



Gatewood Neighborhood in Muncie, IN

History

In 1927 Edwin Faye Kitselman was one of four brothers who were industrialist leaders in Muncie Indiana. The inventive Kitselman brothers originally made roller skates in a factory east of Muncie in Ridgeville, Indiana, and eventually the company became a manufacturer of steel and wire fences. Mr. Kitselman, who was also a golfer, hunter, politician, and fisherman, bought several wooded acres at what was then the west end of University Avenue. He and his wife, Edna F. Leach Kitselman, had four children: Richard, Alice, Nancy and Jean. They built the stately brick home pictured here. Unfortunately, a short time later, in 1928, Mr. Kitselman died, leaving the land and the home to his wife and children. Almost three decades later, in 1956, the surviving Kitselman children, Richard, Nancy and Jean (all now deceased) deeded the Tudor Gothic home and 2.65 acres to the Ball State University Foundation. The home became known as the Kitselman Center and was utilized by Ball State University in succeeding years as a venue for conferences and special events.

On October 12, 1956, the Gatewood neighborhood plat was proposed by J. Roberts Dailey (local realtor and civic leader) and other partners, and on November 8, 1956 the Gatewood subdivision was approved with 92 lots all designed as single-family residences with the exception of three lots on the south side of Riverside where duplex rentals were permitted. Over the next thirty years homes of varying styles were built and occupied.

In 1987, Lot 4 of the Gatewood subdivision was split into a north half and south half and sold to the homeowners of lots 3 and 5, thus ending the 60 years of Kitselman ownership of this segment of wooded land west of the city of Muncie. Gatewood has 92 homes and is a thriving neighborhood.

In 2000, Virginia B. Ball, local philanthropist and active supporter of education, the environment, the arts, and the humanities, established the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry at Ball State University. With the approval of the Ball State University Foundation, the Kitselman Center was chosen as the home of that center which still exists today.

Gatewood is bounded on the North by Riverside Avenue, the south by Gilbert Street, the west by Greenbriar Road and Bittersweet Lane and on the east by Forest Avenue, comprising 92 homes and approximately 80 acres. Today Gatewood is a neighborhood made up of accountants, artists, bankers, business men and women, children, counselors, doctors, engineers, fathers and mothers, grandparents, inventors, judges, lawyers, musicians, nurses, pharmacists, plumbers, professors, realtors, school administrators, teachers and very good neighbors.

In the early 2000's, student rental properties continued popping up in residential neighborhoods in Muncie. The Gatewood Neighborhood Association was formed in an effort to sustain and support the Kitselman families' original intent to develop a single family residential neighborhood and to support good neighborng.



Thanks to the Picnic Crew: Larry and Dagney Strange, Ron and Anita Martin, and Dlynn Melo for another great summer picnic at the Kitselman Center. Neighbors from Gatewood were joined by ne



“Don't buy the house, buy the neighborhood.”



Newsletter Timeline

February 2012

We have new “crime watch” street signs up in Gatewood to remind us we have a role in crime prevention and reporting. The signs are there to alert visitors in our neighborhood that we are watching and care about our neighbors. Thanks to a generous grant from the Ball Brothers Foundation (\$26,000), a Local Community Contribution grant from Wal-mart (\$1,500), donations from parents and neighborhood residents (\$3,500) and matching funding from Muncie Community Schools, new equipment is scheduled to be installed on the west side playground at West View Elementary during March 2012.

January 2013

Jim Wingate, President, Jim remains on the Board as the Street rep for Gatewood Lane; **Jennifer Dale**, Secretary; **Christie Hannaford**, Street Rep. for Greenbriar; and **Ron Naylor**, Street Rep. for Gatewood. These neighbors set great examples for us and for the past several years have helped out in the neighborhood and within your neighborhood association. If you see them out and about, be sure and say “Thanks!”

October 2013

We have newly paved streets!



August 2014

June 22nd was perfect for the 2014 GNA Picnic!

Thanks to the Picnic Crew: **Larry and Dagney Strange, Ron and Anita Martin** for another great summer picnic at the Kitselman Center. Neighbors from Gatewood were joined by neighbors from Kenmore and Western Woods.



The Gates on University Get a Facelift!

Hot dogs, hamburgers, delicious baked beans, kids, balloons and flowers: a great picnic! About 40 neighbors attended the picnic and enjoyed great burgers and hotdogs cooked by “Chef Larry” and tasty side dishes shared by neighbors. Kids loved the huge tiger bounce house!



A message from Barb Schafer: “A big thank you to everyone who donated eggs and prizes for the GNA Easter Egg hunt. Donna Ferguson of the Kitselman Center, BSU, was once again very generous in letting us use their grounds. The weather was great. Kids had fun searching for eggs and taking part in egg races and egg tossing games. Thanks for making the Gatewood Neighborhood a wonderful place to raise families!”



Once again we say “Thanks!” to the **Cole family** and the **Byrn family** for making the Gatewood gates so cheery and festive for the winter holidays with greenery, bright red bows and sparkling lights!

Thanks to the Christmas party planners: **Janice Leiphart, Anita Martin and Dlynn Melo!** Also thanks to our BSU friends for helping with our 1st Gatewood Christmas party



Summer 2015 Picnic Time!

Muncie's Sesquicentennial was our 2015 picnic theme, held in June at Kitselman. More than forty neighbors from Gatewood, Kenmore and Western Woods enjoyed great food and neighborly fun! After months of anticipation, 2 streets in Gatewood have been paved for the 2015 paving season: Wildwood Lane and part of Gatewood Lane. Thanks to **Duke Campbell**, Superintendent, Board of Public Works!

July 2012

April 2013

December 2013

November 2015