

Philadelphia Neighborhoods

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The Transformation of a Neighborhood

Walking through a part of North Central, a passerby can hear the sound of a changing neighborhood.

The change comes from the sounds of hammers, powered drills and the echoing sounds of dropped lumber.

Residents of the area watch and listen as the many empty lots and abandoned houses around them are being transformed into brand new or renovated homes. A family that was until recently flanked by an abandoned house and a vacant lot is now completely surrounded by new homes and new faces.



The new faces, however, are not of families moving back into the neighborhood but of students from nearby Temple University.

"About 10 years ago you wouldn't see Temple students come past 15th street," said Dennis McNeill, a North Central resident. "Now it's more integrated."



The opinion of residents toward the development of the neighborhood and infiltration of students is varied. Most residents – especially those who have spent their entire lives here – take issue with the lack of respect students have toward the community.

For better or worse the neighborhood is finally losing its abandoned homes and trash-ridden lots. Only time will tell if the new faces in the community can contribute more to it than just loud, weekend house parties.

By Michelle Provencher and Milan Vracarich, Group 14, North Central
Posted by milan at 8:33 AM

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