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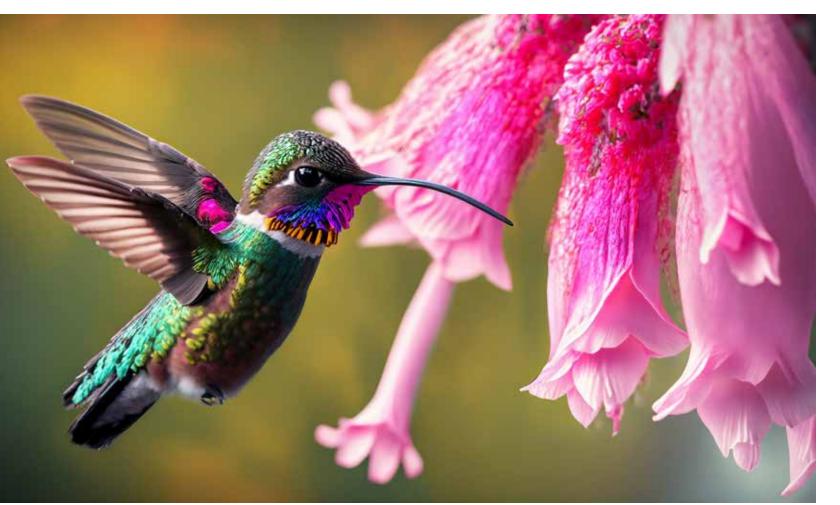
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APRIL BRINGS SHOWERS... AND THE TAX MAN COMETH

BY CLARKSON VALLEY MAYOR SUE MCNAMARA, RESIDENT OF KEHRS MILL ESTATES SPONSORED BY TRACEY DE SIMON - COLDWELL BANKER-GUNDAKER REALTY

ne of the reasons I love where we live is that our seasons change dramatically, never making it boring. And as they say, "It's Missouriif you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes!" This is a great time of year; our City begins to look like a giant Easter Basket, especially on a blue-sky day. Spring Peepers have been peeping, buds are popping, the grass is greening up, bunnies are hopping, and we've seen our first hummingbird. Perennials have popped up like returning friends, and we've been planning our gardens,

focusing on what the local four-hoofed rascals won't eat. Tip: they don't like gray, fuzzy plants. Unfortunately, this time of year also brings weather challenges, so make sure you have plans in case of extreme weather. Including identifying the safest place in your house to seek shelter, keeping your cell phones charged, and agreeing on a central place to meet if separated. Spring also brings pests: Coyotes

are hungry (keep your small pets close), grubs, moles and dandelions appear, and the Tax Man Cometh (sigh). Just

remember we don't appreciate the good stuff without some bad! Your Council has been productive As you read this, we will have (re)elected our new Council members; they are: 1. Ward 1 (Originally appointed to fill a vacancy, first time elected), Jeff Schweig, Kehrs Mill Estates West. 2. Ward 2 (Originally appointed to fill a vacancy, first time elected) Brock McDonald, The Manors at Clarkson Valley.

3. Ward 3 (Re-elected for his 8th term), Lin Midyett, Westhampton. We are privileged to have them all back and grateful they continue to serve.

- We have submitted our first-ever grant to fund a city-wide recycling event in November. We will accept paper for shredding and a free drop-off for electronic devices, first come, first serve until grant funding is exhausted (more details to come).
- · Spring brings thoughts of building projects, and we're excited to have a new Building Inspector, Brad Holmes. Our previous Inspector was excellent, but Clarkson Valley was his 2nd gig; Brad is recently retired and lives in Chesterfield. When inquiries were made regarding his credentials, we were told, "We were sorry to lose him; this will be a perfect fit for all of you!" This has proven true. Brad has years of experience, all his international and national certifications and is available at more convenient hours. He's already demonstrated his expertise as he has provided considerable help as we are working to simplify our Building Permit Schedules. We also hope soon to be able to accept payments via credit cards. • A social event, "Coffee With The Mayor," is scheduled for Sunday, April 14, from 2-4 pm at Forest Hills CC. An email invitation has been sent, and we hope you will come to meet your Council Reps, our city Administrator, and myself. Soft drinks and light snacks will be served, and a cash bar will be available.

We hope you all welcome the Spring with as much hope and anticipation as we all do!

Sue Mc Mamara Mayor

Clarkson Valley



Sue is a 36-year resident of Clarkson Valley. Her children, Steve and Leah are Marquette graduates. A proud member of a military family, Sue's previous career as a Senior Account Executive at Anheuser Busch spanned 20 years.

She previously served on the Board of Kehrs Mill Estates Residents Association as well as the past five years on the Clarkson Valley Board of Aldermen. Sue is also a Certified Sommelier!



Clarkson Valley Recycling Results Most Recent Monthly **Recycling Tonnage** Report: 23.43 Tons

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Meet your *Stroll Clarkson Valley* team! We'd like to thank all of our writers for their valuable contributions to the magazine.





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Our goal is to build community in the neighborhood by helping everyone get to know each other a little better and make *Stroll Clarkson Valley* the best it can be! Please let us know how we are doing. Do you have any article ideas? How about ideas on neighborhood events? This is your publication!

WANT TO WRITE FOR STROLL CLARKSON VALLEY?

We are always looking for community members who would like to take an active role in writing stories for *Stroll Clarkson Valley*. We currently have openings for resident article contributors and junior writers — kids who want to get involved, gain valuable experience, and/or build their resumes and portfolios! If you or someone you know might be interested, please email Bill. Tuttle@n2co.com.



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Are you and your family new to the neighborhood? If so, welcome! Please send your contact information to Bill. Tuttle@n2co.com to be added to our event invitations and contact list.



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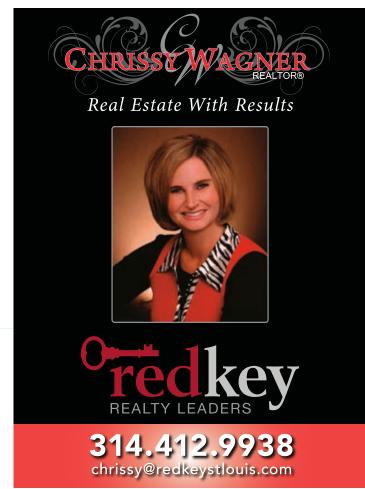


Matt and Tara Ference purchased their home in Forest Hills November of 2022. They took on a total renovation and finally moved in July of 2023. Matt and their son's Matt and Jake have always been golfers, so Forest Hills was the perfect location for their family—they overlook the 7th fairway! Along with their daughter Maura, the Ferences love the beauty and peacefulness of Clarkson Valley!

Their son Jake is a Junior at Lafayette High School. He is both a football player and a baseball player. Jake is a kicker/punter for the football team and a left-handed pitcher for the baseball team. Jake has been playing football since second grade, making this past season his tenth. He has been playing baseball for twelve years.



Matt. Maura. Matt. Tara. and Jake at the Colosseum in Rome!





What Jake likes the most about football:

"It's a really fun game and it takes the whole team to win a game. I like playing with my friends and the work we put in year-round keeps us in good shape and makes us disciplined. I can also focus every week on improving my skills and getting better to help my team. Our head coach, Coach Boyd Manne and our assistant coaches are very supportive and create a great team culture."

Tournaments and Special Awards: Lafayette football team was 8-2 last season and District Champions. Jake was selected first team all-conference kicker and punter. And the first team all-district punter for the 2023 season. Jake commented, "My punting average was 38 yards and I made 5 of 7 field goals last season. Recently I was nationally ranked as the 24th punter in the class of 2025 by Kohls Kicking. I was also one of 45 high school punters invited to the Kohls kicking Underclassman challenge in West Palm Beach in January 2024".

Hobbies: Jake likes to play golf and video games. He has also worked as a baseball umpire in Chesterfield since he was ten years old.

Proudest moment: "Last season our field goal unit made the winning field goal in overtime against Ritenour High School. I got a great snap from Alex Hoffman and a great hold from Brady Micek. I made the kick from thirty yards!"

Plans for college and after graduation:

"My plan is to play football in college like my older brother. I am starting to look at college football programs in the Midwest where I can play and make a difference for a team. My goal is to play football for as long as I can. I am not sure what I want to do after college. Maybe work in a business or engineering career in St. Louis."

Get to know your neighbors better by having your family featured in the next available issue and receive a free miniphotoshoot from our Photographer or nominate a family and we'll contact them! Email Bill.Tuttle@n2co.com.com.





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Jon's story begins right here in Clarkson Valley, where he was born; living across from what is now Marquette High School. He moved to the East Coast, where he lived until his senior year of high school, when his father was transferred back to St. Louis. Fast forward a few years, Jon met his beautiful wife, Jaimyn, in 2015. They bought their home in St. Charles County in 2016 and married in 2017. They started their family in 2019 with the birth of their son Bennett (5), followed by their second son, Theodore (2.5), in 2021. Serving the community continues with Jon's wife, Jaimyn, who is a teacher.

Jon is an avid outdoorsmen and loves spending his free time hunting, fishing, camping and enjoying sporting events with his family. Last summer, he took his family on their first camping trip to Meramec State Park. He also took his boys to their first NHL experience with a St. Louis Blues game back in November.





Each family's dynamic is unique. It is important to know that insurance is not "one size fits all," and Jon creates a strategy specific to each family he helps. The insurance market has shifted and is still shifting. Having someone with their finger on the pulse of the market is important.

If there is one piece of advice Jon can offer, it's this...

"Life is complicated and tough enough. Embrace the 'it takes a village concept,' and focus on what you do best. Let me focus on taking care of you and your family's protection."

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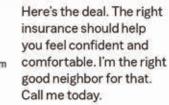


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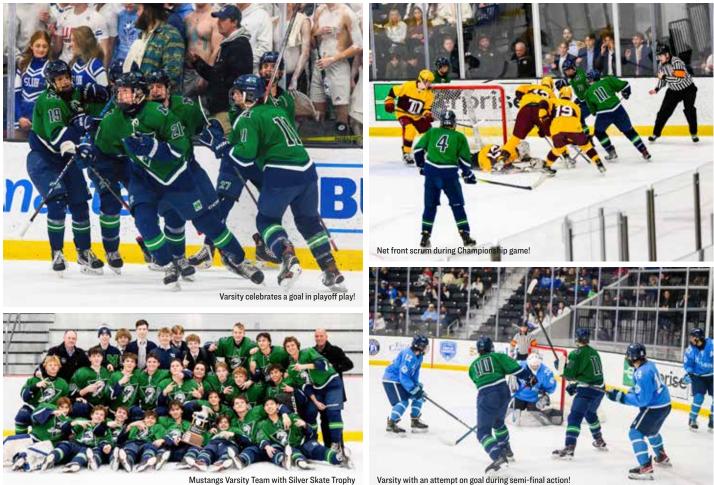
This hockey season is one for the memory books for our Marquette Mustangs. The JV squad was undefeated and successfully defended our State Championship title against a talented CBC team. Our Varsity team's exceptional season led to a deep playoff run, culminating in a Challenge Cup Final against DeSmet. While the talent abounds in the Mustang organization, it is the special bond these young men share that is most remarkable. Rarely do you find such an unselfish and positive group of athletes who play for each other every single time they step on the ice. A public school reaching the Challenge Cup finals is rare, Marquette doing so twice in four years is simply unheard of. While we came up one game short, we wish our seniors the very best and extend our deepest gratitude to the coaching staff, board members, fans, families, and especially our amazing players for an incredible season!

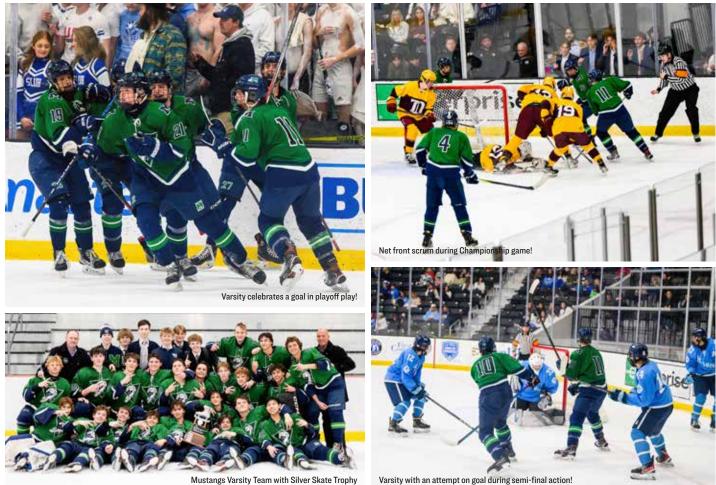
VARSITY PLAYERS LIVING IN CLARKSON VALLEY:

Knox Kreikemeier, Thomas Saunders, Thomas Shuert, Andrew Vendt & William Vendt

CLARKSON VALLEY JUNIOR VARSITY PLAYERS:

Knox Kreikemeier, Mason Reynolds, Thomas Shuert & William Vendt





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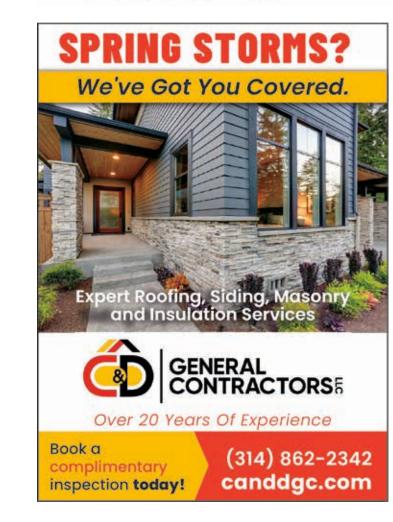
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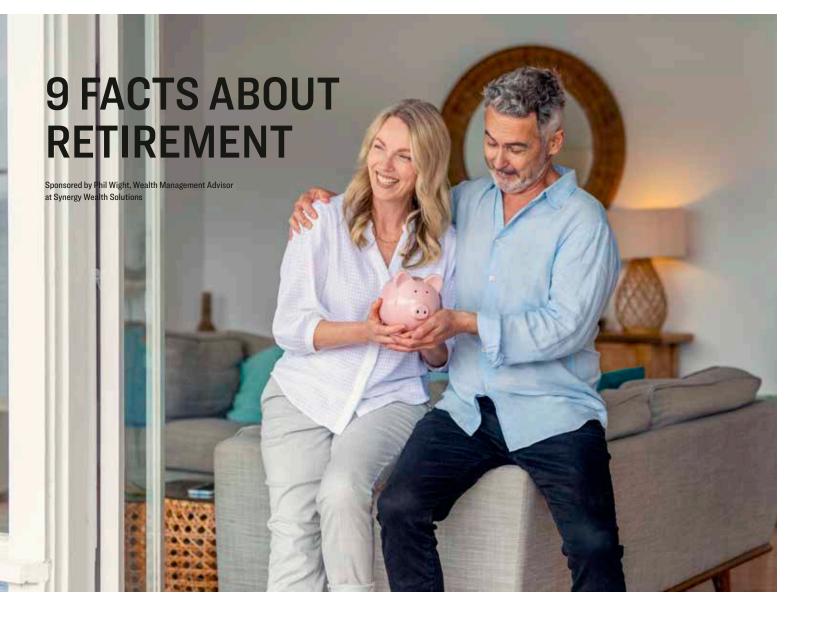
I completely trust Dr. Bonnie Juul with my family's long-term wellness!" *—Tiffany*



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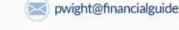


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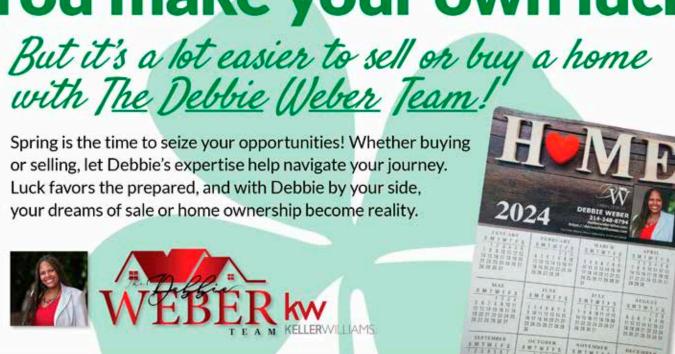
Retirement can have many meanings. For some, it will be a time to travel and spend time with family members. For others, it will be a time to start a new business or begin a charitable endeavor. Regardless of what approach you intend to take, here are nine things about retirement that might surprise you.

1. Many consider the standard retirement age to be 65. One of the key influencers in arriving at that age was Germany, which initially set its retirement age at 70 and then lowered it to age 65.¹

2. Every day between now and the end of the next decade, another 10,000 baby boomers are expected to turn 65. That's roughly one person every eight seconds.²

3. The 65-and-older population is one of the fastest-growing demographics in the United States. In 2022, there were 58 million Americans aged 65 and older. That number is expected to increase to 82 million by 2050.³ 4. Ernest Ackerman was the first person to receive a Social Security benefit. In

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March 1937, the Cleveland streetcar motorman received a one-time, lumpsum payment of 17¢. Ackerman worked one day under Social Security. He earned \$5 for the day and paid a nickel in payroll taxes. His lump-sum payout was equal to 3.5% of his wages.⁴

5. Seventy-three percent of retirees say they are confident about having enough money to live comfortably throughout their retirement years.^{5**}

6. The monthly median cost of an assisted living facility is nearly \$5,000, and seven out of ten people will require extended care in their lifetime.² 7. Sixty-four percent of retirees depend on Social Security as a major source

of their income. The average monthly Social Security retirement benefit as of January 2024 was \$1,907.5.6

8. Centenarians - there are 108,000 of them as of 2024. By 2053, this number is expected to increase

9. Seniors aged 65 and over spend over four hours a day, on average, watching TV.8

to 513,000.7

Conclusion

These stats and trends point to one conclusion: The 65-and-older age group is expected to become larger and more influential in the future. Have you made arrangements for health care? Are you comfortable with your investment decisions? If you are unsure about your decisions, maybe it's time to develop a solid strategy for the future.

- ¹ SSA.gov, 2024
- ² Genworth.com, 2024
- ³ PRB.org. 2024
- Social Security Administration, 2024
- ⁵ EBRI.org, 2023
- ⁶ SSA.gov, 2024
- 7 PewResearch.org, January 9, 2024
- 8 BLS.gov, 2024

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Who the heck goes to Fiji?



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BY RICK HUEMOELLER, RESIDENT OF KEHRSWOOD

Well, me and my wife Sharon did a couple of weeks ago. It's just what you would imagine, a tropical island paradise. Fiji is located in the South Pacific, 1,300 miles north-northeast of New Zealand. It was a British Crown Colony until 1970 when it gained its independence. Fiji consists of an archipelago of more than 330 islands. With that said, 87% of the population live on two islands. The main urban center of one of those islands is Nadi. In Nadi the main industry is tourism. 500,000 tourists from Australia and New Zealand visit here each year, joined by 68,000 US citizens and 40,000 Chinese citizens.

This area of the world, including Australia and New Zealand, is the Chinese's main tropical get-away. It's a 12-hour flight from Los Angeles to Fiji and roughly the same from Hong Kong. While we have many places to enjoy the ocean, the Chinese have Fiji and the other islands of the South Pacific, like Tahini. 65% of the island's population are Christian and 28% are Hindu.

Fiji is an extremely beautiful place. The beauty of this place is only surpassed by its people. Fiji's people are some of the warmest and friendliest people in the world. "Bula" means hello or welcome. If you are out and about, you will hear this greeting dozens of times, accompanied by a giant smile. We stayed at the Hilton Beach Resort. We took the tourist bus several times a day to get around. It stopped at all the major resorts in the area. All the major hotel chains are represented here. Marriott, Sheraton, you name it, and that hotel chain is here. Construction is everywhere, as more hotels are constantly being built.

Coconut trees are everywhere. Coconuts litter the sides of all the roads. Want one, just stop your car and pick them up.

Sharon and I got to cross off one item on our dream list. We snorkeled with sharks! Now with that said, they were black tipped reef sharks, only 5 or 6 feet long. I was going to say harmless, but virtually all sharks are harmless. Hundreds of million people enjoy the ocean each year. On the average only 50 people a year are bitten by sharks a year. Humans are not on the shark's menu. I understand the fear of sharks, but it's totally unwarranted, just like the fear of flying. Speaking of flying, we flew on Airbus A380. It's the biggest commercial airplane in the world. If full, it can carry 525 people, on two different levels. Sharon and I were bitten by the travel bug years ago. The disease has no cure. The symptoms can only be controlled by travel. My wish for all of you is that someday you are bitten by the travel bug.

Happy and Safe Travels to everyone!

Rick and Sharon Huemoeller





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26 April 2024





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artner, Dave Sylvester of GutterPros with Forest Hills Ride teve Rees and his grandsons, Gray, Smith and Rei

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