

# Polar bears do boost property value

The owners of the property at 1408 Edgehill Ave. must feel as if they are the parents of a movie star or music icon. Their privacy is constantly invaded by tourists, college students on scavenger hunts, the curious, and a wide variety of fans who include a number of music row celebrities in order to view two statues in their front yard.

The interest in the property is generated by twin polar bears frozen for eternity while throwing snowballs. For years, zoologists have informed the world that polar bears are left handed. Nashvillians know better.

Each bear is throwing the snowball with its right paw, and their pitching style is similar to that of the late Don Drysdale, a former New York Yankee great. What the bears lack in pitching mechanics, they overcome with style and grace.

For years, there have been numerous offers tendered in efforts to purchase the bears. In the early 1970s, several well-known country music artist/producer types asked the owner of the bears — and the home behind them — if he would be willing to part company with the icons.

The owner informed the celebrities that he was unable to sell the bears because “them bars holds a heap.” Fortunately for the bear owner, the musicians were from a rural area and understood the translation to mean “these bears have been tremendously beneficial.”

Unless the owner in the 1970s was psychic, it is doubtful even he realized how them “bars” would eventually be to him. The property values in the area — the house at 1408 Edgehill Ave. is

## COMMENTARY



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situated between 12th and 15th avenues across from the Edgehill Homes community and near White Way Cleaners — have skyrocketed.

Perhaps the most amazing example of the rapid appreciation is 1306 Edgehill, which sold for \$70,000 in early January of this year, only to be resold for \$122,000 in April.

The area is smattered with arts and crafts bungalows. And although an ever-increasing number have been restored, some remain ripe for the renovators picking.

I would be remiss in my duties if I failed to mention that the property upon which the bears are domiciled is, in fact, for sale.

The Multiple Listing Service, which can be accessed by non-Realtor types at [realtracs.com](http://realtracs.com), lists the house for sale for \$105,000. It contains 1,849 square feet and includes five bedrooms and three baths. The agent's remarks note that the home is in need of restoration with hardwoods under

the carpet.

The bears are not for sale with the property and thus will be moved again, hopefully to the Nashville Zoo. Their last residence was the Zema Hill Funeral Home, which became Patton Funeral Home in 1952.

Wherever the bears are given haven, the area will prosper. There were four bears originally, with the other two now throwing snowballs in the Germantown neighborhood. Indeed, them “bars have helped a heap” in regard to property values in Germantown.

It has long been a belief in real estate circles that a statue of St. Joseph buried upside down in the backyard would help sell a property. Those with an entrepreneurial bent might consider the manufacturing of replicas of the bears throwing snowballs. It's worked so far.

If you are feeling bearish, and wish to admire these landmarks, I urge you to make the trip to “Emrickland” at 1229 Sixth Ave. N. and feast your eyes upon this fine art. Then wander down the street to Monell's and enjoy a fresh home-cooked meal served family style.

If you ever notice the Edgehill bears in their new den, buy everything in close proximity. The three most important rules in real estate — location, location, location — have been reduced to two words: da Bears. ☐

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