

# Weekly Developments

In Community Development

Week of: July 14

## Reconstruction and New Life

The Neighborhood Revitalization and Reconstruction Program has resulted in the tear down and reconstruction of numerous homes in targeted areas across the city.

The program demolishes existing homes that are too damaged to simply renovate and reconstructs it as a footprint—meaning that the home is replaced with the same number of rooms it started with. The homes must be owner occupied and have a clear title to the property.

This program requires an extensive application and qualification process; a background check is done on each potential client, including a thirty year title search and a credit check to determine if the home owner can afford to keep the home and avoid seizure.

This particular story begins with a woman who started with the program over a year ago—July 7, to be exact; she said she would never forget the day she was approved. On Wednes-

day, Verentis Cain received the keys to her new home, after spending a year qualifying the home for reconstruction, and many years before that in astonishing conditions. Over time, her home had become laden with irreparable damage; problems ranged from a lack of central air, substantial rainwater leaks, and even raccoon infestations.

Cain found out about the program through a non-profit organization, who referred her to Community Development after seeing the conditions of her home. She applied, and quickly moved up the list of applicants until she finally became approved for the program. However, being approved was not the end of the process. Cain had to secure the deed on her home and was relocated to an apartment while her house was being built; this was approximately one year of work.

For Lisa Glover, the loan underwriter who handles all the homes for the program, her favorite part of the job

## Final Edition of Weekly Developments

The final days of the internship are approaching, and this week will be my last “weekly development” for Community Development. I have received so much feedback from this and it has been such a joy writing it, so I am a little sad to see it go!

But never fret, this is not the last newslet-

ter that will be coming from Community Development. After this issue, we will switch to quarterly newsletters that will comprise the events and news from the prior few months.

With a different newsletter will come a few changes: there will be a new title, and these will no longer be strictly



Photo by: Tra'Van R. Cooper  
Loan underwriter Lisa Glover helps a home owner close on her new home.



The home before the reconstruction, deemed infeasible for rehabilitation.



The finished home, one year after the owner's home was approved.

is when she gets to tell the home owners “I have approved you, and you're getting a new home.” The process is long journey, culminating with a home owner who gets to start a new life with a new home.

The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program ended on July 18. Here are photos from the culmination event at Riverview Hall.



Photo by: Tra'Van R. Cooper  
Youth celebrate at the culmination event.



Photo by: Tra'Van R. Cooper  
Youth prepare for dinner at the event.



Photo by: Tra'Van R. Cooper  
Herman Vital, Bonnie Moore and Janice Moran-Evans hands a certificate to Officer Bruce Parsee

from my perspective, but instead all of the hard working people at Community Development.

This has been great few weeks!

-Valencia