

LOCAL

LIVING



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Distinctive Remodelers created an entirely new kitchen for the Entsminger family.

Orland Park family upgrades first floor

Staff Report

Most people make New Year's resolutions and never stick to them. But Mary Kay and John Entsminger made a turn-of-the-year promise that resulted in a fantastic new kitchen and bath plus other upgrades on the main floor of their two-story Orland Park home.

Driving to visit a relative last New Year's Day, Mary Kay suggested to her husband that it would be nice to

redo the outdated kitchen in their 20-year-old home.

"I said I thought it was a good idea, so long as we were going to stay put and not move," said John Entsminger, who, like his spouse, enjoys their neighborhood and relishes spending time in their scenic backyard.

It had been eight years since the couple made any improvements to the residence, which they purchased from its original owner in

1997.

"It was time for a fresh look and a modernized kitchen, which is really the heart of our house," said Mary Kay, whose two young adult sons, John Jr. and Anthony, still live at home. "The cabinets, countertops, tile floor and appliances were all showing their age. We do quite a bit of entertaining in our home, so it made sense to invest in a new and better kitchen."

While hunting for repu-

table remodelers, she noticed a newspaper advertisement one day for Distinctive Remodelers—an Orland Park-based renovation firm. Before long, Mary Kay contacted president Mike Carroll, who visited the Entsmingers and surveyed the scope of their project.

"Mary Kay was well organized with what she wanted to do, and she gave me several pictures and ideas to work from," Carroll said. "Her husband simply smiled

at me and said, 'Just make her happy.'"

Carroll offered several recommendations that the Entsmingers liked. He suggested making the kitchen island two-tiered to create a high buffet area accessible by stools, extending the island a bit further into the adjacent family room (which would be open to the kitchen after a separating wall was removed), and incorporating more storage space into the island. Carroll also proposed

installing a warming drawer underneath the double oven to keep freshly cooked foods warm prior to meals, as well as implementing a microwave drawer in the island for quick, easy access.

The Entsmingers gave Carroll the green light with the plan, which also included installing custom two-toned cabinets, new appliances, a decorative mantel over the cooktop, gold-and-black-

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