



Windridge Resident Bruce McGeath Recalls Career Dedicated to Family, Education, and Athletics

Neighborhood News



Vicki Eident serving as a Red Cross driver volunteer in the aftermath of the Houston hurricane. Thank you, Vicki!!

Congratulations!

Our friends at Millersville @ Fall Creek Valley, Inc., have won:

- 2017 Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce Monumental Award for Public Art: 2nd Place, and
- 2017 Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) Neighborhood Advancement Award: \$1000 for Community engagement and beautification.



Retired teacher and coach Bruce McGeath spends part of the year in Windridge home - and doubles his golf game outings by spending his winters in Florida.

For movie fans of the '50s, here's an interesting fact: Windridge resident Bruce McGeath was born in Marion, IN - in the same house where actor James Dean had been born. For Bruce's family, it was a minor but interesting occurrence in a domestic path that included several moves.

Bruce was the middle child of three. His father was a YMCA administrator and the family moved frequently because of changing job assignments. Bruce went to grade school in Marion, attended middle school in Elkhart, and graduated from Greensburg High School, where he played baseball, basketball, and football. He attended Hanover College where he majored in history and played college sports. His education kindled in Bruce a passion for teaching - and athletics.

While still at Hanover, Bruce met his future wife Kennita (Kenny). Once graduated, he obtained his teaching certificate and accepted a job teaching in nearby Scottsburg until Kenny graduated. He remained at Scottsburg for eight years. The couple had three children and Kenny returned to teaching once the youngest child started school. In 1964, the couple moved their family to Indianapolis so that their oldest son could enroll in an IPS school that offered classes for children with hearing impairments.

Bruce signed on to teach history and government at Arsenal Technical High School which, at that time, was the largest high school in the state, accommodating roughly 5200 students on its 76-acre campus. Today, Bruce reports, the student population in the entire Indianapolis Public School system has dwindled to almost the same number of students who attended just that one high school back in the 1960s!

In addition to his classroom duties, Bruce also coached the Tech track team. His willingness to invest his time and energies in young people was appreciated by those who knew and worked with him. In 1984, Bruce was a finalist for National Track Coach of the Year. In 1992, he was inducted into the Indiana Track and Field Hall of Fame. And, in 2005, he was inducted into the Tech (Arsenal) Hall of Fame.

(cont'd on pg. 2)

Bruce McGeath Shares Memories Of His Career as Teacher-Coach

(cont'd from pg. 1) Bruce remembers going to sporting events as a child and looking enviously at coaches and players and lucky attendees who had great seats. “Boy, I’d really like to sit there,” he thought – and eventually he got his wish. For 25 years, he was the timer at all the tournament series basketball games, from sectionals all the way to state finals. Bruce retired from teaching in 1994 and he and Kenny downsized from their Lawrence Central area home to their Whipplewood Ct. condo. One of the main attractions of the neighborhood was the fact that Bruce’s brother Phil and his wife Marianne were already in residence.



This watercolor of an Asian garden was painted by Kenny McGeath circa 2005. It's one of Bruce's favorites.

Retirement hasn't meant stagnation for Bruce. He's been a Red Cross volunteer for over 12 years and has also been active as an elementary school tutor. He is a faithful volunteer at Community North Hospital and regularly plays golf with a group of Windridge duffers. Kenny, a dedicated elementary school teacher, continued to support community educational initiatives well into her retirement years. Retirement also enabled the couple to enjoy outdoor activities all year round, spending part of each winter at their Jenson Beach, FL home. In addition, their annual Windridge Christmas parties were always a high point of the holiday season.

In 2016, Kenny lost her battle with Alzheimer's and Bruce lost his dear partner of 61 years. Like her husband, Kenny was a multi-talented educator and, for many years, her art work was on display at various local art sales, including an annual program sponsored by the Lawrence School District. “When she passed away,” Bruce recalls, “I was surprised by how many people, from all over the country, called or wrote to tell me that they owned some of her paintings and how much they loved them.”

Currently, Bruce stays busy with his volunteer activities and enjoying time with his family. Athletics continues to be an important part of the McGeath family tradition, Bruce says. One of his sons has also been a coach – for the track team at the Indiana School for the Deaf.

Bruce's six grandchildren keep him from being bored. Currently, two families (accounting for five of the grandchildren) live in the Indianapolis area and one family (with one grandchild) lives in Dallas, TX. Bruce thrives on seeing them and sharing in family trips and vacation activities.

Bruce reports that an additional pleasure is his occasional interactions with former students. During one of his volunteer sessions at Community Hospital, Bruce was greeted by a young woman who had once been a Tech cheerleader; she recognized him and thanked him for his dedication to the school. Another former student recently called Bruce to share the news that he was in training to run a marathon. “It makes you feel good to know that interacting with young people all those years ago had a positive influence on their lives,” Bruce says.

Home Alone? What if something happens and you can't give EMS the information they need? Consider leaving a message posted on the inside of your back door. List the following information: a) Your full name and birth date; b) your primary care doctor's phone number – and which hospital the doctor is affiliated with; c) the name and phone number of your healthcare representative (the person you want to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to do so); and a copy of your Healthcare Power of Attorney and Living Will. Help others to help you!

Hiring a Contractor? Read This First!

Benefit from Windridge Experience



Condominium living reduces many of the responsibilities of home ownership – but it doesn’t eliminate the desire to put one’s personal stamp on a residence – to remodel, to update, to make it one’s “own.”

Every year, Windridge residents commence a variety of home improvement projects. Most are happy with the results – but some are not. Selection of qualified, professional, and ethical workers requires some homework. Following are some tips that may help Windridge residents research and retain the services of companies that can produce good results.

1. Talk with other Windridge residents. Over the years, many Windridge units have undergone renovations and updates. Proud owners of updated homes may be delighted to show off the work – and to review the company/companies involved with the projects. Also, call:
 - a. Indiana Attorney General at 317-232-6330
 - b. Better Business Bureau at 317-488-2222
 - c. Angie’s List at 866-843-5478 (requires a *free* membership)
2. Before getting too far into the planning stage, complete a Windridge Architectural Form and submit it to the Architectural Committee. Feedback from this committee has occasionally saved owners from costly errors.
3. ***Don’t sign a contract with anyone until the Windridge Board has OKd the project.*** Approval means that questions have been answered, necessary alterations have been incorporated into the plan, and all three parties – Board, home owner, and contractor/s – are on the same page.
4. It’s never a good idea to hire the first bidder. Interview at least three contractors. Ask each of them ***the same questions*** and make sure that answers are forthcoming. Require that the job specifications are in writing. (See Sample Questions.)
5. Warning signs: candidates who are late, don’t return phone calls, won’t answer questions, refuse to submit a detailed bid, resist a signed contract, can’t produce proof of insurance/licensure. Lack of professionalism before the contract is signed is a sure sign that things will get worse – once they have the owner’s money.

Consider Including These SAMPLE Questions As Part of Your Bidding Process

By asking for the same information from each bidder, the home owner can compare apples to apples. The lowest bid may not be a good deal if the materials are inadequate or the contractor can’t afford to pay his employees.

Background Information:

1. How long have you been in business? Have you done business under another name?
2. Where did you receive your training?
3. How many similar projects have you completed in the past year?
4. Please produce copies of your license/s and insurance policies (including Workers Comp).

Communication:

1. How can I get in touch with you?
2. How soon can I expect you to call back?
3. Where is your place of business? A PO Box may indicate financial constraints.

Project Bidding: Require that the written bid includes:

1. Materials to be used – and their cost, (typically, 40 percent of the total cost).
2. Labor.
3. Expenses, e.g., licenses, inspections, etc.
4. Profit margin, typically 15-20 percent.
5. Committed start and completion dates.

This information, along with payment schedules, the contractor’s obligation to obtain lien releases (which protects the homeowner if the contractor doesn’t pay sub-contractors and suppliers – should be part of the final contract. Use of a written contract doesn’t imply a lack of trust. It shows that both parties agree to the job and want to ensure that there will be no unpleasant surprises, for either party, at the end of the project.

Additional Resources:

- This Old House: <https://.com/top-8-pro-tips-how-to-hire-contractor>
- Angie’s List: <https://www.angieslist.com/articles/6-questions-ask-hiring-contractor.htm>
- Bill Pert: Chair, Windridge Architecture Committee who contributed suggestions for this article.

Windridge Planning Survey for 2018 - What Activities Would Brighten Your Day?

What kinds of activities are you interested in for 2018? Please take just a few minutes to complete this survey and return it to the office no later than December 31st. Results will be published in the New Year.

Activity	Definitely Participate	Can Teach/Lead	More Information	Willing to Pay Fee
<u>Education</u>				
Foreign Language				
Writing/Poetry				
Movie Discussion				
<u>Technology</u>				
Smartphone Introduction				
Emergency Setup				
User Tips				
<u>Computer/Tablet</u>				
Get/Send Email				
Facebook Do's & Don'ts				
Security				
<u>Health & Nutrition</u>				
Cooking for One				
Food Shopping Co-op				
Health Expert Guest Speakers				
<u>Elder Services Workshops</u>				
Home Safety				
Independence Planning				
<u>Field Trips/Group Outings</u>				
Trips (Group/Bus?)				
Hiking Club				
Museums/Library/Local History				
Plays/Theatre/Musical Shows				
Golf				
House/Garden Shows				
<u>Games</u>				
Cards (playing/lessons)				
Board Games: Chess, Backgammon				
<u>Community Service</u>				
School/Hospital Volunteer				
Millersville Projects				
Feral Cats/Animals				
<u>Crafts</u>				
Sewing				
Quilting/Piecing				
Needlework				
Knitting/Crochet				
Painting				
<u>Other Suggestions/Ideas:</u>				
Name:			Phone Number:	