

here & there



Leavenworth, Washington

Crowned the “Ultimate Holiday Town USA” by the A&E Network and featured in 2007 on Good Morning America, Leavenworth welcomes visitors with roasting chestnuts, holiday characters, old fashioned caroling and pure Christmas magic. With a population of 2300, and located 70 miles from Seattle, this small town in the Northwest has come a long way.

Long home to a healthy logging industry, sawmill, and major rail system, Leavenworth enjoyed prosperity until the 1930’s. When the Great Northern Railway Company pulled out of Leavenworth, and the logging industry failed, the re-routing of the railroad and the subsequent closure of the sawmill converted the town from a bustling, thriving hub of commerce into a hollow, empty community. For more than thirty years, Leavenworth lived on the brink of extinction.

But in the early 1960’s, everything changed. In a last-chance effort to turn their precarious situation around, the leaders of the community decided to change Leavenworth’s appearance, hoping to bring tourism into the area. Using the beautiful backdrop of the surrounding Alpine hills to their advantage, the town agreed to remodel their hamlet in the form of a Bavarian village.

Hoping to create more than a mere facelift, the entire community rallied to create the illusion of Bavaria in the middle of Washington State. Besides the complete renovation of the downtown area, community members worked to begin a series of festivals. The Autumn Leaf Festival, Maifest and the extremely popular Christmas Lighting Ceremony were the first of many attractions Leavenworth offered to visitors.

The strategy worked. Since the change to a Bavarian motif, Leavenworth has become a shining beacon of the tourism industry in the Pacific Northwest. Today, more than a million visitors come to Leavenworth each year. The story is a landmark case of the human spirit: Not only did the people of Leavenworth survive their most critical hour, they endured and flourished.

HERE Decatur, IL

Median HH Income \$43,193
Median Home Value \$89,000



2104 Oak Ridge Court
Price: \$219,000

Square Footage	3441
Bedrooms	4
Baths	3.5
Garage	3-car
Year Built	1977
Acreage	.64

Wooded lot with lake views, spacious rooms, 3 fireplaces, loft, library.

THERE Leavenworth, WA

Median HH Income \$43,862
Median Home Value: \$218,749



17910 Nason Ridge Road
Price: \$219,000

Square Footage	960
Bedrooms	2
Baths	1
Garage	1-car
Year Built	2008
Acreage	2.47

Majestic mountain views, loft, vaulted ceilings, wood stove, hot tub/spa.

For more comparisons, go to decaturmagazine.com and click on Here & There.

Community information provided by the Leavenworth Tourism Bureau. Housing data provided by Realtor.com.