



# CLARKSON VALLEY

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR  
THE RESIDENTS OF CLARKSON VALLEY

October 2017

# *Living*



## ***Meet Your Neighbors*** **THE TAETZ FAMILY**

Photographs taken by Kim Eichelberger of Eichelberger Photography



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## CLARKSON VALLEY City Officials

For More Info please go to [www.clarksonvalley.org/cityOfficials.html](http://www.clarksonvalley.org/cityOfficials.html)

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cvcityhall@charter.net

This newsletter should be considered "unofficial communication" and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the City of Clarkson Valley. An official position of the City shall only be communicated in letter form using City letterhead.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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**Make note of these new changes!**

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# Clarkson Valley Living's Trusted Vendor List

"If a business is listed here, we have met with each owner face-to-face and determined that they are a great fit as a partner in the publication and for the community." ~ Deanna Ley, your CVL publisher



This section has been created to give you easier access when searching for a trusted neighborhood vendor to use. Take a minute to familiarize yourself with the businesses sponsoring your Clarkson Valley Living newsletter.

These local businesses are proud to partner with you and make this newsletter possible. Please support these businesses and thank them for supporting Clarkson Valley!

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## Welcome To Our New Clarkson Valley Living Business Partner!

If you have any great businesses that you have worked with that you want to introduce to your neighbors, email their info to Deanna at [Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com](mailto:Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com).



## News You Can Use

Want To Be The First To Know? Get Connected Here!

### CVL Need You! Get Involved!

Join our private Clarkson Valley Living Facebook group! "Friend" us so we can notify you about our community news and events. [www.Facebook.com/groups/ClarksonValleyLiving](http://www.Facebook.com/groups/ClarksonValleyLiving)



### Are You On The Clarkson Valley Living Email List?

Shoot a quick email to [Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com](mailto:Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com) to be added so you can be in the know for all things CVL and event invites.

### Check out our upcoming events!

As you know, we love to put on events from time to time that brings the community together and help you to get to know each other! These events aren't ever awkward or weird because we work hard to make sure they are laid back and fun! Our next events are on page 12.

### Want to win a gift card to Walnut Grill?

We are giving away several gift cards to Walnut Grill! All you need to do is email Deanna the name of a local business or two (or 12) that you have used in the past to be entered into our monthly Referral Giveaway! We are always looking for great businesses to partner with us in the publication, and companies you already work with are a great place for us to start! Email the name of any great local businesses to [Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com](mailto:Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com).



**WALNUT GRILL**





Mayor Scott Douglass

# Mayor's Corner Reminders

At a recent City Council meeting, the subject of youth curfew came up. Yes, there is a County and a City ordinance that established such a curfew for minors. Our City ordinance is concurrent with the County. Let me quote a portion of our ordinance.

*"It shall be unlawful for any minor under the age of seventeen (17) years to loiter, idle, wander or stroll, or to drive or ride in an automobile, play in or upon the public streets, private streets open to the public, highways, roads, alleys, parks, playgrounds or other public grounds, public places and public buildings, places of amusement and entertainment, vacant lots or other places within the City between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. of the following day, official County time, except on Fridays and Saturdays when the hours shall be 12:00 midnight to 6:00 a.m. of the following day, official County time; provided however, that the provisions of this Section do not apply to a minor accompanied by his/her parent, guardian or other adult person having the care and custody of the minor, or where the minor is upon an emergency errand or legitimate business directed by his/her parent, guardian or other adult person having the care and custody of the minor."*

Further, it states it is unlawful for the parent, guardian or other adult person having the care and custody of a minor to knowingly permit such activity.

October 28 is the next date for another Drug Take-Back date. City Councilman Jim Meyer has served on the Rockwood Drug-Free Coalition for many years and continues to lead our commitment to addressing the youth drug problem. So, gather all those no longer necessary drugs and bring them to City Hall. Our police will be there to receive and destroy them appropriately.

Another note about the Rockwood Drug Coalition – some four to five years ago, our City, along with several other cities, was experiencing a rash of teenage parties. Too many of these resulted in overcrowded homes with underage drinking and drug abuse. The Coalition was instrumental in persuading cities to address this problem with more appropriate legislation. Our current ordinance does that and we believe it has assisted in reducing/eliminating these types of parties.

The ordinance makes it clear, should a gathering become unruly, the police are authorized to abate the gathering. The person responsible for the gathering is responsible for the actions of the group. If that person is a minor, then the parents or guardian of that minor will be jointly liable.

As I said, we hope this has contributed to the reduction of those parties. The prime reason these remain sparse is the parents and the teenagers have concluded they are not needed to enjoy life and, besides, they are not worth facing the consequences.



## Clarkson Valley Recycling Results through August 2017

August recycling tonnage: 16.27  
YTD tonnage: 135.37

from me to you!

# IT'S THE MOST Wonderful Time of the Year!



**Did that headline throw you off?** Usually, when that line is heard, it's from a popular song sung around Christmastime, but whenever I hear it, I automatically think of October and all the memories and fun this month brings with it. When our kids were younger, October was filled with visits to the pumpkin patch, camping in our pop-up trailer, smores around the campfire, and taking them trick-or-treating. Now that our kids are grown, Chris and I love to have cookouts with our neighbors, take hikes when the leaves are changing, spend time with family (still making smores around a campfire), and visiting Eckert's to pick apples. I LOVE OCTOBER! I'd love to hear from you what you love about it, too!

We are looking forward to a lot of things in the upcoming months. The November issue is going to be dedicated to honoring veterans for Veteran's Day. We also, have several great events in the works - two **Save The Dates** are in this issue on page 12 - our Business-to-Business event (everyone's invited!) and a free family fun event at Upper Limits in Chesterfield Valley. Take a look and let me know (RSVP to my email address below) if you can make it.

We are still looking for your **Rave Reviews!** Have you used one of our **Fantastic Clarkson Valley Living** Business Partners lately or in the past? We love getting testimonials about the work they have done for you. Simply email me at [deanna.ley@n2pub.com](mailto:deanna.ley@n2pub.com) with a short blurb about the work they did, and I will send you a Walnut Grill gift card as a **Thank You!**



As you know, this publication is completely free to you because of the ongoing, generous support of our business partners. I meet with each owner face-to-face to make sure they are quality enough to work with you. Please give them a chance to earn your business should you need one of their services. They want to be a part of this great community!

Thank you to everyone who contributed content this month, as well as everyone who has been a part of CVL in the past. Sharing your stories and pics is super easy! Simply reach out the **AMAZING** Kristy Howard to find out more details on how to be featured - [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com).



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Claire Taetz

### WANT TO JOIN THE TEAM?

We are always looking for volunteers who want to be a part of making *Clarkson Valley Living* the best it can be for the community. We are looking for Resident Article Contributors and Junior Writers (kids who want to get involved!) to join the team. Email [Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com](mailto:Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com) for more info!



upcoming events

# SAVE THESE DATES

## N2 Publishing After-Hours Business Networking Event

**Attention Resident Business Owners and CVL Business Partners:** If you own or run a business you are invited to come to our metro-wide Business to Business Networking Event!

**When:** Wednesday, October 25th

**Time:** 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Ambassador Floor Company (17770 Chesterfield Airport Rd, Chesterfield, MO 63005)

**Who:** Resident Business Owners and CVL Business Partners

Business leaders from all over the St. Louis area have been invited to this event, and we invite you to join us. Complimentary wine and appetizers will be provided. Ambassador Floor Company, so come on out and network with the best business owners in the St. Louis area. RSVP by emailing Deanna at [Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com](mailto:Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com).

Let us know if you would like to donate a door prize or something we can give away at the event. Friends are invited; the more the merrier!

## Free CVL Neighborhood Family Rock Climbing Night At Upper Limited Chesterfield



Upper Limits Chesterfield has partnered with Clarkson Valley Living to invite residents to a private climbing and family fun night on Sunday, November 19, from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

During this fun-filled evening, your family will enjoy finding new heights while bonding with your neighbors in a fun environment!

Upper Limits will be providing all of the necessary equipment and pizza, too, so all you have to do is show up and have a blast!

This is a don't-miss event! Your family will be talking about this night for years to come! Please RSVP to [Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com](mailto:Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com) before November 15.



## helping hands



## Help Support Clarkson Valley's YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS!

Please reach out to the following Clarkson Valley teens if you are in need of a Helping Hand. If you have an entrepreneurial teenager who would like to be featured, please contact Clarkson Valley resident Carol Rosa at [rosafab5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosafab5@sbcglobal.net) with their (or your) contact info, age/grade and services offered.

**LEAH FORST** - 16 years old, Junior  
**Service:** Babysitter  
**Phone:** 314-614-0034  
**Email:** [rforst@rachelsgrove.com](mailto:rforst@rachelsgrove.com) (mom, Rachel)

**AIDAN KLINE** - 14 years old, Freshman  
**Services:** Dog Walking / Pet Sitting  
**Phone:** 702-321-5365 (mom, Joylin)  
**Email:** [joylinkline3@yahoo.com](mailto:joylinkline3@yahoo.com)

**CATHRYN ROSA** - 16 years old, Junior  
**Services:** Babysitter, Dog Walker  
**Phone:** 860-389-7220 (mom Carol)  
**Email:** [rosafab5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosafab5@sbcglobal.net) (mom, Carol)

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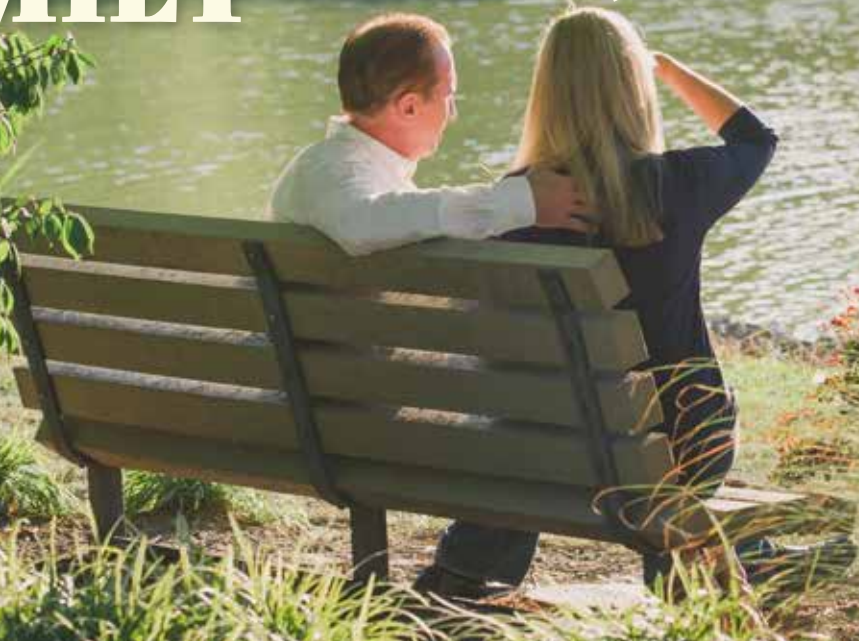
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# meet the TAETZ FAMILY

**MICHAEL SR., PHYLLIS, MATT, KIRSTEN,  
SARAH, CLAIRE, MICHAEL JR.  
AND THEIR DOG, TUCKER**



Photography By **Kim Eichelberger**, Co-Owner of **Eichelberger Photography** & Sponsored by **Kehrs Mill Dental Arts**

Nestled in the back of the Manors of Clarkson Valley, off Wilson Creek Court, resides the home of the Taetz family, Michael Sr., Phyllis, Matt (32-not pictured), Kirsten (28-not pictured), Sarah (20), Claire (18), Michael Jr. (13), and their English Golden Retriever, Tucker (one and a half). The Taetz family, who have been living in Clarkson Valley for 10 years, values the neighborhood's sense of community, location and the monstrous trees towering over the streets in their neighborhood, Wilson Farm Estates.

Michael Sr. works for Phillips Healthcare and Phyllis keeps occupied by running a busy household. Matt, a firefighter within the Maryland Heights District, and Kirsten, a Region Marketing Manager at Frito Lay, have fled the nest, as well as Sarah who attends college at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX, as a junior. Claire is a senior in high

school at Visitation Academy and Michael has recently begun his new journey as a seventh grader at the St. Louis Priory school.

Being born and raised in St. Louis, Michael Sr. is a huge Cardinals fan who enjoys watching and playing sports with Michael Junior. Both take delight in playing catch in the neighborhood common ground.

Mom, Phyllis, says "my family is my life" and appreciates every moment spent with her loved ones. Busy being a supermom, Phyllis finds balance by spending any extra time on her hands catching up with friends and being a top chef in the kitchen. The family considers Phyllis' lasagna world class!

Michael Jr., the sports fanatic of the family, stays active by playing on multiple select sports teams for baseball and basketball. He is fond of Clarkson Valley because he values the neigh-

borhood friendships that he has made over the years.

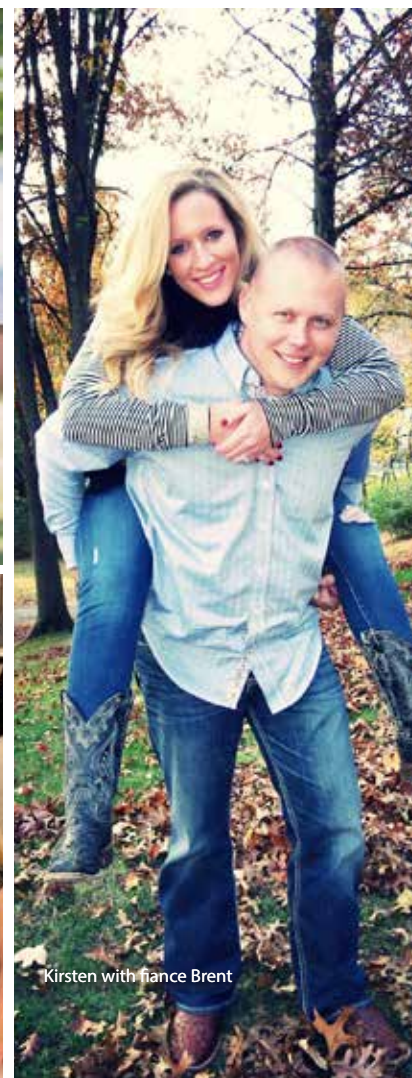
When Matt, the adventurous family member, is not working at the firehouse, he spends his time with his two kids, MJ and Evie. He also takes interest in hunting, especially during duck season and works hard at crafting his own wooden duck calls.

Kirsten, the social butterfly, is in the midst of planning her wedding with her fiancé, Brent. Like Matt, Kirsten and Brent take pleasure in outdoor activities such as, hunting, fishing, outdoor grilling and much more. The fun couple lives in Topeka, Kansas, but travels back and forth to STL.

Sarah, the future doctor of the family, travels back and forth from TCU to Clarkson Valley during holidays and school breaks. Being a part of the honors college, Sarah is currently studying biology through TCU's pre-med track.



Matt with kids MJ and Evie



Kirsten with fiance Brent



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When Sarah is not buried in her textbooks, she loves to snuggle and go for walks back at home with Tucker, the family mascot.

Claire, the artist of the family, adores Tucker, too, and has him star in some of her short films for projects, school videos and competitions. Claire often taps into her creative side behind the camera by working on her film and media production skills, and, on the camera, she enjoys the art of acting. Many scenes in her films are located in Clarkson Valley.

As a family, they like to venture out to Texas to attend the TCU Family Weekend in September which offers many fun activities, especially the football game. Go Frogs! Back at home in STL, the family enjoys dining out at their favorite restaurants, Babbo's Spaghetteria and Espino's. However, the family prefers to dine or grill out at home as the family finds joy in hanging out in the backyard of Clarkson Valley!

The Taetz family is a fun, loving, and tight-knit family and are living happily in Clarkson Valley!

*The Taetz family's photos were taken by Clarkson Valley Living's Meet Your Neighbors photographer Kim Eichelberger, who co-owns and operates Eichelberger Photography - EichPhoto.com - 636-734-1486 - KevinAndKim@EichPhoto.com*



Get to know your neighbors better by having your family featured in the next available issue and receive a free photo shoot & 16x24 print from photographer, Kim Eichelberger of Eichelberger Photography. Contact Kristy at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com).

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## Spotlight on the Talented KATE WILEY and SARAH and GWEN HYMES



Kate Wiley with Shrek



Sarah (left) as one of the Three Blind Mice and Gwen (right) as the Dragon

This summer, the spotlight was on a few Clarkson Valley theater kids along with the entire cast of "Shrek." The summer musicals are produced by Spotlight Productions, and the program is called Spotlight (an annual summer drama program), which is sponsored by Parkway/Rockwood community education and open to anyone ages six to adult to audition for a role. This summer, my daughter, Lydia Wiley, 10 (I am her mom, Kate, and her dad is Brent), and Sarah, 14, and Gwen, 11, Hymes, daughters of Bob and Julie Hymes, were selected as cast members. "Shrek The Musical" is based on the Oscar-winning Dream Works Animation film, a Tony Award-winning fairy tale adventure, bringing all the beloved characters you know from the film to life on

stage and proves there's more to the story than meets the ears. The cast met daily at Marquette High School, each year they spend about a month and a half rehearsing a full-scale production. In addition to rehearsal, Spotlight also brings in guest artists and does additional workshops, training actors in all facets of theater from performance to technical design.

Sarah and Gwen have been a part of this organization for three years and two years, respectively, whereas this was my daughter, Lydia's, first year. Bob and Julie will tell you that they love that the Spotlight family is such a huge part of their girls' summers. Sarah appeared as both a tap dancing rat and one of the Three Blind Mice. "In addition to the experience of being in a musical production, the workshop Wednesdays are great for the insight and activities they provide to help with auditions and perfor-



Cast of Shrek

mances." (Sarah) Gwen was a happy villager and was the Dragon's body. "Even though three hours almost every day for eight weeks seems like a lot, the time doing Spotlight flies by and you also make great friends!" (Gwen)

This was the first Spotlight Productions role for my daughter, Lydia. She was so proud to land the role of Peter Pan. Lydia loves to perform and has been taking voice lessons and acting workshops in the hopes of being cast in many more roles! "I just loved being a part of "Shrek" with Spotlight, I met so many new friends and learned so much about performing. I can't wait for next summer!" (Lydia)

The show was a spectacular production, with over fifty kids singing, dancing, performing and wowing six different audiences at the Marquette High School Theater.

Spotlight auditions for their summer production take place in the spring with the show running over the span of two July weekends. For more info, see the web page for Spotlight productions: <http://www.prcommunityed.org/spotlightproductions/Pages/About-Spotlight.aspx>



If you know of an outstanding youth (or you are one yourself!) who has had an accomplishment of some sort that should be featured, please email Kristy at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com).

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# HEARTY CHICKEN TACO SOUP

From the Kitchen of **Scott Hardwick** & Sponsored by **Just Around The Corner Flooring**

## IS THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL RUSH MAKING IT HARD TO PUT A HEALTHY MEAL ON THE TABLE?

If so, Forest Hills resident Scott Hardwick has a solution for you! This month, he shares a family-favorite soup recipe. It's a healthy meal that you can whip up in a flash on even the busiest night.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (14oz.) can of great northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (14oz.) can of black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (14oz.) can of southwest or Mexican corn, drained
- 2 (14oz.) cans petite diced tomatoes in their juices
- 1 C. water
- 2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- ¾ tsp. oregano
- ¾ tsp. garlic powder
- ¾ tsp. onion powder
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- ½ tsp ground pepper
- 1 lb. of ground beef or ground turkey (cooked and drained) or 2 C. cooked chicken

### TOPPINGS:

- Grated sharp cheddar cheese
- Tortilla chips
- Sour cream
- You can also add diced green onions and avocados if you wish.

### INSTRUCTIONS

Combine and stir all ingredients in a large soup pot over medium heat until the temperature is even. Serve hot with toppings! Great for leftovers, too!

### delicious dish



Would you like to have a favorite family recipe featured in Clarkson Valley Living? Simply email Kristy Howard at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com) to have your recipe featured in the next available issue.

## generation conversation

Article sponsored by **Darnell Construction**

### A Conversation Between Dunhill Resident Sophie Izsak & Her Memaw Mickey

Meet Sophie Izsak, 13-year-old daughter of Michael and Allison Izsak of Dunhill. She is in eighth at Crestview Middle School and has an older sister, Rachele. Sophie recently had a nice visit with her paternal grandmother, Mickey Izsak (Memaw). They spent some quality time asking each other the following questions:

#### MEMAW INTERVIEWING SOPHIE:

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** I have no idea because it's too early to decide!

**What's one way you think the world will be different when you're my age?** Technology will be more improved than it is today.

**What makes you happy?** Being with family and friends and having my phone!

**What is your favorite thing to do with me?** Having Sunday night dinners with you.

**If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?** I would like everyone to be more loving towards each other instead of being full of hate and fighting.

**Who is your hero and why?** You are my hero, Memaw, because you showed me that short people can do anything!

#### SOPHIE INTERVIEWING HER MEMAW:

**When you were my age, what did you want to be when you grew up?** I wasn't sure what I wanted to be, but I knew that I wanted to go to college.

**What was one way the world was different when you were my age?** All the neighbors took care of the children in the neighborhood.

**Can you tell me about the first time we met?** I walked into the hospital room and I saw you! You had lots of dark hair!

**How did you meet Grandpa?** I met him at the USO when I was a hostess. He was having coffee with the guys.

**What is your favorite part of having grandchildren?** My favorite part is the hugs!

**What was Dad like when he was my age?** Your Dad was cute. He was mischievous and humorous, and he's still pretty much like that. When he's serious, he's very serious. When he is serious about something you have done, it would be a good idea not to do it again!



Sophie with her Memaw Mickey



Generation Conversation is a way for a grandparent and grandchild to learn more about each other, and how the world has both changed and stayed the same. To be featured, email [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com).



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**amazing athlete**

Article written by Clarkson Valley Living Jr. Writer **Macy Mundweller** & Sponsored by **Ries Orthodontics**

meet **ABBY WATSON,**  
**AQUATIC EXTRAORDINAIRE**

**“SWIMMERS ... TAKE YOUR MARK ... GO!”**

For Clarkson Valley resident Abby Watson (21), this phrase has often been heard throughout her extensive swimming career.

For the past 17 years, Abby Watson has lived a double life, one on land and one in the water. By day, she is a regular college student but when the time for practice rolls around, she trades her books in for a swim cap and goggles. From a young age, Abby has been fostering her talent, with help from various coaches, including beloved Forest Hills swim team coach Kevin Brennan. Abby attended Marquette High School and now swims at Duquesne University in Pittsburg Pennsylvania.

Abby has been lucky to receive numerous awards, some include school records in the 100 meter back, the 200 medley relay, and



Abby with swim team coach of Forest Hills Country Club, Kevin Brennan

**Good luck to Abby Watson on her fourth and final year of eligibility and your future swimming accomplishments!**



Call athletes of all ages! Do you play a sport you are passionate about? Whether it's football, cheerleading, skateboarding, skiing, soccer or any sport in between, we want your story! Just email Kristy at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com) to be featured.

*“It is such a pleasure to develop enduring relationships with our patients and their families, and I look forward to creating confident, beautiful, and lasting smiles for each one of them. I am especially pleased that I can practice in my hometown and that my family can be part of this wonderful community.”*

**- Dr. Charlie Ries**

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the 400 medley relay. In 2017, she was the Atlantic 10 champion in the 200 medley relay and a part of the A-10 Women's Swimming All-Academic team.

Abby says that the friendships she's made are what she likes the most about her sport, aside from the swimming itself. "I know people all over the country and have been friends with some of them for more than half of my life. They understand how hard it can be."

When an athlete sustains an injury, a setback will often occur. And in worst case scenarios, an athlete with a major injury can no longer play. When asked for a favorite memory during her swimming career, Abby's answer was unlike most. During this last year, Abby suffered a serious injury. Rather than let that keep her down, she pushed through. On their first day of Conference, her relay won. "Team victories are always more fun but this one was the best. I had worked so hard with those two laps in mind that it made the pain worth it."

Outside of the pool, Abby enjoys golfing and reading, when she has the time, but her favorite passion is teaching swimming. Abby loves to coach and to help others learn the sport that has captured her heart.

One piece of advice that Abby has for all the kids of Clarkson Valley is: "Do what you love, no matter what it is, because that is truly how you stay happy. This is my 17th year on a swim team and I do it for me and my love, not for anything else."

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# Coffee Break



## Sudoku

2	5			4	9		
	4	3	8				7
				7		2	4
4			7	8			
6		5			4		1
			1	6			9
7	3		4				
5				1	8	7	
		8	3			4	2

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

### Helpful Hints!

- Use vertical strokes when washing windows outside and horizontal for inside windows. This way you can tell which side has the streaks. Straight vinegar will get outside windows really clean. Don't wash windows on a sunny day. They will dry too quickly and will probably streak.
- Place fabric softener sheets in dresser drawers and your clothes will smell freshly washed for weeks. You can also do this in the linen closet for towels and sheets.
- Candles will last longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.
- Spray your plastic container with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato based sauces and there won't be any stains.
- When boiling corn on the cob, add a pinch of sugar to help bring out the corn's natural sweetness.



## Boo Time!

Spot the difference! There are 7 things different between these photos.

Can you spot them?

Answers elsewhere in this issue



### precious pets

Article written by **Georgie himself** with a little help from **Kristy Howard** & Sponsored by **English Sweep**

## a boy named GEORGIE

**H**ello! I'm Georgie! My human mom's name is Judy Emmendorfer. We live on Crown Hill Lane in Forest Hills. I was from the countryside where my previous owner held me captive in a *crate for eight years!* I hardly was ever let out! I thought I was scarred for life but lucky for me, Stray Rescue freed me from my prison and I landed into the loving arms of my mommy Judy! I am now 12 and living large! Since I have been rescued from prison four years ago, I have reverted to my puppy years with my new-found freedom!

I am mom's third Shih Tzu and, although she may disagree, the third time is a charm and boy do I charm! Okay, so this is funny! My name I was given from my previous captors was Ruckus. Not even *close* to my personality!!! My forever name is now Georgie. My mom's last dog's name was Georgie!!! She kept calling me Georgie on accident (I've heard about this thing called short-term memory loss ... perhaps?!!) and the name stuck so Georgie I am and I'm cool with that!

Another funny thing about me is that I feel more like a cute female dog than a male. It's possible that I am gender confused. (Am I allowed to talk about stuff like that?) I am told that I act like a princess, and am really pretty and I *love* to wear bows in my hair! Mom says that while I sleep I make funny noises and howl! When I do that, she calls me Boy George after some singer from the 80's! I also have a cat-like tendency to sit in all the windows watching the beautiful world. When I want to go out I get my leash and drop it a mom's feet. When I am in the yard I *must* chase the deer out because this is my slice of heaven, not theirs!

One thing I never got enough of in my first eight years was attention. If you see me, please come and pet me and give me some of your love! I am so thankful and blessed! Oh, what a life!



Do you have a pet and would like to share his/her story? Dogs, cats, horses, fish and any other types of animals are welcome! Email **Kristy Howard** at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com) to have them featured in an upcoming issue.

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# From *TRAGEDY* To *TRIUMPH* Rebuilding With A New Focus



perspectives from the past  
Article sponsored by Handyman Connection

**W**e are the Norman family of Forest Hills, Rob and Sharon, and sons Robbie (17) and James (14). June 16, 2013, was a day our family will never forget. On that day, Father's Day no less, our house was destroyed by fire. Although devastating, we truly believed that God had intervened numerous times that day to ensure it wasn't worse -- we were not home at the time of the fire (because of multiple delays with the tournament games); delays that in all my years of coaching I had never seen before. The dogs were in the garage (because of the gopher gas odors), but were unharmed from the fire, and most of our pictures and sentimental items were salvaged. This recognition and realization of what happened gave us a deeper perspective on what truly should be important -- God, the strength of family, and true friends...not "stuff."

We purchased the house in Forest Hills because we felt like it could be a perfect home for our children. There was plenty of yard space where the boys could play games, space to add a pool, plenty of

room for us to entertain our friends and family, and a great back driveway area for a basketball court. Both Rob and I really enjoy working in the yard, and we were looking forward to transforming it and adding our own special touch.

At the time of the fire, Robbie just completed sixth grade and was almost 13. James was 10 and had just finished fourth grade. It had rained quite a bit the night before so we were waiting to hear if Robbie's baseball tournament would be rained out. We passed the time by working in the yard. Moles were overtaking our front beds, so we went on a mission to eradicate them. Rob put some gopher gas into one tunnel, and we soon found out that the horrible smelling smoke had penetrated the foundation and into our basement. We plugged a fan into one of the electrical outlets in the back of the basement to push the smell out and put the dogs in the garage, thinking the gas couldn't be good for them. We then left for Robbie's game and, at some point, there was an electrical surge to the outlet which sparked the fire. Pool chemicals ended up causing a minor explosion inside the house.

The news was devastating but we tried to focus on the positives and keep our boys' lives as normal as possible as if nothing had

happened. We told them we were excited because it was going to be a "new adventure" for our family. However, we needed shelter. Our neighbors across the street, Pat and Michelle Dean, called us from out of town and insisted that we stay in their house while they were gone. It's been such a blessing to live in a neighborhood with such caring people. The next week the same thing happened with another family going on vacation (The Walsh's). And the last few days we stayed at Rob's sister and brother-in-law's house.

A relocation company kept turning up houses in the Parkway School District, which we were concerned would disrupt our boys' lives even more by changing school districts. Rob found a home for sale in Wyncrest subdivision and asked the seller if he would be willing to rent the home. As it turned out, the seller was James' former Cub Scout Leader and one of Rob's clients. His client was inspired and had empathy for our situation and ended up renting to us for a year. Again, another blessing! Each boy also had a best friend in the neighborhood, so they were gone for hours hanging out with their buddies.

On the day of the fire, the newspaper captured pictures of a fireman carrying out our large wedding picture, unharmed. Our friend and neighbor Mary Ellen Block and a group of others came in the next day and retrieved most of our other pictures and photo albums before they were too water damaged. They painstakingly dried them out. This must have taken hours to accomplish. Only two things that were lost that I really care about: just above where the fire started I had hung a reproduction of a Camille Pissarro painting that I had done for my parents for their 25th wedding anniversary. It was totally destroyed. We also have a collection of recordable ornaments where each year the boys would record their favorite memory of the Christmas season. We were only able to save about half of them. Hearing the boys' voices from years' past is precious.

The part that brings us to tears is how incredibly kind and giving our neighbors and people in general were. One of the amazing things was that some of the people that gave the most, weren't always who we expected. Again, a clarifying moment. The day after the fire there were 30-40 people at the house helping us search for items once the Fire Marshall gave us clearance. Gina Donlin came and took pictures of everything to help us remember items and made a list of contents lost. She did loads of laundry for us, washing sports uniforms and basic clothing to get us through the first few days until we could get our clothes back from the cleaning company. Each load had to be washed multiple times to get the smoke smell out.

Mike Lavanier and Calvin Kolkmeier, who had installed our wood floors a few years before, showed up at 7:00 a.m. the day after the fire, with a huge trailer to store our belongings until they could be taken and cleaned. They just said, "We heard you had a fire and figured you could use the help." They stayed with us and worked the entire day. Mike also took an antique clock from my dad's side of the family and completely restored it for me. Families of Robbie's



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teammates brought coolers of drinks and food and tents as well as a basket of necessities. Rob had coached their kids for years and it seemed like they realized all that he had given to them, and they wanted to give back, which was incredibly touching.

Mary Beth Mazzola led a collection of gifts and gift cards from neighbors and families from school, which got us through the early weeks. It seemed like each group we belonged to also reached out with gifts and gift cards. Each of our employers and co-workers, the cub scout group, both boys' baseball teams and Rob's high school friends group donated.

The restoration company couldn't take jewelry, so a few ladies came and cleaned everything for me. I also remember Tammy Kirtser searching through insulation for what seemed like hours to find the journals that we kept for each of the boys capturing moments we wanted to remember from their childhood. When she found them, she took them home and dried each page to protect the writing. I've almost completed the transfer into a new journal for each!

We were starting to realize that we had a ton of stuff that was not important to us. We knew that God had a plan for us. He was reshaping the way we used to see things, the way we think. And we were willing to faithfully follow these changes in us, and wherever his plan was going to lead us.

When we moved into the house in Wynncrest we tried to make it home as much as possible -- we received a list of all the contents rescued from the house and moved as much as we could to our rental to make it feel more like home - this helped keep things "more normal" for all of us. Some of the items were the boy's artwork, pictures, our Christmas dishes and some of the other holiday decorations that were salvaged.



Since the fire, we are doing great! It's really hard to believe it's been more than four years since it happened. We love our new house because it incorporates all the improvement ideas we accumulated during the 11 years we lived at our house before the fire. Things like a bathroom off the garage, and laundry near the bedrooms, an exercise room, and a pool closet right off the pool. We approach buying things and accumulating stuff cautiously - we try to only purchase things we need. We've got a clean and organized garage, and back of the basement - and we want to keep it that way!

The fire brought clarity to what is really important to us: real and true friendship, a strong family, faith in God, and the goodness in others. We're thankful for the changes that took place in us. And, we truly thank all of those who were there to help us during that difficult time and the lessons they helped us to receive.



Do you have words of wisdom, great life lessons or fabulous stories of your youth that you'd like to share with your neighbors? If so, email [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com) for more details.

# We want to thank all of our clients and referral partners this year!



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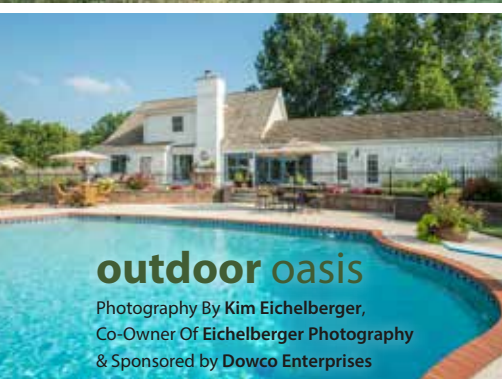
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# A Staycation Location RIGHT HERE IN CLARKSON VALLEY



## outdoor oasis

Photography By Kim Eichelberger,  
Co-Owner Of Eichelberger Photography  
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Do you have an amazing outdoor oasis or do you know someone in your neighborhood who does? Share your outdoor space or nominate a neighbor's yard for spotlighting by emailing Kristy at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com).

*Have you ever wanted to live on a lake that flows with fantastic family moments that last a lifetime? Wanted to wake up in a neighborhood without backyard fences and enjoy watching herons glide along the shoreline while neighborhood anglers try their luck at catching the "big one"? Or how about sipping your favorite wine on a cozy gazebo as you await a thunderstorm as it approaches over the treetops?*

It's hard to believe, but this outdoor oasis does exist right here in Clarkson Valley. Nothing else in the area instantly captures your eyes like this weathered, white brick home with its cedar shake roof, ivy-covered walls and its resort-like setting. If it were on a postcard, you might mistake this home for a Cape Cod cottage overlooking a scenic water inland. It's also hard to believe that there are 12 other houses on the lake because the trees seem to magically hide them all ... making this home feel like the only home on the water.

For the owners, it's the home they dreamt about all their lives. It's theirs to share with family and friends. That's how it is for the retired couple who fell in love with the home 28 years ago while driving through Clarkson Valley, and then found it was for sale in 2014. They just had to have it even though they had no intention of ever moving out of their Chesterfield home that they had custom-built to raise their three children. It was a grand opportunity to live close-in, on a lake and downsize all at the same time, but still have plenty of room to

entertain and spend exciting times with grandchildren.

The owners of this enchanting bungalow have friends and family over almost every weekend in the summer to enjoy a refreshing drink while soaking up the sun on their favorite floaty in the enticing pool. Each year they host an all-American 4th of July party, complete with hot dogs and lemonade and a bevy of flags dotting the driveway leading to the backyard. Palettes of red, white, and blue bunting, more flags, and patriot centerpieces greet you. When the sun goes down, it's all about watching the neighborhood fireworks in a comfy wicker chair, sipping your favorite cocktail from the upper patio bar.

It's a sanctuary where you can just relax and contemplate the peacefulness and beauty around you ... all inside of **Clarkson Valley!**



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## kids will be kids

Article written by his mom Liz &  
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# meet the very *ADVENTUROUS* **ANDREW MCLAUGHLIN**

Andrew McLaughlin, son of Drew and Liz McLaughlin of Westhampton, just turned 12 years old and is a sixth grader at St. Clare of Assisi. He plays football, basketball, lacrosse and golf.

Andrew had a unique opportunity this summer. At the end of June, he flew by himself to San Francisco, California. There, he attended a wilderness adventure camp where he explored California.

Andrew slept in a tent for 13 days. He did not know any of the other campers before he headed to California but quickly made some amazing new friends and learned some great life skills. He learned how to surf at Half Moon Bay, kayaked in Monterey Bay and Lake Tahoe, spent several days exploring Yosemite and went white water rafting in the American River. Andrew had an amazing time.

When we picked him up from the airport, he informed us that next summer he hopes to attend the Wilderness Adventure Camp in Colorado. This adventure proves that Andrew is an independent, courageous, laid-back young man.

Right now, he is focusing on school, being a leader on his football team and is a typical big brother. Andrew has a younger brother, Matthew, and a younger sister, Molly. Andrew's dog, Tank, is a loyal companion who loves to be at Andrew's feet.

Hey, kids – do you want to be the superstar of the neighborhood? Do you want to share with the neighborhood any and all things that are important to kids your age? All you have to do is ask your parents to email Kristy at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com).



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## living spaces

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**W**e are Jay and Amy Setnicka, and we moved to Clarkson Valley with our sons, Johny and Joey, 14 years ago from Atlanta, GA. We fell in love with Clarkson Valley and the Forest Hills neighborhood due to the quiet streets, big lots, and old-fashioned feel. Our boys were four and two at the time and we wanted them to have a childhood where they could ride bikes in the streets, play in the woods and allow us to feel they were safe. So, our mantra as we looked for homes was “less house more life” and that is how we found our single-story ranch home in Forest Hills Subdivision.

Eventually, we were ready to invest in our home and began a transformation. Remodeling became part of our life. The entire house has been changed, including turning a ranch into a two-story house! We loved the way it turned out but, suddenly, we had a two-story great room and really did not know how to work with this new space. While we did much of the overall design on our own, we needed help with the decorating. Then we met interior designer Meredith Wannamaker through Forest Hills Country Club, as she is one of the club’s interior designers.

She knew immediately how to design the two-story great room. We had the bones of a grand living space, but it was lacking architectural detail. To maximize natural light and exterior views, we turned the doors that flank the hearth into windows and added two more similarly sized windows above. The hearth needed to “wow” as it is the main focal point of the room. We selected a multicolored, natural stone for texture and extended it to the ceiling to

draw the eye upward. The hearth seat was built-out to the full width of the room to balance the vertical height and anchor the wall visually. To fill the volume of space, we selected a large scale, wood, and metal chandelier to complement the stone. A wide crown molding was applied two-thirds up the wall to create a visual pause and balance the scale of the room. Lastly, we applied a medium-tone paint color below the crown molding and lighter paint above for contrast and to break up the volume of the space.

*We love our space and will be using Meredith as we work on future spaces!*



We’ve featured some great homes in Clarkson Valley and would love to share yours as well. Have you recently remodeled, redecorated or built on an addition, a man cave or a new wine cellar? Simply contact Kristy at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com) to be featured.



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6	7	5	9	2	3	4	8	1
3	8	2	4	1	6	7	5	9
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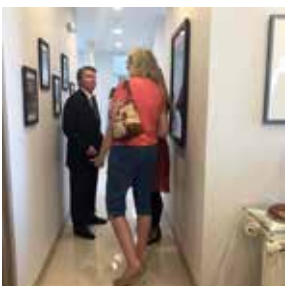
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# WILDHORSE DENTAL

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For nearly three decades, Dr. Earl Larson has been putting smiles on the faces of West Countians. When he moved to the Chesterfield Valley and opened Wildhorse Dental twenty years ago he started a process that would make him a lasting part of the community.

*“When I opened my practice in Chesterfield 28 years ago it was a growing area that had all the cultural and community features that I desired. I have never been disappointed with my choice” says Dr. Earl.*

Larson says he is constantly looking for opportunities to provide the best advances in dentistry for his clients. He is proud to reflect back twenty years

ago when he took the plunge with digital dentistry, converting his office over to fully electronic records, including digital x-rays and digital photos. No one even knew what an electronic record was back then. About that same time he bought his first laser to do rapid tooth whitening, and a few years later he became an Invisalign provider to offer orthodontic procedures to his patients. Now, two decades later, with Cerec milling technology, he is able to produce tooth-colored crowns and veneers in a single appointment.

*“I have been a member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry for fifteen years,” added Larson. “I offer a full range of cosmetic and restorative dental services in my office. And I am very excited now, as a member of the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine, to be offering dental appliances to treat sleep apnea and help people stop snoring. In many instances, they may get rid of their CPAP machines.”*

Larson has been part of the Allied Staff of St. Luke’s Hospital for over twenty-five years. He says his involvement in various dental groups and associations avails him to the most current treatments.

*“I have been fortunate to be asked to assume a leadership role throughout my career,” added Dr. Larson. “I am a past president of the Greater St. Louis Dental Society, and am currently serving as the St. Louis District Trustee to the Missouri Dental Association. The joy of leadership is to be able to help future dentists continue in such a rewarding profession as it evolves into an integral part of the overall healthcare network.”*



Dr. Larson has been a member of the Chesterfield Kiwanis Club for the last 25 years and has had the privilege of being the president of that group as well. He is also been involved with the charities of Give Kids a Smile, as well as the MOMOM program of the Missouri Dental Association.

Dr. Larson was born and raised in St. Louis. He went to Mizzou and then The University of Missouri at Kansas City Dental School. His wife Tryla is a real estate agent for the Monschein Team with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Alliance Real Estate. He and Tryla live in Chesterfield and have three children, who are all now young adults. Now that their children are pretty much on their own, they enjoy playing golf, going to Club Fitness, or any of the other recreational opportunities that Chesterfield is known for. They can’t wait for the new TOP GOLF to open.

Now he invites others to see the exciting and innovative dental services that he offers at Wildhorse Dental.

*“When you choose a dentist, the best source is still to talk to your neighbors,” adds Larson. “Most times, a discount examination and x-rays is no bargains. The majority of my patients have dental insurance which pays for their first appointment in full, so a discount at that appointment is of little value to them. Instead, they will be better off to read through the reviews on Google, Yelp and some of the other web services. They should look for real before and after photos of actual patients*



*on the office website. Look for a dentist who is a member of the American Dental Association. And finally, find someone who has a good long track record in the area and has given back to the community.”*

Odds are when you find that dentist who meets all those requirements, you will be booking an appointment with Dr. Larson and Wildhorse Dental.

\* Like Wildhorse Dental on Facebook to be entered in our weekly free luxury car wash drawing at Edison Express Tidal Wave.

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**sponsor spotlight** ellie REDDERS interiors



jackie phillips  
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**ACHIEVE STYLE, CHARM & AFFORDABLE ELEGANCE WITH ELLIE REDDERS INTERIORS**



It is very easy to see why Ellie Redders, founder of ellie Redders interiors, is highly sought after by clients. Her passion and excitement for her craft are palpable when you speak to her. She loves all things about cultivating and creating beautiful and comfortable spaces for her client's homes.

"I love that my clients can come home after a busy day and sit in their designed space and say a relaxing 'ahhhh'," Ellie shared.

When Ellie began her business in 2009 it came from her love of redecorating her own homes. She and her husband had purchased and remodeled several homes when a friend suggested that she look into offering her service to others. "I really didn't know what would come of it all but I took the leap and it has been a blessing to work at something that brings joy to all involved," said Ellie.

Over the years, Ellie has honed her craft and attributes that to other designers who mentored her and introduced her to more product lines and ideas that she was then able to apply. This

diligence as a student of her industry has, she feels, given her a certain edge in her field.

Ellie's "Why" revolves around the fun that she has in helping her clients realize their vision. She simply loves what she does and strives to make her process simple for the user.

When contacted by a potential client she sends them a document that outlines her services and even discloses most, if not all, the costs associated.

Then, she meets with them in their home to evaluate the space and take measurements, but mostly to focus on helping them develop and implement their vision.

Next, with the use of advanced technology tools, Ellie creates a "Mood Board" that she send digitally to the clients so that they can see the suggested changes (this includes colors, flooring, accessories – all the home furnishings if you will).

The process is simple and easy. In fact, it became even easier for her clients this year. Ellie opened ERI Warehouse, her private collection of home furnishings, which is located at 17351 Manchester Rd. in Wildwood. Here, clients can browse, touch and feel the furnishings by appointment. In addition, clients can also go to [EllieReddersInteriors.com](http://EllieReddersInteriors.com) to view the "virtual catalog"

form he convenience of their home. She even holds an "Open House" event most months and that information can be found on her Facebook page – Ellie Redders Interiors.

Ease. Style. Comfort. Ahhh. Words that simply describe the experience you will feel when you contact Ellie to create your special space.



Do you know any amazing businesses that would be great partners for this publication? We are always looking for referrals! Please contact Deanna at [Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com](mailto:Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com).

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16826 Kehrsdale Dr.	Kehrs Mill Estates	\$644,900	\$639,900	5/30/17	5	6	4378	3
2115 Kehrs Ridge Dr.	Kehrs Mill Estates	\$650,000	\$615,000	6/6/17	4	4.5	3994	3
2108 Stillwater Point Ct.	Manors at Clarkson Valley	\$649,900	\$589,600	6/1/17	5	3.5	3451	4
7 Greenbank Dr.	Forest Hills	\$625,000	\$570,000	7/6/17	5	4	2815	3
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2219 Whitby Rd.	West Hampton	\$515,000	\$500,000	6/16/17	4	3.5	2840	2
15984 Trowbridge Rd.	West Hampton	\$499,000	\$495,000	6/1/17	4	2.5	3052	2
130 Highgrove Ln.	Forest Hills	\$499,900	\$490,000	7/27/17	4	3.5	2807	2
16451 Dapple Gray	Kehrs Mill Trails	\$499,900	\$477,500	6/2/17	5	3	2187	2

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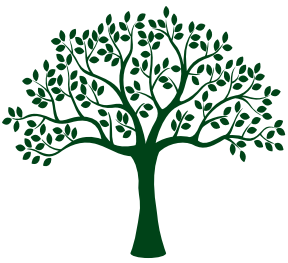
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