



Habitat Happenings

April 2021
Volume 3, Issue 2



Rock the Block 2021....Right around the Corner, at a Block Near You

Rock the Block is less than 6 months away, August 21, 2021. As we gear up for another successful event we encourage all home owners and landlords in the Mansfield Park and Gratiot Park areas to contact us at Blue Water Habitat for Humanity to apply for home improvement and repairs. What does it cost you ask? Absolutely nothing! The cost is covered under grant funds and the work is done by volunteers. If you don't live in these areas but know someone who does, have them contact Kara at Blue Water Habitat, (810-985-9080 ext. 200 or kara@bwhabitat.org). The process is pretty simple and the rewards are great.

You may also apply to volunteer either through Blue Water Habitat for Humanity, or through our Rock the Block Partner, The Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce, (jdoyle@bluewaterchamber.com). Volunteers will be placed in safe COVID protocol volunteer experiences only. We are hoping to safely have 150 volunteers this year, participating in both locations. You may volunteer all day or just in the morning; lunch will be safely provided.

The two locations were strategically selected this year to accommodate both the Mansfield Park and the Gratiot Park. While the houses in the neighbor are being worked on, both parks will be receiving a much needed update and makeover through our partnership with the City of Port Huron and the City of Port Huron Parks and Recreation. We of course need sponsorships as well, so if you are a business or an individual looking to sponsor this worthwhile event please again contact Kara or Joyce for details.

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Spring Project Updates



Our house build is in it's final stages with hopes that Brittany and the boys will move in no later than June! Yes, 513 14th Street in Port Huron will be finished in May with a house dedication to be announced.

Besides our house build we have been busy this winter getting some veterans qualified and underway right into Spring. The Veteran Repair Corps projects are

sponsored in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation. The two repairs are in Port Huron; one serves a visually impaired individual and the other serves a senior couple with critical updates for aging in place modifications.



Blue Water Habitat for Humanity

- BWHFH serves St. Clair and Sanilac Counties.
- Formed in 1990, BWHFH has helped 207 families build or improve a place to call home.
- Each housing project required roughly 2,000 volunteer hours from start to finish to complete.
- Families purchase their homes after contributing more than 300 (500 for two adult families) hours of sweat equity with BWHFH.
- Affordable mortgages and energy efficiency make homes affordable for our low-income neighbors.



Generosity provides gifts of better living conditions

It is because of generous people and companies like yourselves, that Blue Water Habitat for Humanity is able to accomplish the remarkable work that we do. Examples of such generosity include incredible companies like SpartanNash, who have independent partners like our great friends at Marine City VG's.

Thrivent Financial has also once again joined Blue Water Habitat for Humanity to provide funding for our next build as well as the generosity of The Home Depot for the same build. These funds matched with others help to make it possible for another family to enter homeownership. We will also be doing a unique fundraiser to add to these funds; watch for the announcements late spring early summer on how you can buy an actual stud you can autograph see and placed in the new build.



Cost of Home Advocacy Campaign:

5 policy solutions to advance racial equity in housing

1. Increase opportunities for Black homeownership.

To start, we must set a goal of closing the Black homeownership gap within a generation. We can achieve that in several ways, including:

- Increasing access to down payment assistance.
- Increasing access to affordable credit.
- Investing in affordable homeownership.
- Retargeting the mortgage interest deduction.



2. Invest in distressed, racially segregated communities.

Many formerly redlined and segregated neighborhoods continue to suffer from disinvestment and economic distress. Reinvestment and tax incentives targeting these communities would help spark recovery and opportunities. But these investments must be carefully designed to ensure they don't price out existing residents and businesses.

One promising idea is tax credits to rehabilitate distressed homes in communities with low home values, to expand affordable homeownership opportunities for residents, such as the Neighborhood Homes Improvement Act. Property tax relief for low-income homeowners and investments in home repairs are also important for ensuring existing residents can remain and benefit as their neighborhoods improve.

3. Stop perpetuating segregation.

Segregation is the legacy of deliberate policy and zoning choices that led to the underinvestment and isolation of communities where Black households lived, and the creation of separate, higher-opportunity communities that excluded people of color. Today's economically exclusionary zoning perpetuates this segregation. Governments at all levels are obligated to increase opportunities for Black households to live in neighborhoods with good schools and safe streets. They can do this by:

- Reforming zoning to allow mixed-income communities.
- Building and preserving affordable homes in communities of opportunity.
- Increasing the mobility of families with vouchers.

4. Invest in affordable rental housing.

Public investment in rental affordability is critical to address the disproportionately high cost burdens and housing instability experienced by Black households. Housing choice vouchers are one of the most efficient tools for increasing affordability for very low-income renters, but currently there are only enough to assist 1 of every 4 eligible households. The federal government can quickly alleviate housing cost burdens for hundreds of thousands of Black renters by expanding voucher availability. Charlottesville, Virginia, and other cities have successfully implemented their own housing voucher programs.

5. Minimize the damage of COVID-19 on Black households.

A crucial, immediate step for remedying racial housing disparities is preventing eviction and foreclosure during and after the pandemic. On average, Black renters and homeowners are at higher risk of losing their homes, having entered the health and economic crisis with less access to stable and affordable homes.

To learn more about this subject and other ways Habitat affiliates are advocating for housing change, visit habitat.org/costofhome.



We are continuing to stay up to date on safety guidelines and following COVID-19 protocols. Please remember to keep social distancing, wash your hands frequently and wear a face mask/cover.

We are continuing curbside pick ups. What does this mean? We will schedule a pick up of donated items from your porch, garage or front yard.



Our reclaimed wood products are regularly being updated, be sure to stop in to find what you need. Featuring Tervol's Wood Products and Raven Farm Recycled Woodworks.



WE ALWAYS ACCEPT DONATIONS!
Call 810.364.6919 FOR PICKUP!
 3524 Pine Grove Ave. Port Huron
 Mon-Sat 9am-5pm



Donate. Shop. Volunteer.

Please accept the enclosed gift of: _____
Checks may be made payable to BWHFH



I wish to remain anonymous

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Please bill my credit card (circle one)

Visa
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Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____ CCV: _____

Gifts can be mailed to:
 BWHFH
 PO Box 610367
 Port Huron, MI 48061-0367