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The Hermesmeier home at 406 S. 16th is one that is ... **Family friendly**

Story by Barbara Schleppebach ♦ H-W Staff

The Hermesmeyers have made a lot of big moves in the past 20 years.

Fortunately, none of them have required the family to leave the home at 406 S. 16th, in a neighborhood they love.

That friendly environment attracted them in 1982, when their children found dozens of playmates, and the front porch served as a gathering place for neighbors out for an evening's stroll.

"We'd all get together on New Year's and in the summer," Tony recalls. "One time we were having a fish fry in the back yard, and people stopped by to say, 'We used to live here.'"

The tidy brick bungalow with unmistakable columns might not look too different from the outside, but the Hermesmeyers have done some amazing things within.

"The home was built between 1890 and 1895 for Nick Kohl of Kohl Grocery," Sheila says.

The sound structure served a number of families well, and as daughters Emily and Angie approached their teens the Hermesmeyers looked for ways to reconfigure — moving walls rather than moving away.

The most dramatic changes occurred in 1993, when Tony and Sheila remodeled the home's main floor.

From March 1 to July 25, the entire family lived upstairs while the adults tackled one room at a time. Emily, then in third grade, "thought it would never end." While the kitchen was being recreated, fast food was

