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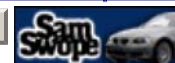
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Friday, January 26, 2007

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Ali will return home, buys Louisville house

Champ will be close to center bearing name

By **Sheldon S. Shafer**
sshafer@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

Muhammad Ali is coming home.

The three-time heavyweight boxing champ and Louisville legend and his wife, Lonnie, have purchased a \$1.9 million home in an eastern Jefferson County subdivision.

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Muhammad Ali and his wife, Lonnie, paid nearly \$1.9 million for this home. "At certain times of the year they intend to spend extended time in the community they love," said Mike Fox, president of the Muhammad Ali Center. (Photos by Kylene Lloyd, The Courier-Journal)

The Alis, who have a 15-year-old son named Asaad, are selling their longtime home in Berrien Springs, Mich.

"It is our understanding that at certain times of the year they intend to spend extended time in the community they love," Mike Fox, president of the Muhammad Ali Center, said yesterday.

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Fox said he isn't sure when the Alis plan to start using the Louisville home because they have been spending much of the winter at another house in Phoenix.

The 5,750-square-foot brick home sits on almost two acres and has a finished walkout basement, attached garage, outdoor pool and separate 942-square-foot pool house with deck.

ALI HOUSE

- Purchase price:** \$1,875,000
- Lot:** 1.9 acres
- Built:** 2001
- Stories:** 1.5
- Area:** 5,750 square feet in main living areas
- Full bathrooms:** 6
- Half bathrooms:** 2
- Walkout basement:** 4,380 square feet; 3,410 square feet finished
- Exterior walls:** Brick veneer over wood frame
- Heat:** Gas forced-air (also air conditioning)
- Other items:** Fireplace, attached garage
- Pool house:** 942 square feet, with wood deck
- Pool:** 800 square feet

— Source: *Jefferson County property valuation administrator Web site*

The move to Louisville would bring Ali, who just turned 65 and has been slowed by Parkinson's disease, close to the museum and education center named for him, as well as to the city where he was born Cassius Clay and learned to box.

The Alis were deeply involved in construction of the downtown Ali Center and in the development of its programs. Having the Alis in Louisville will make it far more convenient for them to help make decisions for the center and participate in activities there, Fox said.

"It will make a world of difference both for the center" and for the Alis, he said.

The Alis, who couldn't be reached for comment yesterday, closed Jan. 9 on the purchase of the \$1,875,000 home.

The Alis assigned the deed to LAMA LLC, listed as a Virginia limited liability company, and the deed was signed by Yolanda E. Ali, Lonnie Ali's full name, as manager of that company.

Patrick Lancaster, who built the house, said the property had not been listed for sale.

Lancaster said yesterday that the Alis were put in touch with him by a real-estate agent they both know. He said he has told the Alis he will do some remodeling before they occupy the home, which he speculated will probably be in four or five months.

"My guess is that this will be kind of their summer place," he said.

A future neighbor, Mimi Middleton Osborn, said having the Alis living on her street "will be great. We are thrilled to death."

Her husband, Charles Osborn, who developed the subdivision, said Ali "is a

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treasure for Louisville, and I think he will enjoy the neighborhood."


Osborn said he was aware that the Alis had "looked long and hard to find something that would work for them. ... I think they will make great neighbors, and I think their neighbors will embrace them."

The subdivision has gates that are kept open but could be closed if the homeowners decide it is necessary, Osborn said.

Richard Klein, who has lived in the subdivision for six years, said having the Alis as neighbors "will be neat," adding that the subdivision is "very quiet and remote. We have a nice diverse group of individuals up here -- African Americans and Asians. I think we will look at them (the Alis) as no different than anyone else."

Fox said it will be "wonderful" for visitors to the Ali Center to "more frequently experience Muhammad's gracious and warm welcome, and for him and Lonnie to personally witness the impact their organization's mission is having on people of all ages, cultures and ideologies."

Reporter Sheldon S. Shafer can be reached at (502) 582-7089.

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Welcome home Mahammad ! Passed by your Michigan place from time to time when we would take our dune buggies up to Michigan. You won't see the snow as much down here, but be prepared for mobs of onlookers coming by your new place. I suggest you consider some extra private security until the newness wears off. I'll see you at the Center.

Posted: Fri Jan 26, 2007 10:27 am

Welcome home, Champ! 😊

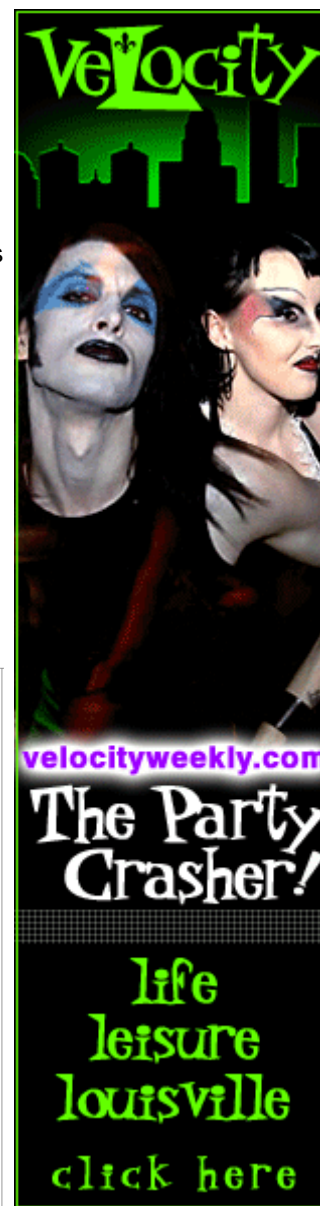
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Finally, the Greatest has come back...home

(all apologies to the Rock)

Posted: Fri Jan 26, 2007 8:09 am

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