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Cat House Gets New Lease On Life

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Three months ago, the owner of 251 Strader in the East End moved out, but left behind more than 60 cats. The bank foreclosed on the property and it was facing the wrecking ball.

But as Joe Webb tells us, the house has been spared and so has a neighborhood facing a serious cat problem.

251 Strader is still a little rough, but it's a long way from where it was in May, abandoned, except for 62 cats living on both floors and in the attic. When Michael Bolan came with a realtor to look at it, the realtor wouldn't go in. When he tore out the plaster ceiling, he found out the attic was really a litter box.



Michael Bolan, Homeowner: "When we pulled that down...Paul did most of the work...Whole pounds of cat feces came down and just inundated the floor and we had to literally shovel it out."

Bolan quickly reconsidered the 3 bids he had for demolition, but decided to stick it out. Using a deodorizing product made in Butler County, he and his neighbor, Paul, have wiped out the stench. Gail Silver rescued the cats. 40 still need foster homes.

Gail Silver, Silver Bells Animal Rescue: "So, we desperately need new foster families to come forward and take care of these cats and kittens for several months at a time, while we continue to look for homes."

You can see the cats on the website [foreclosure cats-dot-com](http://foreclosurecats.com). Saving the house was obviously a big deal, but saving the cats also saved a lot of headaches for people in the neighborhood. 60 cats can quickly become hundreds.

"These animals would have been having babies rapidly...suffering and also creating a blight in the neighborhood that quite possibly could have never been resolved."

Instead, the cats will eventually have new homes, so will Michael Bolan in a few months. And 251 Strader will just be the house next to the community garden....not the community cat house.

In the East End, Joe Webb, Local 12.

Tomorrow, the neighborhood will celebrate at 251 Strader with a cookout and a movie projected on the side of the house. To raise money, artists from around the country are donating portraits of the rescued cats that will be sold on the website.