

## Tips on editing images for Community Service shoots

- Save yourself some grief by preparing for perspective corrections and the aspect ratio of 4:3. (Calendar limitation.)
- Most cameras have 3:2 sensors, so some vertical space on each side of a landscape image will need to be cropped. If you have the capability to set the view on your camera to 4:3, that will help.
- In order to reduce the lean back effect, leave room at the top and both bottom corners that will be cropped.
- A 24mm wide angle lens should handle most, but a wider lens will be a big help. Don't ignore panoramas (Ctrl+M), if needed.
- If your sensor handles less than 11 stops of dynamic range, you might want to shoot bracketed exposures (not in shutter priority) for HDR processing. Lightroom CC/6 can handle a little more range, with or without HDR (Ctrl+H).

### Lightroom:

#### Import:

- Import into a useful folder, such as *Pictures/2016/Oakwood*.
- Create a Metadata Preset with your copyright information. Press Opt+G on a Mac for the © symbol (©2016, *James M. Lamb*, then Terms, *All Rights Reserved*). Name it and select it on the Import window.

#### Edit:

- After import, in Library Module, click the first image of a house, then Shift+click the last in a string. Press N (a Number of images).
- Hide the panels with Shift+Tab. Click the X in the bottom right corner of the not-the-best ones.
- Assign a star rating to the winner(s) with the numbers 1-5 (0 unstars).
- If more than one remains, tap the Spacebar to get back to Loupe View, and Cmd+D to deselect all highlighted frames, then click on the one to edit (has stars).
- Shift+Tab to get the panels back.
- Click Develop Module (D), go to the Lens Correction Panel. Check both boxes.
- Click the Transform Panel (optional: Right click a panel name and select Solo Mode). Check Constrain Crop.
- Try Auto (or another). If it isn't good, try another or Off, then go Manual (Vertical slider to the left). (Cmd+Z is Undo)
- Now go up above the Basic Panel and select Crop (R). Unlock, and select 4 x 3 ratio.
- If you have a width problem, go back to Transform and tweak manually. Move the image within the crop. Click Done.
- Try Auto on the Tone Sub-panel, and boost the Clarity and Vibrance about +25 on

the Presence Sub-panel. (A good User Preset to make.)

- Adjust Exposure and any other Tone. More Shadows helps the porches, less Highlights helps the clouds and white paint.
- Remove distractions, such as yard signs, wires, and trash with the Spot Removal Tool (Q). Tough jobs require Photoshop.
- Darken/lighten sides of the image with the Graduated Filter Tool (M). Don't forget to remove the effect on areas that extend into the gradient (roof peaks) with the Brush Mask Tool and the brush on Auto Mask.
- When you think you have it, go down to the Effects Panel and pull the Vignetting Amount to about -25 (another preset?). You will probably want to raise the Exposure about a  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a stop.
- If you are satisfied that this is a Dropbox candidate, tap P for Pick (U for Unpick).
- In your folder in the Library, go up to the Library Filter, Attribute, and click the white Flag. Select only the first image for export. (One at a time for custom naming.)

Exporting:

- Make an Export Preset (Shift+Cmd+E) for this process. I have a "Lr Export" folder alias in my Desktop, that shortcuts to one in my Pictures folder. Under that is a "Transfer" folder. For Export Location, use "Specific folder" and click "Choose."
- I checked "Put in Subfolder" and titled it "Oakwood."
- I checked "Rename To:" and created a convention of "Custom Name, \_, YYYY-MM-DD\_*FirstName*-sequence number." Name it "Oakwood Shoots" and Save it.
- Fill out the Custom Text later.
- For File Settings, the Image Format is JPEG, Color Space is sRGB. To avoid choking the Dropbox, Limit File Size to 10,240 K (10MB).
- For Image Sizing, Reset to Fit: Width & Height, W: 3600, H: 2700, Res: 300 ppi.
- Sharpen for Screen, High. Include All Metadata, no Watermarks.
- Now, click Add on the left. Name the Export Preset "CCCC Oakwood."
- Now that it is saved, go back to Custom Text and type the street name, the type of street in two letters, the compass direction, and the number. i.e. *BloodworthStN601*. The Example should look like *BloodworthStN601\_2016-08-30\_JohnDoe-001*. (no spaces)
- Hit Export and wait. When complete, find your *Transfer* folder and check to see if all images have the same 4:3 format, and the filenames are correct. File sizes should not exceed 10MB by much.
- When you are happy, copy or move the selected images to the "2016OakwoodCalendarHouses" Dropbox folder. (BTW: if you install the Dropbox app, it becomes much easier to use. It looks like any folder on your hard drive, it should be one of your Favorites on your Finder Sidebar, and an icon up on your top Menu Bar.)