



# Neighbors Building Brightmoor

Neighbors Building Brightmoor seeks to mobilize our neighbors to work together to equip families and individuals to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood.

## BRIGHTMOOR STEPPING UP AGAINST TAX FORECLOSURES

This month Neighbors Building Brightmoor joined the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Michigan, to file a lawsuit against the city and county.

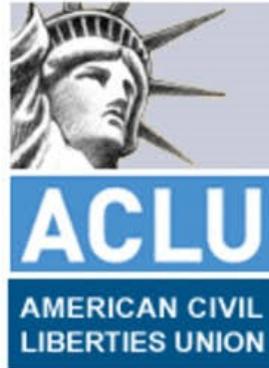
In the lawsuit, ACLU claims that many Detroit homeowners are losing their homes this year over taxes they never should have been charged to begin with.

They argue that the city has over-assessed the value of homes for years, and made it hard for residents who qualify for poverty tax exemptions to receive these benefits.

ACLU argues that these practices can be seen as discriminatory, as they have disproportionately affected black homeowners in Wayne County.

With the lawsuit, ACLU is trying to help all Detroit homeowners who faced foreclosure this year, and hopefully change city and county practices for years to come.

This will benefit not just homeowners, but all of us, as we all benefit from keeping neighbors in their homes, and stopping the spread of blight in Brightmoor.



### Dates to Remember

August 4th—NBB potluck and mtg, 6:30pm at St. Christine's

August 8th—Community Kitchen mtg, 7pm at 22739 Fenkell

August, all Saturdays—Brightmoor Freestore, 10am-2pm, Aldersgate UMC

## Brand New Website!

Neighbors Building Brightmoor has an all-new and improved website. Check it out: [www.neighborsbuildingbrightmoor.org](http://www.neighborsbuildingbrightmoor.org)

## NBB 2016 Meeting Schedule

**Always on the first Thursday of the month!**

**6.30 pm Potluck, 7 –8.30 pm Meeting**

At St. Christine's Soup Kitchen on the corner of Dacosta and Fenkell.

**Aug 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1**

### Special Thanks:

St. Christine's for allowing us to use their space

Compassion Funeral Home \$20

Brightmoor Liquor \$20

Speedy's Gas Station \$20

Inter-City Auto \$20

Bo-Jack Carwash \$20

Scotty's Fish & Chips \$20

Metro PCS \$20

Regal Spirits \$20

Checkers Food and Liquor \$30

Grandy's Coney Island \$20

Pueblo Tile \$10

BP Gas Station, Telegraph and Fenkell \$20

Marathon Gas Station, Fenkell and Lahser \$20

# Big thanks to our volunteers in July

We've have a lot of volunteers this summer. Special thanks to the following two groups!

**LIFE CHANGERS**, returning for the past several years, worked hard all over the neighborhood. They truly helped change the face of our neighborhood this summer. One group worked with Sohpie and did a lot in the week they were here. Most notably, they cleared an

overgrown lot on Dacosta & Chalfonte adjacent to Dacosta Community Garden. This improved the visibility on the block and will allow us to expand our garden.



Another group worked on Dolphin North. Among their many projects they painted the picnic table in Groundhog Park.

## CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR FROM CLEVELAND HEIGHTS OHIO



This amazing group of volunteers worked on the picnic tables in the Kaboom Playground. They were in pretty bad shape. They did a great job. Thanks to Aldersgate UMC for facilitating this!



## Meet Don Sharrak

Don Sharrak has been serving the Brightmoor community since 1999. He is the owner of Regal Spirits, the liquor store on the corner of Lahser and Fenkell. Don is 47 years old, although he feels more like 27. What he likes best about Brightmoor are the people. Don moved to Detroit when he was six years old, moving from the small Christian village of Tel Kaif in Iraq to Detroit's East side. He likes to spend his free time with his kids and working out in the gym. His personal favorite item in his store is ice cream – he likes to try out a different flavor every time!



## Helping Hands For Our Neighborhood

Nearly 1000 motivated Methodists will be coming to Brightmoor to lend a helping hand in the first week of October.

Cindy will coordinate the regular volunteer distribution, but the Inclusion Committee would like to encourage everyone to take this as an opportunity to reach out to a neighbor (or your whole block) and ask if there are some small home repairs or yard work they need help with. We'll be putting together a flyer to pass around and post, but the organizers of this massive effort need specific information about what work needs doing, how many people it will take, and how much time the work will take (an hour, half day, full day), and any special skills/tools needed. And they need the info soon. We don't have all the logistical details yet, but for now, please email [louellapizzuti@gmail.com](mailto:louellapizzuti@gmail.com) if you know someone who needs help (yourself included) or call 313-687-4463. Please also email or call if you want to be part of spreading the word, would be willing to lead a team of wandering fixers, or have other ideas of ways to help.



Here is an example of what volunteers have done in the neighborhood. This is a garage boarded up by the Catholic Heart Work Camp

This summer NBB member Billie Hickey is working with five teens, ages 14-18, through the Trinity Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The program lasts for six weeks, 4 hrs daily Monday through Friday. Youth earn \$7.50 to \$8.50 depending on age. Applications were filled out last March, and youth began work on July 11. During these first three weeks, the workers have boarded up and painted designs on a house at 15115 Lamphere, and mowed and cleaned up the front yard; returned the Tree Dome Park on

## Summer Youth Employment

Dacosta just north of Chalfonte to its original state through mowing, weed-wacking and picking up trash, cleaned up a neighbor's overgrown back yard on Eaton; and have worked in both St. Christine Garden and Lamphere Community Garden, weeding, watering, planting and harvesting. In addition, part of one morning was spent picking up trash along Fenkell from Lamphere to W. Parkway. And we're only halfway through the six weeks! Watch for us and wave if you see us in the neighborhood.



Finishing up the roofing project on the billboards at Chalfonte & Lamphere

For more information about Neighbors Building Brightmoor contact us at neighborsbuildingbrightmoor@gmail.com or 313-687-4463.



*Sidewalk Festival is back for its 4th annual celebration of Detroit landscape and culture through performance and interactive installation! Featuring over 50 performances over 2 days, Sidewalk Festival presents radical artworks in alleys, storefronts, sidewalks, community gardens, parking lots, and the street itself. Come out to enjoy music, dance, theater, poetry, interactive installation, and a lot more. Made by and for people of all ages.*

*The celebration takes place at Lahser & Grand River, on the same block as Old Redford Theater and Sweet Potato Sensations. Beginning with Friday evening performances and installations for the dark on August 5th from 7-11pm and continuing Saturday the 6th from 2-10pm.*

### **Grayfield**

Lisa Rivera 773-332-5031

### **Beaverland**

Nicky Marcot 590-1965

### **Bramell**

Tim Miller 687-2806

Gwen Shivers 533-9455

### **Chatham**

none

### **Eaton**

Jody Scarlett 537-7848

### **Lamphere**

Bill Hickey 472-5295

Jeremy Kenward 701-2063

Jackie Adams 286-6003

### **Dacosta**

Jerry Flaton 926-1412

### **Rockdale**

Ilka Lapeer 532-9272

### **Outer Drive**

Bernice Walker 926-1975

### **Dolphin**

Sophie Stockum 937 307

7976

### **Dolphin North**

Cindy Dorman 405 2457

### **Iliad**

Andrew Wilson 587-3299

### **Braille North**

Willie Mae Jackson 808-1652

### **Acacia**

Karen K. Plants 248-895-

9825

### **Kentfield**

Jacklyn Reese 535-2791

### **Patton**

Dawn Wilson 255- 3637

### **Bentler**

Trena Ross 467-3891

*We are looking for a contact person for Lyndon, as well as someone to pass out newsletters. Please contact Nicky Marcot if you are interested.*

**Block Contacts**

