to patients and will create 1,000 temporary construction jobs and as many as 100 permanent jobs.

Major road construction projects are in progress in Flint's seventh and eighth wards. The Michigan Department of Transportation awarded the city of Flint a \$350,000 grant for [the Kearsley Street Enhancement project](#). The project will improve Kearsley Street in the Cultural Center from Crapo Street to Walnut Street with new pavers, landscaping and street lighting. [The Kettering University Gateway project](#) in Flint's 8<sup>th</sup> ward received \$3 million in grant funds to better connect the Kettering University campus to I-69. Through its partnership with [Swedish Bio-Gas International](#), Kettering University has brought Flint to the forefront of alternative energy research and development.

In Downtown Flint a major effort to increase traffic flow and improve air quality has been completed. Flint won a competitive grant of \$3 million for [the conversion of seven downtown one-way streets to two-way traffic](#). The project has made it easier to get around downtown and has improved access to many downtown businesses. Bike lanes were added to many streets connecting downtown to Kettering University's campus.

Also in downtown Flint, the former site of the [Durant Hotel](#) which sat vacant for decades, has been transformed into the showpiece of downtown Flint's revitalization. Just blocks from the University of Michigan-Flint's campus, the Durant is now a desirable urban apartment complex with modern amenities and commercial space on the ground floor. Since its grand opening last year, the Durant has reached full occupancy with over 90 people now living in the heart of the city.

Two major economic redevelopment projects have also been completed in Flint's seventh ward. Last year Baker College of Flint expanded to a new location on Dort Highway. The former 11 acre site of the Superior Pontiac, Olds and Cadillac dealership is now home to [a new training center for transportation jobs](#). The project represents a \$5 million investment in Flint's future and brings new educational and career opportunities to Flint's citizens.

In Flint's eighth ward, General Motors has invested over \$115 million in its [Flint Assembly and Flint Engine Operations](#) factories and added over 800 jobs. The [Motor Trend 2011 'Truck of the Year,'](#) the Chevrolet Silverado Heavy Duty Pickup and [the North American International Auto Show 'North American Car of the Year,'](#) the Chevrolet Volt are both made right here in Flint.

Flint's ninth ward has ongoing road resurfacing projects on Atherton Road and Grand Traverse Street, but the big news is the relocation of [Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy](#) to the heart of Flint's southend and the transformation of the Great Lakes Technology Centre into the Great Lakes Medical Technology Center. The site has seen more than \$20 million in new economic redevelopment--from Diplomat and its neighbor the [Insight Institute of Neurosurgery and Neuroscience](#).

Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy has already hired over 200 new employees since relocating and they are on track to meet their expansion goal of hiring 1,000 new workers in five years. The Great Lakes Medical Technology Center, which was previously a General Motors Fisher Body factory, is now a model of

brownfield and auto factory redevelopment for the entire nation and the largest non-automotive economic development project that Flint has ever seen in terms of job creation.

Wherever you go in Flint you will see evidence of our progress. From the northend to the southend, eastside to westside, new jobs have been created and new opportunities for Flint's citizens to live and prosper are underway. Mayor Walling made a commitment to serve all of Flint's citizens and neighborhoods and that is exactly what has been accomplished. Through infrastructure improvements and economic development in every ward, we are building a strong, diversified, sustainable city for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and there is more to come.