

FIELDnotes

Creating Opportunities for Community Activity and Service.



*From the Desk
of Bryant Nolden*



LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT IS NEXT!

What an amazing summer it has been! Berston Field House will celebrate its 100th anniversary in June 2023, so be on the lookout because we plan to celebrate not just once, but all year long! 100 years is an incredible milestone, and we are most grateful for our community that keeps this building alive. With the tremendous growth we have experienced over the past three years, Berston now houses 16 different programs for youth, adult, and senior citizens. Our hope and efforts are to eventually

expand the building and become a state-of-the-art community center in Flint. We are working towards this goal each day and recently received a \$1 million grant from the State of Michigan with the help and efforts of Senator Jim Ananich. Our Omega Lamplighters and Leading Ladies mentoring programs also received \$150,000 this year from an earmark grant through Representative Dan Kildee. We are so excited to be able to offer more and expand our programming to allow more students to participate. Berston

recently purchased the blighted Parkland School property that was located behind the fieldhouse and began demolition. We also purchased 75 land bank properties for site control surrounding Berston Field House. The mission of building and cultivating Berston's legacy as a unique place for individual and community enrichment through education, athletics, the arts, and community service continues on, and we are so proud of our successes. We cannot thank our funders, donors, participants, staff, board, and instructors enough, but I'll say it again... THANK YOU!

Bryant "BB" Nolden
Executive Director

Friends of Berston SUMMER RECAP!



► Juneteenth Celebration

This past Juneteenth celebration was one for the books! Friends of Berston and Flint Institute of Music hosted a Juneteenth Bash featuring the Midnight Star band and more. The event was filled with food trucks, music, dancing, vendors, and a bounce house for the kids.



Mayor Sheldon Neely celebrates Juneteenth with a young friend.



▶ Grillin' with Gretch!

Berston Field House hosted Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Community Cookout on Saturday, July 16th. Over 1,000 people attended the meet and greet with Governor Whitmer. There was food and fun for all, and each individual present was able to take a picture with her.



Governor Gretchen Whitmer visits Berston Field House for food and fun.



▶ TCFAC Summer Camp

The Chosen Few Arts Council hosted their 5th annual summer camp. The students experienced arts and crafts, creative movement, field games, and karate. This year the camp had over 40 children attend.



▶ What's New?



Friends of Berston will be starting a Berston Men's Basketball League for players ages 18 to 39. The league will be held every Friday beginning September 9th with five games from 5pm-10pm. To sign up, call our office at (810) 787-6531.



OUR LEGACY. OUR HOPE.

3300 N. SAGINAW ST.
P.O. BOX 5026
FLINT, MI 48505

FALL PROGRAMMING

► Creative Expressions Dance Studio

Creative Expressions classes start September 6th. There are classes for all ages, including jazz, tap, ballet, hip hop, and tumbling. Visit their website at cedsdance.com to learn more or call the office for registration.



► TCFAC Afterschool Tutoring

The Chosen Few Arts Council starts back **September 12th, Monday thru Thursdays 4pm-7pm.** If your child is in need of tutoring or looking for an after school extra-curricular activity, this is the perfect program to get them enrolled.



Students of CEDS practice ballet poses.

For all other program and event information, please visit our website at www.berston.org.



Be sure to follow us on Facebook (Friends of Berston Field House) and Instagram (@friendsofberston)



Programs and classes that are supported and discounted through the Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment Millage.