

WHAT MAKES CARMEL SO SPECIAL?

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Carmel City Council-Southeast District

Some might point to roundabouts, the Arts and Design District, the Center for the Performing Arts or our award winning schools. All special indeed.

However, when speaking before a group interested in economic development, when I am asked this very question, I reply that **Carmel's strength is in her neighborhoods**. Her varied and diverse neighborhoods chosen and sometimes built by those who came here to help create all of the other things for which we are known.

Until the advent of apartments, 4 years ago, our population was aging. Why? Because the people who moved here and invested so much of themselves, their talents and connections in building or improving their town, simply didn't want to move.

That's when I began thinking about our mobile citizens. They move up...but not out. Entry level, affordable neighborhoods with smaller ranch homes for young families who may then move up to that quintessential 4 bedroom, 2 ½ bath home that is the most numerous housing type in Carmel. Others are successful enough to buy the huge McMansions or even opt for 5-10 acres to raise horses in a more rural setting. We have added lovely apartment homes and condos for the upwardly mobile or downsizing seniors.

It's all here...right in Carmel. So we can stay and grow or we can choose to remain continuing our associations with church, friends and organizations into which Carmel citizens have poured so much of their time and talent.

We need to support each other and protect all of our neighborhoods. We cannot afford to lose the full range of housing. Celebrations of our heritage and culture in downtown festivals, as well as support for Front Porch talent showcases what we are and have become.

Each neighborhood has value and adds to the varied quilt that is Carmel. What came after....well that's icing on the cake.