

Hearths & Crafts

Home Sweet Home

by Dr. Richard Craft

As we enter a new year, I'm going to shift gears and get down right personal. Thousands of people have traveled our roads looking for a new home or a site to build a new home. What do they see? They see neighborhoods, and what they see often determines whether they settle in one area or move on to more pleasant surroundings. I would imagine that the subconscious is working overtime as they come upon each scene and wonder, "Does the appearance of this neighborhood tell me something about the people who live here? Would I want to live here?" I'm convinced that what you see on the outside can tell you something about what goes on inside.

The most important place on earth, for me, is my home. As my mentor Henny Youngman would put it, "Home is where the mortgage is." Of course you can substitute any one of many topics in the place of mortgage (try it). Our homes should be the focal point of our lives. No, its not found in our place of business, in a bass boat, in a bar room, not even in our place of worship (understandably a top priority to many). It's what goes on in that house that makes it a home, or just a shelter. A home is where the heart is and a place you look forward to being in once the affairs of a particular day have ended. A home should be a place of peacefulness, nourishment, and rest. Once there, and the doors are locked, the cares of the day can vanish and bring calmness out of a day of turmoil. A home is where we can sit and reflect, make plans, and interact with those who live under the same roof. A home is where the character of our children is formed. What they see, hear, taste, and observe has a tremendous impact on their mindset for the rest of their lives.

What makes a home... Moms and Dads. Children are a blessing and add their own dimension depending on how they are nurtured. It is a place where affection is expressed to all members of the family, regardless of age. A home should be a place of laughter and fun. A home is a place where the family enjoys meals together as they discuss school, vacations and future events, etc. It is a place where we can cry and be comforted and a place where our deepest secrets can be revealed. A home is a place for family mementos, privacy, and just plain "chilling out" with some nice music or a good book.

What does this have to do with *Wawarsing.Net*? Plenty. It's all about pride in our homes. If we take pride in our homes, no matter how humble, we will take pride in our community. It's one of those intangible benefits that makes one community more desirable than another. Our community's character is formed in our homes. Those who take pride in their homes and families will stand out as leaders in their community. Will we be warm and friendly to all we meet, including the newcomers? Will we welcome them into our organizations? Will we greet them in our stores, introduce them around town, and invite them over for coffee? Where does this all begin... in the home.



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applications and dues as
of February 18, 2004

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and current email
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