

Redone basement great place for kids to hang out

Oldest child a bit jealous they didn't have it sooner

By Carmen Darland
BETTENDORF NEWS

When Skip and Kari Cramond moved into their Bettendorf home in 1994 they didn't consider finishing their unfinished basement.

It was a storage room and home to the home's mechanicals. As their children grew it became apparent this unused space would be a wonderful addition. They'd heard good things about Tim Carr, Carr Construction, who was doing a lot of basement remodeling projects in Bettendorf, so they contacted him.

Kari Cramond

Q: Why did you decide to improve the basement?

A: Our two younger children, Stephen, 14, and Anne, 13, needed a place to bring their friends; we like knowing they have a reason to stay here. Our older daughter, Lindsay, wishes it had been finished for her earlier years. And, I'm from a big family so when we have holidays we can have 40 people in the house. This space gives them room to spread out; I wish we'd done it sooner.

Q: How was it going through the project?

A: It went very well. Everything was on time and always kept clean. We liked the new bathroom floor so well we put it in our upstairs bath, too.

Skip Cramond

Q: How did you decide which way to layout the improvements?

A: Tim and I came down and



Skip Cramond, left, had contractor Tim Carr put in a kitchenette for quick snacks while watching television or playing games.

moved some of our stuff aside and looked at what we had to work with. We knew we wanted space for the TV, foosball table, a bathroom, kitchenette and furniture. We came up with a plan, and Tim put together a quote.

Q: How long did the project take?

A: We started on Nov. 1st and were finished in time for the Super Bowl. (Son Stephen hosted a Super Bowl party to break in the room!) Before he started Tim gave us a detailed schedule of what would happen each day, it made it a lot easier since we're living here, too.

Tim Carr

Q: Were there any particular challenges with this basement?

A: We moved the plumbing from a distant corner of the basement to put the bathroom where it made more sense. We also moved the small basement window slightly and installed an egress window with exterior window well. We built a closet above the sump pump so that it would be

THE BUSINESS

Carr Construction

Owner: Tim Carr

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out of sight.

Q: Are you seeing a lot of basement remodeling projects?

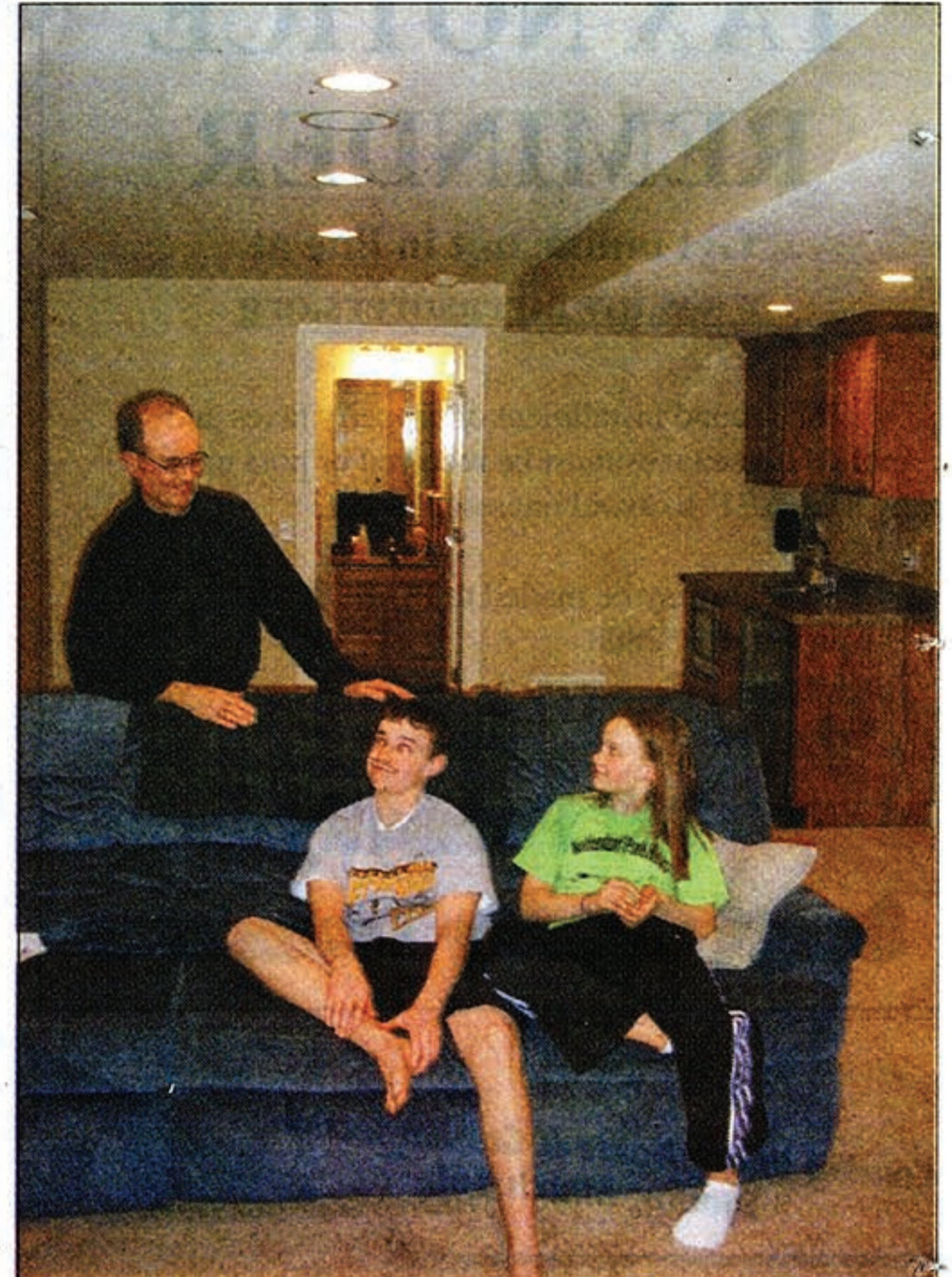
A: Yes, it's about 75 percent of my business. It makes sense for so many people to get more space without moving to a new home.

Q: What trends are there right now?

A: Bathrooms have long been an included feature for basement improvements and now I'm seeing a lot of people put in kitchenettes. For the Cramonds, we included a sink, microwave and refrigerator. This space is mostly for the kids, so they didn't want a full bar.

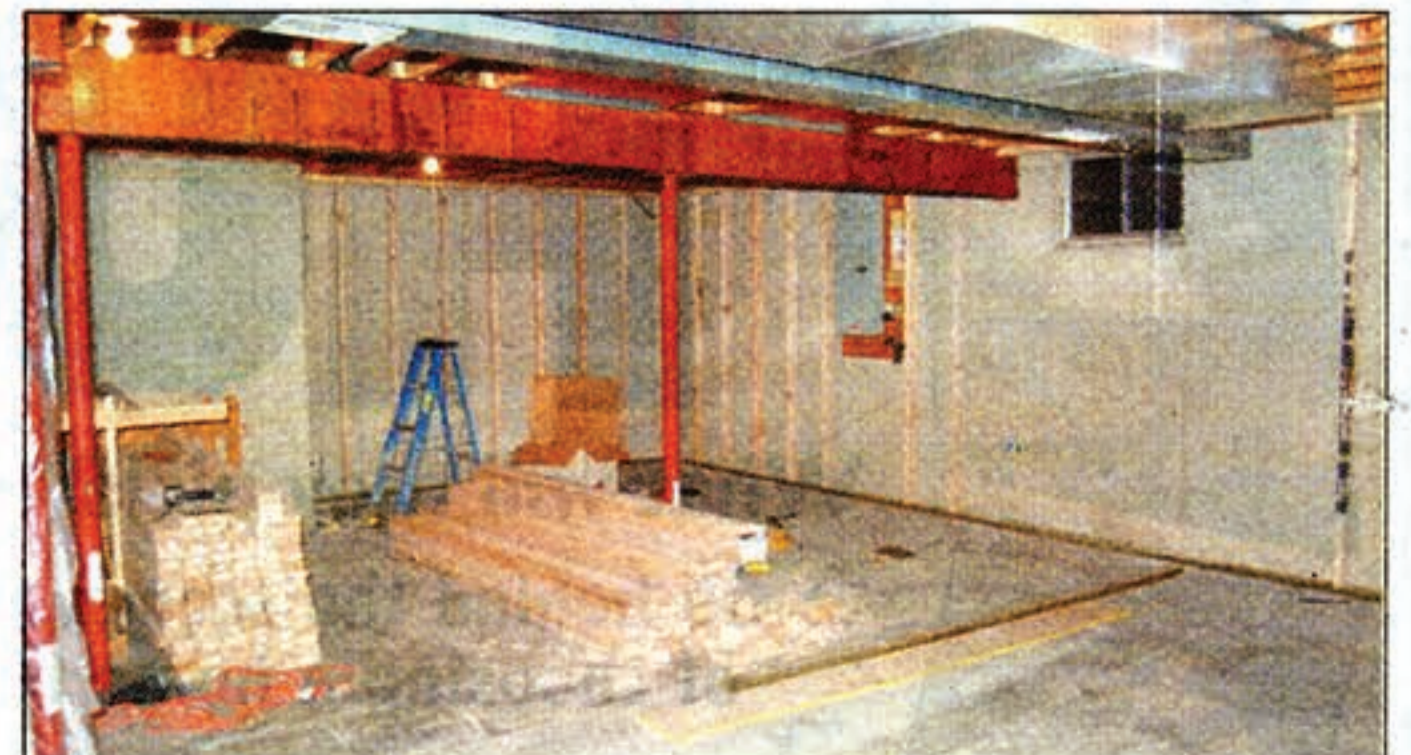
Q: What do you find most helpful in working with homeowners on remodeling projects?

A: Communication is paramount.



Photos by Carmen Darland/BETTENDORF NEWS

ABOVE: Stephen Cramond, 14, and his sister Anne, 13, love the space they have in the basement. Parents Skip and Kari Cramond like knowing their children want to be home. **BELOW:** The basement before it was finished.



I'm up front and honest with everyone. I have excellent subcontractors and employees; this is important because they will be in people's homes with and without

them present.

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