

The Olsen Home

85 E Washington

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The home at 85 East Washington Street is one for the ages, and one of Clarkston's best kept secrets. Cast away from the main street, behind pine trees and down a winding driveway, the home's view is hidden from the average walker; even someone who has lived in this town their whole life may never even know it's there. But once you learn of this home, I promise that you won't be quick to forget it. With a perfect location, one for privacy and excellent views, as well as an interior fit for the cover of a magazine- this home is heavenly, and its journey began over 20 years ago.

First owned by Janet and John Vernier in the 2000's, this beautiful property was one that could not be passed up. On the edge of Parke Lake, and only a short walking distance from Main Street, it was perfect. The couple knew that the 3.5 acres of land was a diamond in the rough in this small town, so even when tragedy struck, and the home burnt down in 2001, they were determined to not let this opportunity go. They decided to rebuild a new home from the ground up on this same plot of land, and so, eighteen months later, in January of 2003, the "Vernier" home was built. An exterior of stone and brick residence, exactly the style that the Verniers wished for: classic, charming, and warm, with an aim to be inviting to all. In both construction and design, the home's style was overall Italian, which suited the Verniers quite nicely, though nothing is meant to stay the same forever.

The property is now owned by Deanna Olsen, who first purchased and moved into the home in June of 2021. Prior to purchasing, Deanna had been interested in this home for many years, and much like the Verniers, was drawn by the promise of privacy and the serenity provided from living on a lake. However once she had moved into the home, she knew that it was time for a makeover. The age of the home was beginning to show, and the Italian style, while beautiful, was simply not Deanna's, and so she kicked off a 3 year long remodeling, refurbishing and redecorating plan that only recently reached completion. But the time investment was well worth it, because the home today at 85 East Washington Street, is what I can only describe as the house of my dreams.

When remodeling, the overall design inspiration was modern and minimalist, yet chic. Firstly, lots of columns were taken down and out of the house, columns that had previously been adding to the Italian style. Trims were removed from walls, and ceilings, along with every wall in the house being repainted.

When I toured the home, I was shocked to learn that the incredibly open floor plan of the main floor hadn't always been this way, rather, there was an entire wall taken out of the house that had previously separated the kitchen and living area. Deanna mentioned to me that this was what she had wanted done the most during the refurbishment, and for good reason, as a view to the kitchen isn't one to be hidden.

The kitchen is Deanna's favorite part of her home, which alone took 14 months to redo. Added were four large ovens, and counter space on top of counter space, fit perfectly for someone like Deanna, who loves to cook. Right off of the kitchen is a screened-in porch that was also added on during the renovations, and is an excellent place to relax during the summer. I have to say that the crown jewel of this kitchen would be the direct set window, which spans the entire length of the kitchen, and looks out upon Parke Lake for a truly incredible view. Also included in this fabulous home, you'll find that there is a master bed and bath fit for a queen, along with four other bathrooms and three bedrooms in the entire house. Down in the basement, there's a magnificent bar, perfect for hosting. Then, next to the bar there's a cellar, and even better a hidden theater for all the movies your heart could desire. The basement really is my favorite part of the home, as there's another great and comfortable seating area, a pool table, and an at home gym, including a six person sauna room, all of which were added when the home was refurbished.

The home today is everything that Deanna Olsen wished for, and despite living here for nearly four years, her favorite moment, which has yet to be topped, was when everything was finally complete. It came out just as she imagined, with every little detail that she wanted included. It's the perfect home for friends and family to gather, and an excellent place to host during the holidays. The journey to reach where this home is today wasn't an easy one, and the time taken to reach the destination was long. But in the end, it all was worth it, for 85 East Washington Street is a home for the history books, and after you see it for yourself, I'm sure you'll agree with me.