

Fall 2017

## DEERFIELD ESTATES

WOW!

The weather sure has changed  
BRRRRRRRRR

### MY VERSION OF THE FORBIDDEN SHED STORY

Ed and I moved into the neighborhood in the fall of 2013. When we made the offer on our home we made it contingent on being able to add an addition on to the garage for storage. Scott Grover was the president at the time and Ed put a quick sketch together to show them what we were wanting to do, we were appreciative of how quickly the board was able to meet and get it approved.

On many occasions I would tell Ed that we can not fit 50 years worth of stuff in a home designed to hold 25 years worth. So while preparing to list our home for sale we began the process of selling and throwing out items that we no longer needed or wanted, we were both surprised at the amount of items that fit into that category. Once our home sold we placed all our items in storage and moved in with our daughter until we found the right place for us.

Once we found our home on Buck Court once again I was amazed at all the items that we were able to get rid of..

We built on a rather large addition to our home and it didn't take long to once again fill up the space.

In 2014 I lost my dad to cancer and quickly realized that I could part with nearly everything we have and not think twice about it. Stuff is only stuff and the old saying "you can't take it with you is really true." and when we leave this earth all our graves are the same size.

In the end what really matters are the people that we touch and the memories we make because in the end our faith, family and friends .

At our old house not only did we have the large home and barn but we also had a shed. The shed was one of the things that we sold early on and the items in it, actually sold everything in it except the items for the pool that we just left with the house. I hated the fact that the shed was just sitting on the ground and there was always something living underneath of it. It was never sitting level and more than once Ed rebuilt the doors, painted and roofed it.

When cleaning it out we discovered that he spent all that time taking care of it for stuff that we didn't even need. Those were hours that could have been spent making memories, helping a friend or just relaxing.

Once we moved into this addition almost from the start we became aware that sheds were an issue of contention here. Some people want sheds for all their overflow and others definitely do not want sheds allowed.

My opinion matters very little but here is my spin on it since I get to be the one to write the newsletter I feel that I can share it with you and you can choose for yourself if you want to read it or not.

I drove around to several neighborhoods that allow sheds and looked to see what all the fuss is about. I took pictures and had them developed so that we can further discuss the issue later. It did not take long for me to figure out what the issue was. I found very few sheds that were being maintained. Almost all

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Had issues.

Most realtors assess a shed a value of \$500.00 so this is a structure that depreciates in value. Also the realtors that I talked to stated that if the property has a poorly maintained shed they will encourage the homeowner to remove it and if there are items sitting around the outside of it they ask that they be stored elsewhere because it gives the buyer the idea that there is not enough storage.

To build a storage room onto your existing structure varies based on if you do any of the work yourself, the size and the purpose that you want to use it for. So you can anticipate the cost being from \$1500 to the skies the limit. Depending how it was constructed decides if this addition adds value to your property but in most cases it will. So build on instead of buying a shed.

My spin on it is to first clean out your existing space decide what you really need and what can easily be let go of, then decide what it is that you really need to store and see if you can fit it into the space.

If our addition decides to someday allow sheds I would also ask that they be required to have a privacy fence to hide the shed in case it does not get properly maintained.

Just keep in mind to add sheds to our addition it would also require changing our covenants so join the board. To make changes happen.

### YEARS OF APPRECIATED SERVICE

*Annual association*

*Garage sales will be  
in May and*

*Spetember*

Deerfield Estates was blessed to have Carol Conte serve on the board for many years and her service as our Membership leader was greatly appreciated. It isn't easy to

collect the dues from people. Often people will avoid paying the dues and yet expect to still have the services. That the dues pays for. It is important to keep your dues paid

so that we can continue to pay for snow removal and general repairs. Be considerate and pay your share.

***If your yard and landscaping is full of weeds please be considerate to the neighborhood and take care of it,***

### BOARD MEMBERS

Board members were added to our association board. Some positions did not change. Neil Warner is our current president. Kevin VanBrocklin is our new vice president. Maria and Scott Grover are tak-

ing care of membership and Jana is our new secretary. Ed Crouse and Jim are taking care of architectural control and Tina Crouse and Tammy are taking care of social and welfare issues. Gary Winters is our Treasurer-

There are still positions open and available on the board and we urge all of you to get involved. Monthly meetings are held the third Monday at 9630 Buck Court. All are welcome to come.

## AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Well, by now I'm sure you have noticed that The mailbox stations were given a good scrub down and a new stain job. This sure brought out issues of needed repair to some of the stations. This year the top boards that were cracked and in disrepair were simply turned over and notches cut into them

Since it is so late in the season. Next year it would be great to have some new volunteers to help out with some needed projects. In the spring the fire hydrants will be painted and we have some need for the signs to be repaired at the front entrances. Im sure if we look around there are

plenty of other projects that need our attention. Let us know if there is something out there that we have missed. It takes all of us to help keep our addition up to date and a great place to live.

Its amazing how much the downtown development is beginning to cost us. Taxes increasing on everything. While our streets are crumbling, and our drainage issues have never been addressed. We should all be attending meetings downtown and reminding them that there are still other neighborhoods still need cared for.

**BE AWARE OF PEOPLE YOU DO NOT KNOW WALKING THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD CARRYING A BACKPACK, IT COULD BE A WAY TO STASH SMALL STOLEN OBJECTS**

### AREA CRIME PREVENTION

Ed and I grew up in the small rural town of Berne Indiana. One of the things that we most loved about our community was how safe you could feel. It was pretty rare to lock the doors and you could walk the street at night and the worst thing you would encounter was a mosquito. I never imagined moving to a big city like Fort Wayne but here we

are! (Don't tell anyone but we are stalking some of our children and grandchildren). I must admit that upon moving here I was a bit nervous. I was so relieved to move into this addition and feel so safe just like I did in the community I grew up in. However, it is no longer the 60s anywhere so we must take precautions. Its just the smart thing to

- do. Here are just a few tips.
1. Don't leave your garage door open
  2. Lock your doors even if you are home.
  3. Write the serial numbers down of your items and take pictures
  4. Report things that just don't feel right
  5. Most important look out for one another.

*It has been tough to keep up with all of the people that have been moving in and out of the neighborhood over the last couple of years if I have missed welcoming you im very sorry.*

*Homes are selling as quick as they come on the market if anyone is needing help with buying or selling we are thrilled to have a realtor in our neighborhood.*

*April VanBroklyn*

*Can help 260-433-3612*

**We're on the Web!**  
**example.com**

DEERFIELD-ESTATES.COM

If you have not yet joined our NEIGHBORHOOD FACEBOOK SITE PLEASE DO IT IS A VERY QUICK WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

DEERFIELD ESTATES  
FORT WAYNE  
INDIANA

### *Leaf Pickup*

*If you rake your leaves and bag them you can call 311 and they will pick them up!*

*If you rake them to the curb they will be picked up*

*November 6-9*

*December 4-8*

### **Trick or Treat**

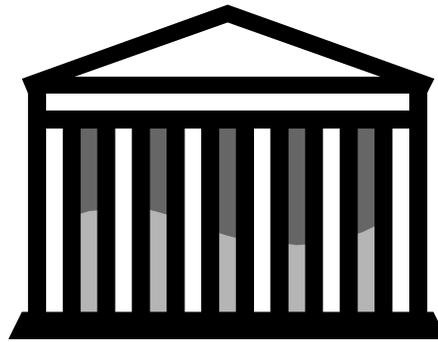
**Hours are 5:30—7:30**

**For those of you who are interested in a little extra excitement Monday night is the Calithumpian Parade in Decatur It is an event that has been perfected and you will not regret it.**

## BEFORE FACEBOOK AND THE INTERNET

When the Van-Brocklin family moved into the neighborhood they received multiple directories and newsletters. Kevin was kind enough to Share them with me.

There newsletters were amazing everyone knew about new babies, birthdays, anniversaries and children's accomplishments. When someone was in need the newsletter told of the need and how the neighborhood intended to supply the need.



yesteryears

There were numerous activities like a ladies tea, dances and book clubs. All with people from the neighborhood. I love our neighborhood but found myself

becoming a bit jealous of the events that were once shared in our community. Along with modern technology also came the separation of days that ran at a friendlier and slower pace.

I have the internet and Facebook and can't possibly keep up so to the people that once wrote the newsletters you have my upmost respect.