

They're West Bloomfield-bred

By Judith Doner Berne
staff writer

WEST BLOOMFIELD has grown from a close-knit community to a sprawling suburb in their lifetime.

But two residents, who grew up in the township, wouldn't live anywhere else.

Marilyn Smith moved to West Bloomfield in 1936 — at the age of six. And except for several years of apartment-living in Pontiac — before she and her husband bought a home in Doherty Estates off Wal-

'It all seems like one big town to me. Everything is so familiar. It's my home. I have no great desire to move anywhere else.'

— Marilyn Smith
longtime resident



Sherry Abrams
Westwood Village

nut Lake Road east of Orchard Lake Road — she has lived here since.

Come November, West Bloomfield High School English teacher Sherry Fisher Abrams will move into a home in the Westwood Village subdivision where she grew up.

SMITH, who works in the township assessor's office, recalls "It was great growing up" in Westacres subdivision in the township's northwest.

"There wasn't an awful lot in the township then, but we had fun growing up on Middle Straits Lake."

Moving to Doherty Estates, one of the few rural-style subdivisions in the township's southeast, gave the same feeling as Westacres — minus the lakes, she said.

There, she and her husband raised their children, Jim, now 23, married and living in Fenton, and Sue, 21, engaged and still at home.

"It all seems like one big town to me," Smith said. She retains her Westacres connection, because her parents still live there. Her work at town hall keeps her in touch with other areas of the township.

"Everything is so familiar. We would do the same thing again," she said, of choosing West Bloomfield. "It's my home. I have no great desire to move anywhere else. Maybe I don't know any better."

ABRAMS has fond memories of Westwood Village, off Maple between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road, and her West Bloomfield childhood.

"In Westwood, it was kind of like college — everyone running in and out of each other's houses like dorm rooms," she said. "Things were much less formal."

"The school (Green Elementary) was generally the focus because the neighborhoods were so spread out," Abrams said.

"The community was very, very close. Clubs and organizations were strong."

High school football games drew both students and parents, she recalled from her vantage point as a cheerleader.

Abrams is happy her daughter, Alyssa, 8, will now experience "my years of growing up in West Bloomfield which were so warm and wonderful."

As a teacher at the high school she attended, she has similar hopes for her students. "I want them to feel it is a community where people care about one another."

"I'm real happy to be here."

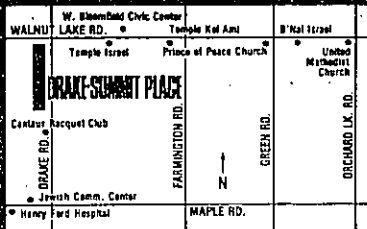


Marilyn Smith
Doherty Estates

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