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NOVEMBER 2018

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE MCCORMICK WOODS COMMUNITY



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In July, members of the McCormick Woods Garden Club toured the gardens of some of its members - discovering that they didn't have to travel far to find some beautiful examples.



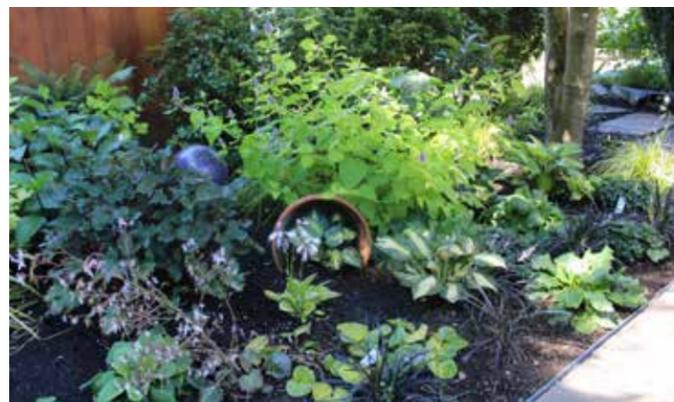
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MEET DAKOTA!

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If you golf at McCormick Woods or have dined at the restaurant you may have met – or at least seen – Dakota, the yellow Labrador Retriever. Dakota is the official greeter and goose chaser at the golf course and can often be found hanging out in the golf shop, wandering around the putting green or working at chasing geese off the greens. It is hard work, but someone has to do it!



tour & travel

By N2 Staff Writer, Tracy Lafon

The Magnificent Grand Canyon



The Grand Canyon stands as a giant natural wonder of the world. Every year, visitors flock to its remote location to observe awe-inspiring views that descend over a mile down to the Colorado River. It is a family experience that will stay with parents and children long after they are grown. To make it a perfect memory, take a little time to plan out the ultimate Grand Canyon adventure.

Pick Your Destination

The South Rim is the most popular destination for first-timers; it is also home to the Grand Canyon National Park and open year-round. The Grand Canyon Village is here and provides the needed amenities from lodging to restaurants to quaint shops. There are plenty of observation points allowing spectacular views without a need for a guided tour. Helicopter, hiking, river and whitewater tours are also available from here.

The North Rim offers the enjoyment of smaller crowds and remote tranquility. Because of its altitude, it is closed in the winter and best visited in the late spring to early fall. There are camping sites, a lodge and a general store.

Grand Canyon West is accessible by roads that cross through the Hualapai Indian Reservation. It is the shortest drive from Las Vegas at just two and a half hours. Its claim to fame is the breathtaking, glass-bottomed Skywalk that sits 4,000 feet above the Canyon floor.

Choose Your Adventure

Besides the view, the Grand Canyon offers a variety of adventures. For those who can't or don't want to do a lot of walking and hiking, you can charter a flyover by helicopter or private plane. For the hardy adventurers, there are guided day-trips, challenging hikes, as well as trail rides to the bottom by donkey. Choose canoe trips or whitewater rafting on the Colorado River. Camping is available in the National Park and is a wonderful nature retreat for a day or a week.

Travel and Lodging

The Grand Canyon is remote – over an hour drive from Flagstaff, the closest city, and four hours from Las Vegas. Plan day trips accordingly by leaving early. If you choose to stay at the Grand

Canyon, lodging is limited. Book your rooms or campsites far in advance to secure availability.

Important Tips

- Purchase a National Park Pass before you go to avoid long waits to enter the park.
- Make sure to bring good hiking shoes.
- Prepare your children for an experience free of most commercial tourism amenities.
- Food and beverages are pricey and hold a limited selection. Pack your coolers.
- The weather varies greatly depending on the time of year so make sure to check and bring appropriate clothes.

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My groomer Tasha arrived at my home, ready to care for me and only me! I got hugs and kisses and then I was right back in my house where my mom said I looked so cute and I got even more hugs and kisses! – Pookie

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Saluting OUR Veterans

Veterans Day is usually observed on **November 11**. However, if it occurs on a Sunday, then the following Monday is designated for holiday leave.

This year, Veterans Day falls on a Sunday, so Monday, **November 12**, is considered a federal holiday.

As we take time to thank and honor our Veterans, please remember it's about how we treat our veterans every single day of the year. We owe it to our Veterans to ensure they have the care they need and the benefits that they've earned at a minimum. **Thank You For Your Service!**

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LT(jg) Tom Howard (Prestwick Ln), in front of roommate's F8 Crusader, in 1964 aboard the USS Kitty Hawk 7005 Prestwick LN SW.



Thomas E Warborg (Hawkstone Ave), welcoming General Ploger, CG of Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, to the jungle headquarters of the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat), Xuan Loc, Vietnam, 1966/67, At the time, he was a US Army Corps of Engineers Captain, Commanding Officer of the 27th.



Matthew Granito (son of Steve & Laura Granito, Rutherford Circle), active duty currently serving on the USS Carl Vinson.



Alex & Florence Shotkosi – father & aunt of Barbara Mobus (Prestwick Ln) in Italy during WWII



Tom Hilts, WWII|father of Berta Robinson, Prestwick Lane



Ret. USN Command Master Chief Stephen Granito (Rutherford Circle)



David Goyett (Kenfig PI) Marine Drill Instructor San Diego, 1962 to 1964. Served 23 years including a tour in Vietnam retiring as a Master Sergeant.



Juvann Williams (Castleton Rd) 17 years USN



Patrick Howard (Muirkirk Ln) Captain, USAF, 1962-66.



Juvann Williams (Castleton Rd) 13 years USAF



David Goyette (Kenfig PI) 1962



Charles Hall (Prestwick Ln) Japan, 1945. 511th Parachute Infantry regiment.



Louis E. Goyette (father of David, Kenfig PI), served in both WW I and WW II. Photo from France, just before his unit moved to the front. Original black and white print was hand painted, a common technique at the time. He was a messenger in a Rapid Reinforcement Company (RRC) and returned home a mustard gas casualty in 1919



Carrie Snyder|Prestwick Ln USN 1968 - 1971



Bob Robinson|Prestwick Lane around 1958



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baby-proofing 101



Five Easy Steps To Make Your Home Safe For Babies

home matters

By N2 Staff Writer, Megan Weatherly Lynn

Bringing a new baby home changes everything, including the way you organize your home. Whether you are proud new parents, or grandparents preparing for a visit from a little one, these tips will help you be sure your home is safe for babies and small children.

First and foremost, store any type of medication, cleaning products or other chemicals somewhere out of reach. Upper cabinets, high closet shelves or locked cabinets are all great places to store those dangerous items. You may have to do some re-arranging but it will be worth the effort to know your little one won't accidentally ingest something harmful out of curiosity.

These tips will help you prep your home for bringing home a new baby or visiting friends and family. There are certainly always more steps and precautions that can be taken. If in doubt, think like a baby. If it can be reached, they will reach it! Happy baby-proofing!

Another obvious step is to make electrical outlets inaccessible to curious babies and toddlers. There are several products on the market that will allow you to cover or block access to outlets. While you are installing them, make note of any electrical cords that dangle within the reach of small children. These should be moved to avoid them being pulled on or wrapped around a child.

Install baby gates at the top and bottom of stairs, and in any other place that you want to prevent un-chaperoned access to. There is a wide variety of gate options, but it is best if they are anchored to a wall or door frame on either side so that your child isn't able to knock them over accidentally.

Take precautions in the bathroom by installing a lock on the lid of your toilet. Non-slip bath mats in the tub and on tile and hardwood floors will make getting in and out much safer. Baby-proof the bathtub itself by covering the spout and putting all bath products out of reach.

De-clutter and sanitize. Imagine that anything on your floor is something that your baby or toddler may put in their mouth. Put away shoes, pet toys and anything else that could be unsanitary. Keep pet food, water bowls and litter boxes in a spot where your little one can't explore. Sweep, mop or vacuum often to be sure your floors are safe for crawling!

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meet your neighbors

By resident **Rachel Loss-Cutler-Hull**
Photos by **Victoria Greene**
- **TORsAdventures PHOTOgraphy**

Steve & Juvann WILLIAMS

Castleton Rd.

In October of last year, Juvann and Steve Williams were the very first people to move into our development of Eldon Trails. There have been fifty or so houses sold since then, but areas of the neighborhood were still under construction when I visited them for our interview – it's all very new. Their story of moving here is one of patience and perseverance. They lived in Woodinville for many years but as the area grew more developed and traffic more difficult, they decided to look elsewhere – and being retired, they weren't limited by the needs of a commute, so they looked as far north as the Canadian border and as far south as Olympia. They found McCormick Woods through Steve's golfing.



"And for a year and a half, any time a house would go up for sale, we'd be right over to look at it," Steve smiled. They love the more quiet, small-town feel of the area – it's like what they both grew up in and like Woodinville used to be. They also love the deer. Bunnies are a little lower on their list right now, as they recently caught one red-pawed, up on its haunches, nibbling deer-resistant plants down to sticks. The deer are somehow getting a pass for clipping their geraniums. "I go out there, and there's this stem," Juvann shook her head. "And hoof marks." They're definitely getting the authentic McCormick Woods gardening experience.

Gardening is one of the activities they enjoy together: Juvann picks out the plants, and Steve digs the holes. They've had a lot of fun exploring our local restaurants. They belong to a co-op that makes wine, which you'll get to read about in an upcoming issue. They also recently acquired a little fifteen-foot Arima fishing boat – they moor it at the Port Orchard marina to make sure it gets some use. "We're learning how to go crabbing and how to go fishing off of a boat," Steve told me. Juvann smiled, "We're a couple of rookies out there. It's very fun."

Individually, Steve golfs (he's a member of the men's club here), and Juvann plays pickleball and mahjong; she also belongs to the ladies' book club. They're both avid readers; Steve has a preference for military history and science fiction (and it's all the better if a book combines the two), and Juvann enjoys biographies, stories about historical events, and mysteries, especially those with a real-life basis. They also enjoy travel – mainly to Arizona, but also to Hawaii, where Juvann's brother lives.

Juvann and Steve have four children, all of whom live in the Puget Sound area. This time of year, one of their favorite activities is having the kids and their significant others over for cookouts.

Before he retired, Steve sold industrial equipment for thirty-some years. What kind of equipment? "Really boring stuff that normal people don't buy." We had a laugh about that, but he added, "It's really technical and you do get to meet a lot of really, really bright people. And I got to put my foot in the door at a lot of different types of processing plants, everything from oil refineries to french fry plants." The job involved 50% travel, so he got to see many new places.

Juvann worked as a nurse practitioner. When she was young, she wanted to travel and save the world, so she signed up for the Air Force – which promptly sent her to work at a hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, for the three years she was active duty. From there, she entered the Air Force Reserves and became a flight

nurse – that job took her all over the world, from Italy to Guam. Later, she worked out of the Bremerton hospital as a member of the Navy Reserves. She retired from the Navy after 30 years of military service, having attained the rank of captain. For the majority of her civilian career, she did primary care in a clinic setting, Seattle-side, and also taught at the University of Washington. What about the work spoke most to her? As a nurse, it was helping people solve problems. On the instructional side, she enjoyed being able to give her students the practical, experience-based information that they needed. While teaching, she formed friendships that continue to this day.

SOME OF THEIR FAVORITES

Sports: Local teams, the Seahawks and the Mariners. And Juvann is definitely a Husky.

Music: Varied. Juvann likes a lot of things, including easy-listening jazz and classical; Steve likes rock (some classic, some more modern) and pop. They're excited to be seeing Rodrigo y Gabriela in person soon.

An advertisement for Air Masters Inc. featuring a large American flag in the top left corner. The text reads "AIR MASTERS INC." in a stylized font, followed by "Quality Doesn't Cost... It Pays!" and "Heating & Air Conditioning". Below this is "Celebrating 30 Years of Award Winning Service" with a starburst graphic. There are several award logos and a "2015 Angie's list SUPER SERVICE AWARD" badge. At the bottom, it says "Locally Owned & Operated by Mark & Rosemarie Timmerman", "Contractor's License # AIRMA10440Q", the phone number "360.895.2527", and the website "www.airmastersheating.com".

BE PROACTIVE ABOUT YOUR WELLNESS THIS SEASON

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." With winter around the corner, it is never too soon to be proactive about wellness. Here are a few tips to help keep germs at bay.



Get Your ZZZs

Keep your immune system in tip-top shape by getting the amount of rest you need. Adults should aim to get seven to nine hours of sleep. A lack of sleep suppresses the immune system and decreases the body's ability to fight infection. Studies have proven that those who are sleep deprived have reduced T-cells, which are responsible for immunity.



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Drink Lots of Water

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Wash Your Hands

The best way to prevent spreading germs is through washing your hands. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, scrub your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. In doing so, you will reduce the number of bacteria and viruses on your hands. If you can't wash your hands, use a hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol for 15 seconds.

Avoid Hand Contact

To avoid getting germs on your hands, try to avoid hand contact with others whenever possible. Pass on handshakes for elbow bumps, fist bumps, or a nod of the head in social settings. After all, you can never be too safe during cold and flu season.

Consider Essential Oils

Stress can reduce one's immunity. One way to combat stress is to use essential oils. Calm the nervous system with lavender or unwind with the scent of lemon, which can reduce anxiety. Some consider essential oils to have antibacterial properties. Check out bergamot, peppermint, eucalyptus, tea tree oil and lemongrass.

This season, don't let the sniffles and sneezes get you down. Resolve to stay healthy by being proactive about your wellness.



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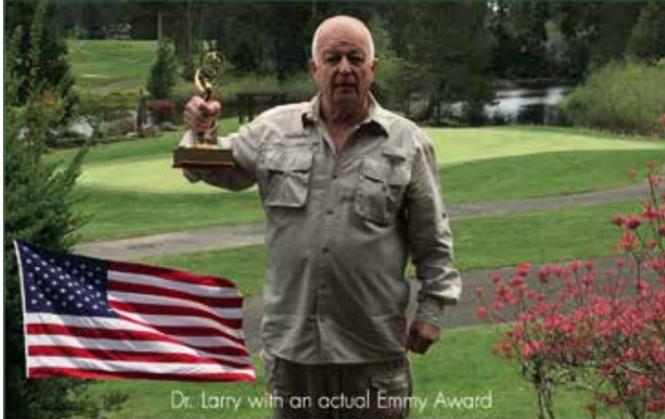
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athlete of the month

Story and Photos by Erin Dolan

MEET GOLFER
Matt Haver

| Strathmore Circle

Life at McCormick Woods has always meant one thing to Strathmore resident Matt Haver: golf.

"I started my 'professional' golf career right here when I was 16," Matt joked. "As a cart kid!"

Matt grew up in Port Orchard and was introduced to golf by his great uncle, Dick Lauth, at Village Greens Golf Course.

"The summer I was 12, he invited me and my two brothers out for a round," Matt shared. "I knew nothing about the game, but my uncle was one of the coolest guys I knew. He loved golf, so I figured there must be something to it."

Matt was hooked immediately and for his next birthday received a brand-new set of MacGregors.

"I'm not that old, but I'm proud to say that my first set of drivers had persimmon heads!" Matt said.

Matt grew up on Lake Flora Road, just a few minutes' drive from McCormick and spent his first official summer as a golfer at youth camps learning from Ernie Taylor and Scott Ashworth. The rest of the summer found him at Village Greens Golf Course practicing.

"Kids could play at Village for \$6 all day back then," Matt remembered. "My mom would drop me off in the afternoon and I'd play until dark, sometimes 54 holes a day."

Matt went on to play competitively in junior high and when it came time to get his first high school job, McCormick was a natural first choice.

"Bjorn Bjorke was managing the cart kids back then and I got five of my buddies hired on, too," Matt

shared. "For most of us, it was our first job and we had a blast."

Being a cart attendant had its privileges – it meant free golf, so Matt and his friends spent plenty of their off-work hours at the course, too.

"The best nine-hole round I ever shot, until this year, was with Bjorn in high school," Matt said. "I was and still am a high handicapper, but I remember how playing with someone so talented inspired me. I walked away with a 47 on the back. It only took me 20 years to shoot a 46!"

After high school, Matt continued to work in the golf industry, spending a season as a greenskeeper at Trophy Lake before heading to college. After several years living in Bellingham and Seattle, Matt returned to the area and took a job at Madrona Links Golf Course, manning the golf shop for revered former head pro Pat Bean. Matt spent the summer of 2013 giving lessons and organizing golf clinics for local youth at Village Greens.

In 2016 Matt met his wife, Erin, a resident of Strathmore, and they married in 2017. He now teaches middle schoolers and has become a golf coach to his own two daughters.

"Life has definitely come full circle," Matt said. "I'm glad to have ended up living just a seven iron's shot from the course I grew up on. OK ... maybe I'd need a five iron!"

Fried apple pies

resident recipe

By resident Carol Glenn

Ingredients

- 10 to 12 large baking apples (any type you like)
- 3½ tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- ¼ cup granulated sugar or honey
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- ½ cup hot water
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- Pie crust or biscuit dough
- Canola oil, for frying
- Granulated or powdered sugar, for dusting



Directions

1. Peel and chop apples into slices. Melt butter in a skillet. Cook the apples over medium heat for 15 minutes or so, until soft. Sprinkle with brown sugar and granulated sugar (or honey). Stir occasionally, ensuring the apples don't burn. When the apples are almost done, dissolve cornstarch in water and add to the apples; continue cooking to thicken the juice. Remove from heat, add the cinnamon and stir to combine. Let the pie filling cool completely. You can prep the apple filling a day or two ahead and refrigerate until you assemble the pies.
2. Line a half sheet pan with parchment paper and set aside.
3. On a lightly floured surface, divide the pie crust into 4-to 6-inch ovals about 1/8 to ¼ inch thick. Scoop about 1 tablespoon of the cooled pie filling into the center of each round. Fold over and lightly press down on the filling and the edges. Trim edges of the hand pie to even out the edges. Crimp the edges of the dough with a floured fork. Place uncooked pies on the parchment-lined sheet pan. (If prepping the pies the night before serving, cover loosely with plastic wrap and refrigerate. Proceed with frying instructions when ready to cook.)
4. Line another half sheet pan with several layers of paper towels and set aside.
5. Fill a large, deep skillet with 2 to 3 inches of canola oil. Heat the oil to about 375 degrees F. Place only a few hand pies in the hot oil at a time, do not overcrowd the pan or let the oil cool. Fry both sides until pies are brown, 3-4 minutes. Remove from hot oil and drain on paper towels. Dust pies with granulated sugar or powdered sugar while still warm. Serve warm. Warm wishes from Carol Glenn.



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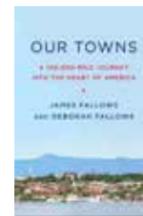


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the bookie

review by resident Helen PUNCHES

OUR TOWNS

by James and Deborah Fallows

In the 25 years that we have lived here, both Bremerton and Port Orchard have been struggling with the desire to revitalize and re-invent themselves. On a recent visit to my daughter in Cortland, New York, I saw a similar situation – small towns formerly anchored by thriving industries that have either withered away or been precipitously closed down. What does a town do to survive, support its residents, retain its youngsters and provide a nice quality of life for the people who call it home?

James and Deborah Fallows spent three years flying across America in their small airplane, visiting 30 cities and small towns from Columbus, Ohio, to Winters, California, and from Eastport, Maine, to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to see what people were doing to combat the ravages of time and economic reversals on their hometowns. Their account of their visits is a lesson in old-fashioned American imagination and determination – a welcome antidote to the generally depressing news about the state of our nation. And it's almost a primer for what can be done when people come together toward a common goal.

The methodology for the couple's research was pretty simple. They would fly in to the local airport, visit public parks and swimming pools, the local library, the high school and/or the local college and various diners and brewpubs. They strolled Main Streets, window-shopped and chatted with local residents. They also interviewed the mayor, school officials and the local movers and shakers.

Some of the towns have made significant strides toward rehabbing themselves; others are in the early stages and may or may not succeed. But in every town, the way back from decay followed a similar pattern. A group of concerned citizens got together and identified the causes of the decline and the natural and man-made assets that could be exploited to reverse course. Assets might include an attractive natural feature, such as a river, lake, mountain or shoreline, a lively and creative educational institution, a strong cultural heritage, an interesting history or just potentially charming downtown streets. Then, with very clear goals in mind, they pitched their ideas to garner public support for the necessary projects. Funding was solicited from both public and private sources and, in many cases, work and materials were donated by citizens and supporters.

I have to insert my own experience here (don't I always?). I lived in San Luis Obispo, California, from 1968 until 1993. When we arrived, it was an aging little town halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco with not much to recommend it except a small state polytechnic college, proximity to some lovely beaches, a pretty little creek running through town and one of the original Spanish missions, which squatted rather bleakly right on the sidewalk of one of the town's main streets. The shops stayed open late on Thursday evenings, but they didn't get much business because the local teens chose Thursday to "cruise" the downtown streets. Then a mall was

built on the outskirts and the town's doom seemed sealed. Enter Ken Schwartz, Professor of Architecture, as the new mayor.

Within two years, the street in front of the mission was dug up and replaced by a pretty park. A couple of footbridges were built across the creek from the park to the back side of the shops on the neighboring street. Five blocks of the main street were closed to traffic on Thursday evenings and a farmer's market was instituted, with local produce, street entertainers and several aromatic barbecue venues provided by local restaurants. Residents, students and tourists would visit in the middle of the street, sit on the curbs under the newly-planted trees and eat barbecue, then browse the shops from one end of the street to the other or stand on the footbridges and watch the ducks paddling in the creek or dine in comfort at one of the new outdoor restaurants overlooking both the mission and the creek. One by one, the old buildings were rehabbed from shabby to picturesque. Within five years, San Luis Obispo was ranked by several magazines as the number one small town in America. At least forty years have gone by, and San Luis Obispo is even more prosperous and beautiful as the years go by. If you've been there, you know.

This book is more journalism than literature. And it does get a little repetitive at times. But it's a good, interesting read. It may inspire you to think creatively about the future of our own towns. At least it will give you an optimistic view of what can be accomplished by local action and a commitment to communal quality of life. And it's a nice demonstration of the fact that motivated Americans can still work effectively together toward a common goal.

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sponsor spotlight

VICTOR THOMPSON INSURANCE AGENCY

By resident **Matt Haver** | Photos by **Matt Haver** and **Victor Thompson**

When you visit Victor Thompson Insurance Agency, you'll likely be greeted first by Rosie. Rosie has never sold insurance and isn't technically on staff, but she is a big draw.

"People walk through our door just to see Rosie," Victor shared. Rosie is his 12-month-old Golden doodle. She's often joined in the office by the agency's other mascot, Jett, a cockapoo in his golden years.

Once you've received your welcome from the four-legged set, Victor and his friendly staff take over. But prepare yourself. This isn't your father's insurance office. Victor's walls are adorned with local landscape photos he shot himself, a portrait of "Opie" the Bald eagle he helped rehabilitate, and memorabilia from his time in the hospitality industry that includes a guitar from country superstar Kenny Chesney.

"My whole philosophy is that life is serious enough," Victor shared. "Insurance doesn't have to be."

This month Victor will celebrate his two-year anniversary with Farmers Insurance. Victor and his husband, Keith Hafner, share a lifetime of real-world experience they now draw on daily to serve their clients.

Victor knows a thing or two about auto insurance after spending 25 years with Toyota and launching the Scion brand in the Pacific Northwest. Keith's experience as a former permits coordinator for the City of Seattle gives their agency expertise in insuring construction companies. But it's their collective experience as business

owners that gives them empathy for clients facing life-altering loss and the wisdom to help them through tough decisions.

"Keith and I owned a bar in Everett for seven years," Victor shared. "We lost it because of an insurance claim."

On a rainy New Year's Eve in 2011, bad plumbing and bad luck teamed up on the couple and led to \$120,000 worth of damage to their beloved bar, Twisted. With no help from their landlord and no banks offering business loans in the wake of the housing crisis, Victor and Keith were forced to close their doors for good. They experienced firsthand the importance of having the right insurance.

"We are very business oriented," Victor said. "We know a lot about commercial policies inside and outside of Farmer's."

Victor's sensitivity to the needs of the hospitality industry began that fateful New Year's Eve but started serving him the moment he became a Farmer's agent.

"During training on my first day, I took a class on restaurants," Victor recalled with a smile. "They told me how hard it was to write restaurant policies. I told them 'I'm going to write one tomorrow.' I went out and wrote one of the largest restaurant policies Farmer's had seen in Washington State for a long time!"

Victor and Keith are both Washington natives. Keith attended Bremerton High School and Victor went to Mariner High School in Everett and spent every summer on Stretch Island. The two moved from Mill Creek in 2016 to be closer to their parents and

now reside in South Colby. They enjoy working on their home, grounds, and gardens in the spare time between writing home policies for their neighbors in Kitsap.

"Farmer's loves the homes in Kitsap County," Victor said. "Our home policies are really set apart from anything anyone else can offer."

Home, auto, and life are what usually come to mind when someone says insurance, but Victor and his team provide a lot of plans that one wouldn't think of at first. For example, volcano insurance is standard on all Farmer's home policies in Washington State. And if you need insurance on your pet, Victor is the man to see. He also offers warranties for homeowners that insure big-ticket items like dishwashers, hot water tanks and refrigerators.

Victor has the weekend warriors covered, too. Most insurance companies won't ensure large trucks like a Ford F-350 that tow a trailer because they consider it a work truck, so it becomes a commercial policy in most cases. But Farmer's recently revolutionized the auto insurance industry by covering these large trucks and Victor is proud to be a part.

"There is no box that someone fits in that says you get XYZ policy," Victor shared. "It doesn't matter who you are. If you can't be insured by Farmers, they allow us to broker out. So, we can literally ensure anybody and anything."

With the constant deluge of insurance advertising and myriad agencies vying for attention today, Victor has a word of advice for prospective clients.

"Nothing is worse than having a tragedy happen and finding out you don't have the coverage for that specific need. It's not always about the price, it's about the service," Victor said. "That's what we do that sets us apart from anyone else. I want our customers to know we're here for them. If something happens, you're going to get a phone call from me."

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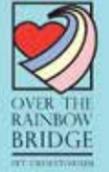
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meet **Jim Barrett** – *woodworker*

| STRATHMORE CIRCLE

This past February, Strathmore resident Jim Barrett treated himself to a rather unusual birthday gift. Two eight-foot slabs of wood. An odd gift for some, but not for an experienced carpenter like Jim. And not just any old wood. Live-edge blue pine. “Here in this part of Washington, we have an awful lot of fir, but very little pine,” Jim shared. “We had to travel to Northern Idaho for it.” Blue pine is not its own species but is instead a variety of pine wood sought after because of its unique blue tones. Barrett explained how standing beetle-kill timber is set upon by blue-stain fungus and the sap changes color, leaving beautiful blue striations through the wood.

For the next four months, Barrett set about turning the two pine slabs into a corner desktop for his office. He first planed down the slabs from 3 inches to 2-1/4 inches thick, then cut them into four workable pieces. The aged slabs were cracked in some places, so Barrett fashioned bow tie splines or “keys” to reinforce the wood and stop further cracking. To add variety, he made the bow ties out of contrasting wood species – white pine, red cedar,

and juniper – which also added its unique fragrance. After cutting the four strengthened pieces to fit his office specifications, Barrett joined them with mortise and tenon, sanded the desktop smooth and sealed it.

For Barrett, a 31-year law enforcement veteran who spent 21 years with the Tacoma Police Department, carpentry as a hobby began when he was young. “I learned woodworking from my father,” Barrett shared. “He was a professional carpenter, then a draftsman and engineer for Boeing.”

The Barrett’s home is a tribute to his father’s teaching. The hallway boasts a stylish sliding barn door. In the bathroom is a medicine cabinet Jim fashioned from a vintage window and he customized the master bedroom’s headboard out of a large exterior door. While Barrett credits his wife Crystal, a registered nurse, with the rest of their home’s beautiful décor, his “man cave” is all his own. That is until the guests arrive. The final step for Barrett was to install a handsome olive-green bookcase wall bed. The unit incorporates the blue pine desktop perfectly and adds usability to the room.

Barrett has plenty of experience with home design. Before moving to McCormick Woods, he and Crystal built a 2,000 square foot, two-story, home on Fox Island. “It was a big job,” Barrett said, chuckling. “When you build your own home, you learn a lot quickly!”



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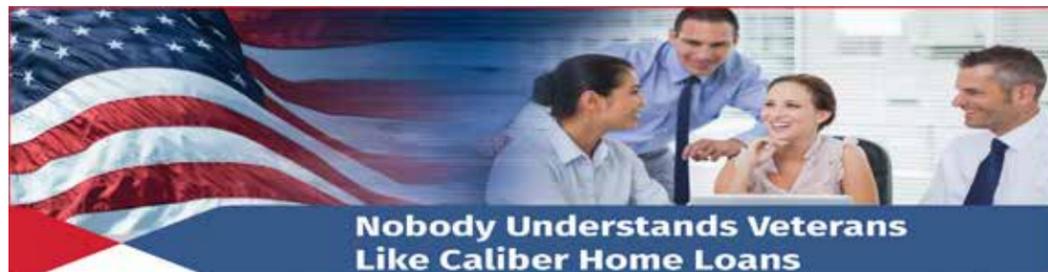
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