



Winter 2020 Newsletter



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CLOSING OUT THE YEAR

As the new year begins, Bridging Neighborhoods would like to provide you with a recap of what our team has been up to since the last newsletter. From volunteer initiatives to going above and beyond for our I-75 Environmental Mitigation and Home Swap Program participants, it was and continues to be a busy time for The Bridging Neighborhoods Team. We hope you find this Newsletter informative and we look forward to welcoming the New Year!

**- THE BRIDGING
NEIGHBORHOODS TEAM**

HOME SWAP PROGRAM 20th HOME CLOSING

Welcoming the Piñon Family to Warrendale



The Bridging Neighborhoods Home Swap Program offers homeowners that are directly affected by the Gordie Howe International Bridge the opportunity to move to renovated homes in neighborhoods throughout the City of Detroit. Eligible individuals are owner-occupants residing in Delray or within 150 feet of the expanded I-75 service drive.

This past summer, Bridging Neighborhoods and community leaders celebrated the 20th Home Swap closing by welcoming the Piñon family to their newly renovated home in the Warrendale neighborhood.

The Family (mother-María Flores & daughter-María Piñon) moved into their new home after residing in Delray for over 12 years. When asked about the move, Mrs. Flores stated she loves her new home but is also emotional about leaving the place she has called home for so long.

Since closing on this home, Bridging Neighborhoods has closed on seven additional houses.

I-75 Environmental Mitigation Program First Retrofitted Home

Saying Goodbye to Noise and Pollution

As many of you know, the I-75 Environmental Mitigation Program ((EMP) from Bridging Neighborhoods provides Detroit residents from a designated area (300 ft. north of the expanded I-75 service drive) free home upgrades such as updated windows, updated HVAC systems, air filters, and insulation with the goal of improving air and mitigating noise in their home. This past quarter, Bridging Neighborhoods completed phase one of the program with thirty-nine homes receiving these retrofits.

Mr. Juan Guzman, a retired Iron Worker that has lived in his home for 35 years and served in the aftermath of 9/11 was the first beneficiary of the program.

"I'm very grateful for this program. It's good for the community and makes the neighborhood look better. I'm a retired Iron Worker, but I was called to New York shortly after 9/11 and later developed some health issues associated with my breathing. The clean air ducts, filters, and updated furnace will improve the air in my home making it easier to breathe. It's been such a smooth process and I thank the City of Detroit for it"

Through the I-75 EMP, Bridging Neighborhoods has been able to improve the air quality of multiple homes in the neighborhood and will continue to do so, with additional homes in the impact area expected to receive upgrades in 2020 and 2021.

If you missed the first enrollment period for I-75 EMP and believe you are eligible, please contact us as enrollment phase 2 will open February 1st and run through March 31st.





Burdeno St. Cleaning & Toiletry Drive

Giving Back to the Community

This past summer multiple law students from Wayne State University Law School gathered in the Delray neighborhood to volunteer with the cleaning of Burdeno Street.

Due to its vacancy and surplus of lots, the Delray neighborhood often becomes an illegal dumping ground for litterers looking to get rid of trash and other items. One tire and mattress at a time, the Wayne State law students, the Bridging Neighborhoods team, and the Department of Public Works worked endlessly to remove all litter from Burdeno St, leaving it impeccably clean.

In addition to providing a cleaner street for Delray residents, various students donated miscellaneous toiletries that resulted in over 100 toiletry bags that were made available to residents.

The Bridging Neighborhoods team wants to give a big THANK YOU to the Wayne State Law School, and we look forward to this becoming a yearly event.

NEW BRIDGING NEIGHBORHOODS STAFF

Hello and Hello Again



Miguel Barajas
Housing Consultant

Miguel Barajas was born in Jalisco, Mexico, but raised in Southwest Detroit since the age of two. Miguel comes from a health and life science background, holding both a BS in Biological Sciences and a BA in Chemistry from Wayne State University. Most recently he also obtained a Masters in Public Health from Wayne State University School of Medicine. In his spare time, Miguel enjoys painting and going to the gym. Miguel is currently one of two Housing Consultants at Bridging Neighborhoods and is dedicated to helping families in the neighborhood where he grew up and still resides. He states that providing healthy homes and creating healthy neighborhoods are key factors that drive the mission of Bridging Neighborhoods and are what led him to his current role.



Robert Bilderbeck "Bob the Builder"
Construction Superintendent

Bob is not a new member of the BNP team, in fact, he is one of the oldest; not just age-wise but by how long he has been with BNP. Bob is the Construction Superintendent and oversees the rehabbing of homes, however he was out recently due to undergoing knee surgery. We want to give Bob and his two new knees a big welcome back! Yes, this is the second knee surgery he gets and hopefully the last, unless he is hiding a third knee from us. Jokes aside, Bob is a vital part of the team and BNP would be incomplete without him, so we are very happy that he is on his way to recovery and will soon have two healthy knees to continue doing the good work that he does. Bob brings years of experience in residential rehabbing and is also an Army Veteran. The BNP team thanks Bob for his service.

MODEL HOME CLOSINGS

Becoming Neighbors in a New Neighborhood



Not only did Bridging Neighborhoods celebrate our 23rd and 24th home closings this past November, but we also got the opportunity to have two Delray residents become neighbors in their new community of Chadsey-Condon.

A year ago, the BNP team took a chance on two adjacent homes that had been vacant for over 14 years in the Chadsey-Condon neighborhood and decided to remodel these homes before they were matched, making them the first Model Homes of the program since our initial model home in 2018. Fast-forward to this past November, and these houses are now occupied by two Delray residents.

These home closings were a win-win for both the Chadsey-Condon residents and the new residents. After 14 years of not having neighbors, the Chadsey-Condon residents are happy to have new neighbors occupying what were once vacant homes. At the same time, the new residents are thankful to have a familiar face next door and to be able to preserve a little bit of Delray in their new neighborhood!

Carnival in Delray



Celebration in the Community

As a way to bring the community together, Bridging Neighborhoods held the "Carnival in Delray" attended by multiple Bridging Neighborhoods Program Participants. The Carnival was filled with lots of family fun featuring face painting, a bounce house, train rides and lots of carnival games and food.

Local businesses and organizations also took part in the event by hosting informational tables and making resources available to residents. The Detroit Zoo, The Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), and The Department of Neighborhoods were a few of the many organizations that participated in this event. In addition to hosting a table, The Detroit Zoo donated guest passes to the zoo that were raffled off to attendees.

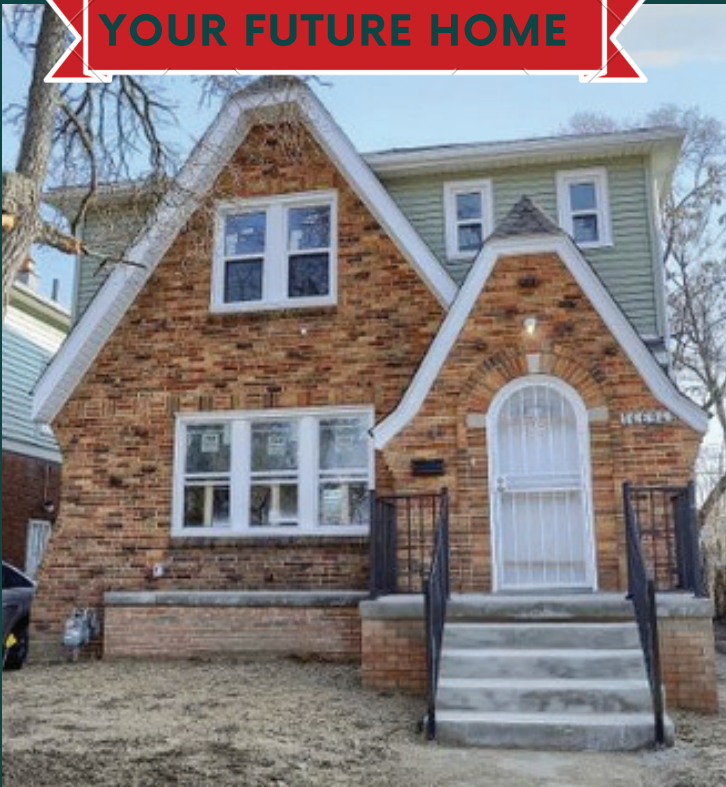


As the highlight of the carnival, attendees also got to see a break-dance performance by the Motor City Street Dance Academy (MCSDA) who performed dance routines throughout the length of the carnival.

The Carnival in Delray was such a success that Bridging Neighborhoods plans to host this event annually and continue the carnival fun for years to come!



YOUR FUTURE HOME



SAVE THE DATES

FEB-MAR

I-75 Environmental Mitigation Program Open Enrollment Phase 2

EVERY 1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

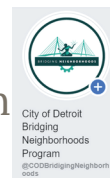
BNP Late Days - Office is open until 7pm

APRIL 1ST

2020 Census Day



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BRIDGING NEIGHBORHOODS

CONNECTING DELRAY FAMILIES TO HOMES IN GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS
PROMOTING HEALTHIER HOMES

Call Now

Interested in this home or another BNP home?
Call (313) 628-2231 to schedule an appointment with a
Housing Consultant