

Issue 6

Unity Park Newsletter

Fall 2015

Unity Park Neighborhood Feature

Green Thumb Lawn Service

Green Thumb Landscaping O & K enterprises was founded by Kvondre Fluellen and Ozell Brownlee. Kvondre and Ozell are not only business partners but they are also grandfather and grandson. Ozell developed this passion for gardening growing up as a kid in the south. This passion for gardening and landscaping was passed down to his grandson Kvondre and inspired the two of them to start what is today know as Green Thumb Landscaping O & K enterprises.

Kvondre, a Pontiac native, loves his team and the communities he works in. Kvondre has one way of describing Green Thumb Landscaping O & K enterprises.

"We are a family oriented company. We treat all of our clients like family and go over and beyond to make sure they are happy not with just our prices but with our work. We put our hearts into every yard." Kvondre said.

Green Thumb Landscaping O & K enterprises has been in operation for two years and has made a great impact on the Pontiac Community. As a local Pontiac business Green Thumb Landscaping O & K has developed strong ties to the community. "Community Housing Network Inc. has been great to us and continues to open many doors for us," said Kvondre.

For more information about Green Thumb landscaping O & K enterprises call 248-909-3965



Unity Park Community Garden

The Unity Park Garden is a community resource for all neighbors in Unity Park and Pontiac. The Unity Park Community Garden connects neighbors to fresh, healthy food options in walking distance of their homes. On June 13th, 2015 neighbors from the community came together to plant all sorts of herbs and vegetables. These vegetables included: Onions, Chives, Cabbage, Beets, Cucumbers, Peppers, Spinach, Carrots, Green Beans, Kales, Cabbage, Peas, Squash, Turnips and Collards.



All of the vegetables and herbs that are grown in the Unity Park Community Garden are 100 percent organic. To get involved in the garden call: 248.928.0111

September 11th Ford Service Day

In honor of September 11th employees from Ford Motor Co. committed to a day of service in the Unity Park Community Garden. This event was a project that will directly impact the beautification of the Unity Park neighborhood. Activities of this beautification project included: painting raised garden beds, planting three fruit trees, planting seventy blueberry bushes around the perimeter of the garden and applying mulch around the perimeter of the garden.



Go Further

Want to buy a new home in Unity Park?

What is the Oakland County Home Program?

Community Housing Network is working with Oakland County's Community & Home Improvement Division in their **Oakland County HOME Program**. This program is federally funded and is designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low to moderate income households. In this program, all homes undergo extensive rehab to ensure the home is free of all major maintenance concerns. This rehab work can consist of, but is not limited to: new roof, doors, flooring, kitchen appliances, plumbing and electrical, cabinetry, etc. In addition, Oakland County grants each approved applicant homebuyer's assistance which helps fill the financial gap between mortgage loan and home purchase price.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much will the County grant me in Homebuyer Assistance?

Homebuyer Assistance is not a set amount. Assistance is based on need of the homebuyer.

On average Oakland County has granted approved homebuyer's \$8,500.

What is the County's Homebuyer Assistance?

The Oakland County Homebuyer Assistance is a financial aid that works as closing cost assistance.

What are the terms of the Homebuyer Assistance?

This assistance is a deferred payment loan with 0% interest in the amount that makes the home affordable. This assistance is due and payable upon conversion of the property use and/or ownership and shall be secured by an Oakland County mortgage and note.

Applicant Qualifications:

1. Mortgage pre-approval letter from a lender of your choice
2. Maximum household income is no greater than 80% area median income
3. Have roughly \$1,500 for additional closing cost
4. NO bankruptcies or foreclosure within the last two years
5. Complete the MSHDA Homebuyer Education Class



Available Property: **171 Willard St., Pontiac, MI 48342**

Sales Price: \$52,000 , 3 bedrooms , 1.5 bathroom, Full basement , 1,200 sq. ft., Ample storage throughout home, New kitchen appliances, Washer and Dryer Included



Available Property: **221 Judson St., Pontiac, MI 48342**

- **Sales Price: COMING SOON, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, Full basement, 1,442 sq. ft., Ample storage throughout home, New kitchen appliances**

For more information, contact Anita Davis, at 248.824.7315, or ADavis@chninc.net.

Change is coming to Unity Park

12 New homes are coming to Unity Park

After securing a \$3.2 million tax credit reservation, Community Housing Network will construct an additional 12 lease-to-purchase homes in the neighborhood. Construction of 32 homes in the neighborhood began last June.

"With the new construction, we will have built 44 long-term, lease-to-purchase homes in the Unity Park neighborhood in the past three years," said Community Housing Network's Vice President of Development Kirsten Elliott.

The project, which is expected to break ground in October, will include special needs units. Occupancy is expected by the early portion of next summer, and all of the homes will be built on properties that were once vacant, blighted or foreclosed.

"We are honored that we are able to continue to bring investment into the city of Pontiac," Elliott said.

"There are a lot of great activities happening in the neighborhood and in Pontiac, such as the community garden coalition, Little Libraries and the M-1 Concourse going in just down the street on Woodward."

For more information about these homes please call Community Housing Network at 248.982.0111.

Community Resources

COMMON GROUND provides a lifeline for individuals and families in crisis, victims of crime, persons with mental illness, people trying to cope with critical situations and runaway and homeless youths. **Call their 24-hour Crisis and Resource Hotline at 1.800.231.1127 for free and confidential counseling, information and referrals.**

If you see any suspicious activity don't hesitate to call the Oakland County Sheriff's office.

Contact Info : Oakland County Sheriff's Substation 110 E Pike St, Pontiac, MI 48342
Phone: 248-409-7100



Unity Park 1st Little Library



Little Free Libraries are a community resource that promotes literacy among thousands of communities.

"Give A Book, Take A Book" is how the Library works.

The Little Free Library was installed at Marie McKinney Hatchett Park. The library was painted by Sue Nimin, who said painting it became art therapy for her during an illness. This Library and three other Little Free Libraries were built by seniors at the Waterford Senior Center and painted by artists involved with The Art Experience. Books were donated by graduate students of Oakland University's Masters of Public Administration program, Macy's and others.

The OAKLAND COUNTY HEALTH DIVISION provides health services for the public, businesses and educational communities. The Health Division's 30+ programs/services focus on preventing the spread of disease; ensuring a safe and clean environment; promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors; preparing for emergencies; surveillance of disease threats; and ensuring accessibility of health services. 1200 N Telegraph, Bldg. 34 East Pontiac, MI 48341 **Phone: 248-858-1280**

HAVEN is a nationally recognized nonprofit leader that provides programs to promote violence-free homes and communities and helps victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. 24-HR Crisis & Support **248-334-1274** Toll-Free Crisis Line **877-922-1274** TTY Line **248-334-1290**

Summer Snap Shots of Unity Park

