



# Collier's HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING Community

Gearing up for 30 years! **1987**

Ken Diekhoff and Joe Collier knew each other for years as co-workers at Danner's. With Wal-Mart taking over the market, Ken and Joe decided they needed to move in a different direction to protect their jobs. As a result, August of 1987 marked the beginning of Collier's Heating & Air Conditioning.

Ken and Joe, co-owners, purchased the Lennox Heating and Cooling Division of Gast Fuel and Services in Warsaw. Ever since 1987, the company has been operated in two divisions. Joe has managed the sales and installation while Ken managed service, repairs and inventory.

In 1998, Collier's added a third owner, Todd Zeplin, who since has been operating the Ossian, IN branch. The three owners collaborate often in order to keep the company moving in a positive direction according to their driving mission.

"Certainly 2017 will be a milestone year with lots of promotions and celebrations. However, it will also be bittersweet as I will be saying goodbye to my co-owner, Ken. We have worked together since 1974. That's 43 years! It's been one heck of a ride! With no regrets. I sure will miss him." said Joe Collier, reflecting on the past 30 years.

## Meet Ken

Ken, one of Collier's three owners is celebrating his last year in the business. Ken plans on retiring during the summer of 2017.



Collier's president, Ken Diekhoff.

"Back in 1987, it was a little difficult for my wife and I to move from a major city to a smaller one, but it turned out to be very rewarding living in such a welcoming community where you can get to know so many people," Ken reflected. "When we first moved, it was difficult moving away from family and a large city with a lot of opportunity. However, opening up a business with Joe Collier in a field that I had been in for 15 years was a dream that I had. I had always wanted to have an ownership in a business."

“I want to thank the customers for helping us be successful. It's amazing how we've grown from three people to 45.”

Ken's first grandchild, Micah, was born in August of 2016. Ken and his wife, Paula, also recently finished building a house on the South side of Indianapolis where their children and grandchild live. During his retirement, Ken is looking forward to spending more time with his grandson. He also is planning on occupying his time with home projects which Ken enjoys.

Ken and Paula, members of Warsaw Community Church, are excited to have found a similar church in Indianapolis. "We are sad to be leaving the Warsaw community, but are very excited to be with our family in Indianapolis," Ken said.

**New Owners Of Lennox Heating, Cooling**

Collier's Commercial Services Inc. has purchased the Lennox Heating and Cooling Division of Gast Fuel and Services, located at 216 South Columbia St., Warsaw.

Joe Collier and Ken Diekhoff are co-owners of the newly formed corporation. Collier and Diekhoff, both formerly of Danners Inc., are very enthused about the Lennox product line. Lennox has established itself as the leader in the industry of hi-efficient gas furnaces, featuring the revolutionary Pulse furnace.

The corporation will be operated as two divisions. Collier will control sales and new installation, while Diekhoff will maintain planned service, repair service and inventory control. Both men have worked in the commercial heating, cooling and refrigeration industry for the past 15 years. Collier and Diekhoff plan to expand into the commercial field. The residential installation, which is firmly in place, will also be expanded to include installation in new home construction.

Diekhoff currently of Indianapolis, will be relocating within the Warsaw area. Diekhoff and his wife, Paula, have two children, Ryan, 8, and Lauren, 5. Collier has lived in the Warsaw area for 11 years. He and his wife Deb, owner of Collier School of Dance, have a son Chase, 5.

Warsaw Times-Union  
November 1987

**New Owners — Joe Collier (left) and Ken Diekhoff are co-owners of the newly formed corporation by Collier's Commercial Services which has purchased the Lennox Heating and Cooling System of Gast Fuel and Services.**

An article from Warsaw's Times-Union in November of 1987

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