

Ever wonder ...(Neighbor)

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I noticed a pyramid-looking structure near Wadsworth. What is it? Where did it come from? When was it built? Does anyone live there?

If you've ever traveled north on the tollway toward Wisconsin, you no doubt have seen this pyramid and the pharaoh statue.

For those of us who have lived here for a while, we either know the history behind the pyramid, or at least are no longer fazed by its existence.

But for newcomers, the image is somewhat puzzling. The answer, however, is simple: "It's a home."

This is from Linda Onan, who owns the pyramid house with her husband, Jim.

Jim had always been interested in the mystery of the pyramids, Linda said. So when it came time to build a new house, Jim had a plan.

"I told him I wanted to build a normal house," she said. "I didn't get my wish."

The Onans began construction on their 17,000-square-foot gold home in 1977. It was finished in 1982.

The Onans ran tours of the home for 17 years. Now, it's closed to the public.

Gawkers still stop by, to snap pictures or try to sneak in for a private tour.

"Some try to get in, thinking it's a museum," Linda said. "It's private property."

If you want to get an Egyptian fix, you still can with the Onan's online store, Gold Pyramid House Egyptian Bazaar (www.goldpyramid.com).

Here you can find everything from a sarcophagus CD/DVD/VCR holder, to an 18-karat gold pyramid pendant, to a Cleopatra costume.

If you want it, we've got it," Linda said, adding most of the items come from Egypt.

Linda said she is still enjoying her unique home, 24 years later. The grandkids are particularly fond of visiting.

This year, she watched the Fourth of July fireworks at Great America in style - from the fifth floor in the conservatory, at the tip top of her pyramid.