

NEWS & VIEWS



Schnettler-Benning
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Distinctive Home Graces Spring Tour

Schnettler-Benning Custom Builders brings to you a most distinctive home for tour. This beautiful four-bedroom, two-story home is built in Deer Creek Crossing's Phase Five on a 17,200 square foot lot that overlooks picturesque wetlands and woodlands.

The custom exterior design of this home features an impressive geometric front entry design, a tumbled brick facade, arched custom-painted garage doors, a myriad of windows flanked by Hardiplank shakes and hand-built window boxes.

The interior of this home has 1,790 square feet finished on the main floor, an impressive two-story foyer, and 1,311 square feet on the upper level. Details and upgrades abound, especially in the nutmeg-stained cherry wood cabinetry. Unique woodworking features include: picture-framed wainscot paneling in the main floor office as well as a built-in desk and keystone arched bookcases; extra-depth lockers and a built-in message center in the mudroom; a beautiful display hutch in the kitchen; and a furniture-style granite-topped vanity in the master bath. Custom-made mirrors with built-in sconces also add pizzazz to the master bath.

As past and present clients have come to expect, Schnettler-Benning has again incorporated unique ceiling designs into this Spring Tour home. The great room features a 17 foot vaulted ceiling with a painted dropped soffit and mood-setting rope lighting. The formal dining room ceiling boasts a painted textured tile look made from German-manufactured anaglypta.

Other unique features of this home include red birch flooring in the kitchen and dinette, deco-designed ceramic tile in the foyer, a cherry wood and wrought-iron stairway, a natural stone fireplace with in-laid limestone medallion, and distinctive cabinetry hardware.

This Schnettler-Benning home incorporates 3,101 finished square feet and a lower level ready for expansion. Unger Furniture and Baskets & Blossoms Décor have teamed up with Schnettler-Benning Custom Builders to furnish and accessorize this beautiful home. Please come visit us on the Tour!



Visit our home at 3543 21st Ave. S. in St. Cloud (Tour Home # 55). The Spring Tour of Homes runs March 11-14 and 18-21.

Top 10 Design Elements

Builders, architects, real estate agents and interior designers were asked for their thoughts on what design elements are most important to today's home buyers. These are the top trends which were identified:

- Increased standard ceiling heights, from 8 feet to 9 – 10 feet
- Low maintenance materials, especially on exteriors
- Larger laundry rooms with space to fold clothes or engage in a hobby
- Use of natural materials such as stone, wood, and brick both inside and outside the home
- “Me” spaces – small rooms and nooks where family members can be alone
- A decline in living rooms and an increase in specialized rooms such as piano rooms, home offices and media rooms
- Technology advances such as pre-wiring for internet access and surround sound stereo
- Outdoor living spaces to use for entertaining
- Mixed home products (such as single-family homes and townhouses) on the same street
- Rear- and side-entry garages

Source: *Builder Magazine*, January, 2004

Gardener's Dream



Julie and Kevin McGrew are the recipients of the 2004 Schnettler-Benning Custom Builders' *Innovative Home Maintenance and Improvement* award. Julie's back yard garden, with its gazebo, pillars, archways, stone walkways and plantings is, indeed, a work of art. (We suspect Kevin might have to formulate a few new testing materials to bring Julie's project to fruition.) When the project is complete in the warm, flowering days of spring and summer, it will be a delight not only to the McGrews but to the neighborhood, as well.

Congratulations to the McGrews! They are the recipients of a \$100 Mathew Hall gift card, courtesy of Schnettler-Benning Custom Builders and Mathew Hall Lumber Company.

To qualify for our next giveaway, send us a picture and a short description of your "original" preventative maintenance task or creative improvement to your Schnettler-built home. Feel free to nominate a neighbor or friend.

We will spotlight one homeowner with each issue of our newsletter.

What is Community?

“My goal as a developer has always been to create a community of homes occupied by a diversified group of generous, open-minded people.” These are words of Ed Schnettler, who, with his two sons, Mike and Bill, started the Schnettlers’ construction business twenty-seven years ago.

One might ask what turns a residential development into a *community*? It’s probably a set of intangible concepts honored first by the builder and then by the

subsequent residents: pride of ownership, concern for one’s neighbors, mutual respect for



Jeff and Julie Johnson and daughter Hallie.

property, sharing and protecting the natural resources and environment and having fun together.

At Schnettler-Benning Custom Builders, we still believe in these concepts, and we think they are evident in all of our six residential neighborhoods: Sun Villa on 17th, Erindale, Charter Oaks, Tiffany Park, Tiffany Park Two and now in Deer Creek Crossing.

Deer Creek Crossing is our most recent community endeavor, and it serves as an excellent example. There is certainly a generational diversity in Deer Creek—a delightful mix of the young and the “young at heart,” all of whom seem to feel comfortable together at pool parties, holiday gatherings and at little “talkathons” in the streets of Deer Creek on warm summer evenings.

Social interaction among the residents shows itself in many forms in this new neighborhood. A thriving book club brings together an interesting group of women who love to read, and neither age nor political, religious or educational level stymies the lively discussions of the subject matter at hand.

Sometimes interests in other hobbies are shared, as well. There are a number of beautiful private gardens in

Deer Creek, and the professional gardeners help the amateurs to identify, snip and weed. Friendships are formed in the process.

Our generational diversity has many facets. Witness the addition of three spanking new baby girls who have joined our community this past year. Congratulations to Jeff and Julie Johnson, Steve and Jodi Bump, and Matt Hwang and Stacia Anderson for adding to the population explosion in Deer Creek. And the “young at heart” add their creative efforts, as well, writing books, doing volunteer teaching at area schools, shuttling the disabled, reading and creating images for the blind and transforming scenic window views into watercolors. All of these are reminders that every age has contributions to make.

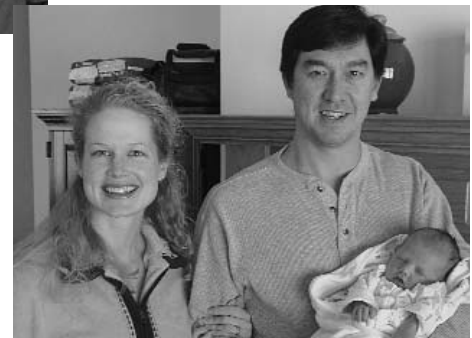
The generous citizens of Deer Creek contribute to the natural beauty of Deer Creek Crossing, too. Volunteers occasionally get together to weed the entry garden.

One master gardener scatters wild flower seeds along the edges of the natural preserve.

Others encourage a wide variety of birds to live in our environs by feeding the beautiful little creatures and erecting birdhouses. And all seem to enjoy, or at least tolerate, the many handsome deer that nibble on our favorite perennials.



Steve and Jodi Bump and daughter Hannah



Stacia Anderson, Matt Hwang and daughter Sophie

Yes, the homeowners are all different in Deer Creek Crossing, but they have a common bond: they enjoy and appreciate where they live and, in their own way, make an effort to enhance its worth. That’s **COMMUNITY!**

What is a Heat Recovery Ventilator?

Because newer homes are built, insulated and sealed for energy efficiency, they have less natural exchange of air with the outdoors than older homes do. A heat recovery ventilator (HRV) addresses this issue by exhausting stale air from inside the home while drawing in fresh air from outdoors. An HRV, also known as an air-to-air heat exchanger, is used in newer homes to improve indoor air quality.

Perhaps the easiest way to bring fresh air into a house is to simply open a window; however, in the heating and cooling seasons, this is never a very energy-efficient option. An HRV delivers fresh outdoor air to the interior of the home while recovering the warmth or coolness of the out-flowing air and efficiently transferring it to the incoming air.

Controls to operate an HRV are typically located in rooms which can create poor quality indoor air including bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms.

A master control, usually located in the kitchen or near the main thermostat, may also be used to operate the HRV based on humidity in the home. The master control uses a humidistat to determine when the HRV should operate. When the humidity in the home is higher than the humidistat setting, the HRV is activated.

One drawback to operating an HRV is that, like an open window, it will increase your home's humidity on humid summer days and may excessively dry your home in the cold winter months (if operated too frequently). When properly used, an HRV will provide fresh, healthy air in an energy-efficient manner.

If you have questions about operating your HRV (or are considering purchasing one), contact your heating contractor or talk to Bill, Mike or Ken at Schnettler-Benning Custom Builders.



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