

 Michigan Car Accident Personal Injury Attorney

Land Bank kicks off 'Adopt A Lot'

County hopes to mobilize residents

 By Kevin Holmes

FLINT (WJRT) - (05/17/07)-- The Genesee County Land Bank is doing its best to help clean up the city of Flint and the city's help is needed.

There are close to 400 vacant lots in Flint, and when most of us drive by them, we don't see much more than a mess. That's because most of them are untended and have no maintenance.

"It leads to rodents. It's not safe for kids," said Jeff Burdick, from the Genesee County Land Bank.

"If they don't take ownership, it falls to the wayside. Unsafe conditions, kids, walking to school," added Glenn Johnson, also from the Land Bank.

"If it's your neighborhood and it's next to your house, it affects you greatly," Burdick said.

Which is why a new initiative was launched today (Thursday). It's called Adopt A Lot, and it forces people to take action. "We're actually depending on the community to help us help them," Johnson said.

Here is how it works. If you see an unmanaged, blighted vacant lot, the Genesee County Land Bank wants to challenge you and your neighbors to assume responsibility for the upkeep.

"It's allowing people to adopt lots the Land Bank owns in their neighborhood (and) gives them better control of the maintenance near their property," Burdick said.

Experts say it also helps lower crime, raises property value. Perhaps most important, it raises morale.

"This is our town, our community. We almost owe it to ourselves. The more people that can deal with blight, the worse it'll get. If we put a stop to it now and take initiative, do something about it, a domino effect will take place," Johnson said.

If you'd like to learn more about the Adopt A Lot Project, the Genesee County Land Bank will host an informational meeting Thursday night at 6.

Head to the Foss Avenue Baptist Church at 1159 East Foss Avenue in Flint.

If you can't make tonight's meeting, you'll have another chance next Tuesday at 6 o'clock at the Genesee County Administration Building.

Go to the third floor in the Harris Auditorium.

You can see the ABC12 report by clicking on the video icon above. You will need Windows Media Player to view this video. You can get it FREE by clicking here. NOTE: Video clips will only be available for 7-days from the date they were created. ALSO: Video clips may play in a separate window, without audio, on Mac OS X machines. abc12.com is aware of this issue and is working with the video player vendor to correct it as soon as possible. Copyright 2007 ABC Inc., WJRT-TV

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