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COUNTRY

MAY 2024

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Connie Antoniou answers all of your real estate questions, please email me at questionsforconnie@gmail.com

Ask Connie

How Should I Prepare to Sell My Home this Spring?

Preparing your home to sell in the spring requires attention to detail and creating a welcoming atmosphere that appeals to potential buyers. Here are four key steps to help you showcase your home effectively during the spring selling season:

Update Interior Decor: Remove winter-specific accessories and heavy throw blankets to create a lighter, more airy feel.

De-personalize by storing away family photos and children's artwork, and replace them with small plants or flowers to add a touch of freshness.

Open shades and blinds to maximize natural light, emphasizing the bright and inviting atmosphere.

Address Quick Fixes: Attend to minor issues like nail holes, chipped paint, and dirty baseboards to present a well-maintained interior.

Consider more extensive tasks such as washing windows, power washing the house,



or staining the deck to enhance the overall appearance.

Enhance Curb Appeal: Maintain regular outdoor upkeep by moving the lawn, trimming trees and bushes, refreshing plant beds with mulch, and seal coating the driveway.

Add vibrancy to the exterior by placing potted plants with colorful flowers near the entrance and arranging seating on the porch.

Consider painting the front door a new color to make a bold statement and refresh the home's facade.

Stage Outdoor Spaces: Create an inviting outdoor environment by arranging seating areas on the patio or deck to encourage relaxation and socializing.

Incorporate small details like plants, flowers, and string lights to enhance the ambiance and make the outdoor space feel like a desirable destination for summer activities.

By following these steps, you can effectively prepare your home to stand out and attract potential buyers during the summer selling season.

If you would like to discuss your unique real estate needs confidentially, you may call or text me at +1 847.508.7775 or email connie.antoniou@sothebysrealty.com.



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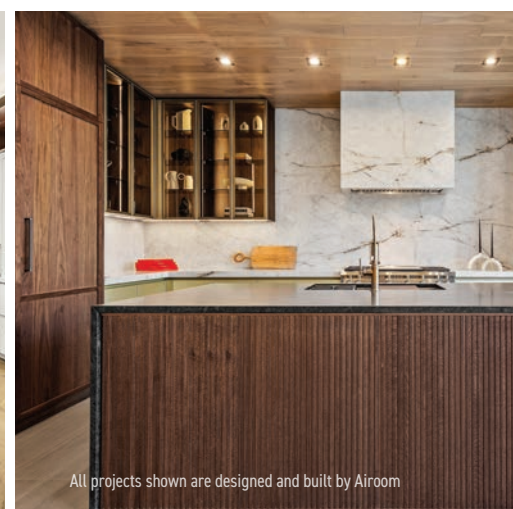
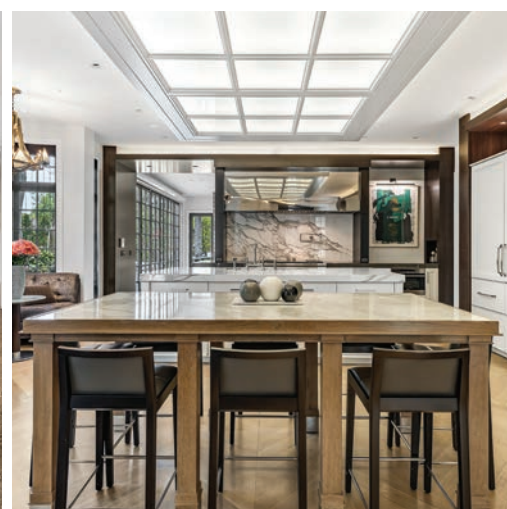
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Country vs Town's Namuun Digangi wearing alice + olivia pink shirt and floral pants, [neimanmarcus.com](https://www.neimanmarcus.com). Photography by Maria Ponce Berre, Styling by Theresa DeMaria, Hair & Makeup by Leanna Ernest.

ON THIS PAGE

Rebecca Tole has built a highly successful millwork installation business, Division Six Details. Read all about it in *Essence of Entrepreneurship*. Here she is wearing an A.L.C. black dress, [neimanmarcus.com](https://www.neimanmarcus.com). Photography by Maria Ponce Berre, Styling by Theresa DeMaria, Hair & Makeup by Leanna Ernest.



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Our May cover star, Namuun Digangi, was born and raised in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Settling in Barrington to raise her family, she shares her favorite spots about town with us in *Country vs. Town*.

For the past year, *Country Loves'* Kristina Barnett has been serving as New Member Co-Chair for the Barrington Junior Women's Club (BJWC) where she has focused on driving new membership and awareness. Along with her co-

chair, Barnett has worked this season to add new events and processes to enhance the club's recruitment. And as always, BJWC is excited to welcome many more amazing women into their organization to help continue to provide the many services and funds that mean so much to so many.

Look no further than downtown Chicago for the ultimate staycation

for your family this summer. The top-notch Swissotel Chicago even reached out to our guest to ask for the children's interests ahead of their visit, so the hotel was stocked with presents the kids loved.

The Martins are the most incredible tennis family right here in Barrington. Patriarch Dave Martin and his daughter Karlyn are a grand slam team on the U.S. Tennis Association circuit. Meanwhile, matriarch Sally Martin and daughter Ashley are also a dynamic tennis duo. Read all about this incredible family and their love for the game in *Game, Set ... Slam!*

Enjoy!

Megan Weisberg
Editor-in-Chief
megan.weisberg@jwcmedia.com



Kristina Barnett
in Ralph Lauren
Purple Label
gold dress,
neimanmarcuys.com



Father-daughter tennis champions, Dave and Karlyn Martin.

MY WISH LIST



Preparing for summer gardening with Hudson Grace's Bassano watering can, hudsongracesf.com



Wearing Sophie Buhai's gold everyday pearl earrings, ssense.com

Loving Tiffany & Co.'s Tiffany lock bangle in white gold with full pavé diamonds, tiffany.com



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For more information and a whole lot of family fun, visit swissotel.com and theskydeck.com.



BARRINGTON ART FESTIVAL

Welcome the return of summer at the 15th annual Barrington Art Festival, Memorial Day Weekend. Start your day downtown with coffee and breakfast, then soak in unique art from more than 135 artists at this long-cherished community tradition. Make your masterpiece at the live painting class or plan a creative stop in the Kid Zone. Break for lunch at your favorite local spot, enjoy a cold lemonade, and delicious snacks at the fest. Be sure to look for Kid's Art Stop and Live Art Demo signs to get interactive with the artists. Barrington's great restaurants, cafes, and retail stores are open all weekend. Saturday, May 25 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, May 26 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Barrington Junior Women's Club Presents

**MIDSUMMER
MASQUERADE**

June 29, 2024

Sanfilippo Estate, Barrington Hills



Tickets on sale April 22

MIDSUMMER MASQUERADE

The Barrington Junior Women's Club (BJWC) invites you to a *Midsummer Masquerade* that promises to be a night of mystique and wonder that you can only experience by being there. Hosted June 29 at the stunning Sanfilippo Estate in Barrington Hills, guests will have a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Included in your ticket purchase is an exclusive tour of the residence where you will be astounded by the beauty of art glass, dozens of movie palace chandeliers, hundreds of Edison and Victrola phonographs, and so much more. BJWC raises funds to provide monetary grants to local non-profit organizations to benefit women, children, and seniors in Chicagoland, as well as provides scholarships to high school seniors. *To purchase your ticket, visit bjwcmasquerade.givesmart.com.*

BE MINE GALA

Join child welfare agency Let It Be Us for an unforgettable evening celebrating its 10th anniversary at the Be Mine Gala on Friday, May 10, 2024. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. and held at Walden, a beautiful event space in Chicago's West Town neighborhood, the event will bring together 250 people for dinner and drinks, a live auction, an awards presentation, entertainment by acapella teen singers from After School Matters, and more. Proceeds will allow Let It Be Us to innovate within the Illinois child welfare system by recruiting foster families and placing children into the right home, the first time. Since 2014, Let It Be Us has been providing children in emergent need and those who are challenging to place with a loving, lasting home through foster care and/or adoption. *For more information and event tickets, visit letitbeus.org/bemine.*

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES BEGINS

Rosemont's Parkway Bank Park entertainment district (5501 Park Place, Rosemont) will kick off its summer season with the return of its "Rockin' in the Park" free summer concert series. The 2024 series will begin Sunday, May 26 and feature a post-show fireworks display. Free concerts will continue every Thursday and select Friday evenings from May 30 through August 30, featuring music by classic cover bands alongside food and beverage tents on the park's great lawn. All "Rockin' in the Park" concerts will run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday night concerts will culminate with a musical fireworks display. Admission to "Rockin' in the Park" is free. *For the complete lineup, visit www.parkwaybankpark.com.*



Nearly six years ago, **KRISTINA BARNETT** (originally from Crystal Lake) and her husband (hailing from Grosse Pointe, Michigan) moved from Chicago to Barrington. After growing up in larger suburbs that had a small-town feel and a strong sense of community, they were thrilled to find the best parts of both their hometowns in Barrington.

Following her graduation from the University of Illinois, Barnett created and ran a successful healthy cooking blog that earned her a spot in *Cooking Light* magazine and various other publications. From there, Barnett worked for a dietician and media personality assisting with television segments and recipe creation for major networks. She then transitioned into full-time marketing, working in experiential marketing software with some of the largest food, beverage, and online retailers. After having her son, Barnett took a break from her career to focus on her young children (5-year-old Lily and 3-year-old Ethan) and her community.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MARIA PONCE BERRE**
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY **MARGARET KOMLENAC**
STYLING BY **THERESA DEMARIA**



Kristina Barnett wearing model's own.

KRISTINA LOVES

Gadget: My Vitamix, I use it daily for smoothies and love it for soups and spreads too. **Scent:** Viktor&Rolf's Flowerbomb **Barrington spot:** Cook Street Coffee. They make the best oat milk latte. And I

love Region and Hampton Social for dinner. **Hostess gift to receive:** Ambrosia baked goods for the next morning. **Gift to give:** Anything cozy. Favorites are Cozy Earth loungewear and Barefoot Dreams socks.



What actress would play you in a movie? Rachel McAdams is my forever favorite actress. She's always so grounded, and I love that she prioritizes herself and her family. And the original *Mean Girls* is amazing. **Who from history would you want to travel with?** Lucille Ball! She was so funny, a gifted entrepreneur, a pioneer for women (the list could go on and on), and she told the best stories. **Where do you look for inspiration?** I love taking a long walk while chatting on the phone with one of my close family members or friends. **Favorite book?** My 2024 resolution is to read more books and not just watch the movie of the book on Netflix, haha! I wish I made more time to read! One of my forever favorites is *The Goldfinch*

but I also love a good beach read by Jennifer Weiner or Elin Hilderbrand. **Most beloved cookbook?** My Ina Garten collection is a weeknight staple. I have her champagne vinaigrette and roasted vegetable orzo recipes on repeat, and they are family favorites (minus the 3-year-old). I know I'm supposed to choose only one favorite, but *The SoNo Company Baking Cookbook* by John Barricelli is an essential. **Best dinner party hack?** Plan your meal around dishes you can make the day before. I always chop up any salad, charcuterie, or ingredients ahead of time and bag them in my refrigerator. **What's in your bag right now?** My favorite Kiehl's Lip Balm, CHANEL Rouge Coco Flash Lipstick in 82, sunglasses, wallet, and two Hot Wheels cars.



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WHY GUMS MATTER

With the connections between gum disease and Alzheimer's disease, knowledge is power.

WORDS BY
DR. JAMES T. GAVRILOS

Alzheimer's disease has touched the lives of so many. Researchers have not been able to clearly define a cause and effect for it. Despite the billions that have been spent on research, thousands of people are diagnosed with the disease each year and are given little hope for a cure.

A recent study has given researchers new hope in getting to bottom of this complex disease. Bacteria that cause gum disease have been isolated in the area of the brain that is believed to be causing the symptoms of Alzheimer's.

A complex plaque of bacteria builds up in the brain in this region and the "gum disease" bacteria are among the findings. It is thought that the bacteria act to destroy that area of the brain in the way they destroy gums and bone around teeth.

We have known for years that gum disease increases your risk of cardio vascular disease. The same "gum disease" bacteria flow through the blood stream and attach themselves to the arteries and valves in and around your heart. With time, the plaque builds and closes off the arteries and gives rise to the threat of cardio-vascular disease.

Past research has shown a link of cardiovascular disease and Alzheimer's. Researchers knew that the two were correlated but did not have answers as to why. With the new information being brought to light, the studies are following the possibility of gum disease being the causative factor for both. In other words, the cardio vascular disease does not cause Alzheimer's but rather gum disease is the contributing factor to both cardio-vascular disease and Alzheimer's.

There is a lot left to do in this area of research. If future findings can show causation instead of correlation of gum disease and Alzheimer's, then research will begin on methods to help stop or cure this horrible disease. In the meantime, you can help protect yourself by flossing every day and having your gums checked for gum disease by your dentist. Any sign of bleeding when you brush or floss your teeth is usually an indication of the presence of gum disease.

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Namuun Digangi

was born and raised in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, a beautiful place with vast stretches of open grassland and mountains and a rich history shaped by its nomadic lifestyle. Mongolians are most known for Chinggis Khan, the great warrior, who consolidated tribes into unified Mongolia and extended his empire across the world. Mongolian queens played an important role in shaping history as well. As the queen's opinions were always respected by the khan (king), her positions were called "Queen Mind." Digangi's background and birthplace have taught her to be adaptive to any environment (nomadic) and to be a strong woman with wisdom (Queen Mind).

In her early childhood, Digangi lived in Mongolia and Germany. In 2010, she immigrated to the United States to reunite with her parents. From childhood, Digangi has always wanted to serve others and make a positive impact on the world. A devotee of yoga and meditation since 2017, she now serves at AMCC Mongolian Church as a Sunday School teacher and runs the NUDN Women's Club, a nonprofit Mongolian women's organization. In 2021, Khabaa married the love of her life, James Digangi, and they have a beautiful 3-year-old daughter, Vienna, and a toy-sized Maltese.

EDITED BY **MORGAN HOGERTY**
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MARIA PONCE BERRE**
 HAIR AND MAKEUP BY **MARGARET KOMLENAC**
 STYLING BY **THERESA DEMARIA**

Namuun Digangi wearing her own beautiful Deel, a traditional Mongolian dress





LIVE

Mantra? The light in me honors the light in you (namaste). **Best grooming tip?** Once a month I do a facial, a full-body massage, a fresh mani-pedi, and a hair trim and color. **Guilty pleasure?** Waking up at 4 a.m. to drink coffee in my garage while doing Instagram Live talking about what's on my mind. **Favorite foods?** A good burger is always a great idea, and one from gigi's Wine Bar & Bistro never disappoints. **Music you love?** So many songs and genres but I love any French or Mongolian song. I taught myself the French language so I could sing along to my favorite French songs. **Best advice ever given to you?** "Expose yourself to your deepest fear; after that, fear has no power, and the fear of freedom shrinks and vanishes. You are free." – Jim Morrison **Best advice you've given?** Do everything from your heart to the fullest. No one may notice or appreciate it, but God is watching you. **Earliest memory?** I was probably 5 or 6, playing with my cousin Aagii at a beach in Germany collecting seashells. She passed away in 2021, so this memory of growing up with her, like a sister, will always be important to me. **Before bed, you?** I recently took off my braces and use nighttime retainers, so I spend lots of time

on my teeth to make sure they are shiny and healthy. A night skincare routine is a must, and a foot mask and hand lotion. **What's on your bookshelf?** Bookshelves are made for books, and I have many books piled up. From the Bible to Tibetan prayer books, psychology to health, self-love to life. **You can't live without?** I can't live without myself. I believe that if you take care of yourself and love yourself you can take care of and love others wholeheartedly. **Love to escape to?** Solo trip to downtown Chicago. **Advice you would give to your younger self?** You are the product of love, so love has always been within you.



WHEN IN THE COUNTRY

Your style is? Suede Funkette Platform UGG slippers, Alo leggings and puffy jacket, with Versace sunglasses. **Can't leave the house without?** Car key, wallet, sunglasses, and lipstick. **Transportation?** I love driving my car, a Lincoln Aviator. **Driving music?** Vendredi sur Mer's "La Femme a la Peau Bleue" (I love French songs so much). **Place to eat?** Za Za's Tavola Italiana in Lake Barrington is our favorite place to go for Italian food and live music. This restaurant holds so many memories. It's where my husband proposed to me, where we had our baby shower, and where we celebrated my daughter's first and second birthday party. This year, we will be celebrating her third birthday party there again. **Shop?** I love shopping at G&G Boutique in Barrington, and I volunteer for them on WTWW as a model. Barrington Flower Shop and Angelina are also my favorite boutiques for gifts and flowers. **Best thing about country?** The quietness, nature, the animals, and the crisp fresh air. **Worst thing about country?** The commute when stuck in traffic. Everything seems far but I love driving. **The perfect day is?** Clear blue sky with sunshine and seeing deer and fox casually walking in my backyard.



Digangi in alice + olivia blazer and shorts, neimanmarcus.com

WHEN IN TOWN

Your style is? I love prints, patterns, bright colors, and statement jewelry. I dress to express myself and usually get a lot of compliments for being stylish and unique. **Can't leave the house without?** My purse, which has every single essential item I need. **Transportation?** Metra, so I don't get stuck in traffic. **Driving music?** "Vienna" by Billy Joel **Place to eat?** For coffee and sweets, I love Ambrosia (anything French style has my heart). For dinner, gigi's Wine & Bistro's fresh, French-kissed oysters are hands down the best! **Shop?** I love antique/vintage shops. One of my favorites is The Pink Geranium & Co. **Best thing about town?** Everything is within walking distance, and the people here are so nice. It's a great community. **Worst thing about town?** The traffic jam at Main Street is like living in the city. **The perfect day is?** When I have a quiet morning to myself beginning with hot yoga at Y6 Yoga in Barrington followed by a detox green juice from Nekter Juice.



Minimalist Maximalist

Subtle pieces with impact.

EDITED BY MEGAN WEISBERG



1 Ferragamo, Layered Jersey and Ribbed-Knit Midi Dress, [net-a-porter.com](#) 2 16Arlington, Sequinned Satin Skirt, [matchesfashion.com.us](#) 3 Versace, Crepe Mini Dress, [net-a-porter.com](#) 4 Bottega Veneta, Chain Knot with Chain Intrecciato Leather Shoulder Bag, [net-a-porter.com](#) 5 Bottega Veneta, Cat-Eye Gold-Tone Sunglasses, [net-a-porter.com](#) 6 Lugano Diamonds, Sapphire and Diamond Flex Bangle, [luganodiamonds.com](#) 7 Tiffany & Co., Tiffany Lock Bangle in White Gold with Full Pavé Diamonds, [tiffany.com](#) 8 LOEWE, Anagram Square-Frame Tortoiseshell Acetate Optical Glasses, [net-a-porter.com](#) 9 Tiffany & Co., Tiffany Lock Pendant in Yellow Gold with Diamonds, [tiffany.com](#) 10 Diotima, Spice Beaded Crocheted Cotton-Blend Top, [net-a-porter.com](#) 11 KHAITE, Lennman Satin-Crepe Shorts, [net-a-porter.com](#) 12 Tiffany & Co., Tiffany Knot Necklace in Rose Gold with Diamonds, [tiffany.com](#) 13 KHAITE, Axel Gold-Tone and Leather Belt, [net-a-porter.com](#) 14 Diotima, Long Tower Crochet-Trimmed Wool-Twill Blazer, [net-a-porter.com](#) 15 Diotima, Spice Beaded Crocheted Cotton-Blend Maxi Skirt, [net-a-porter.com](#) 16 Tory Burch, Colorblock Jersey Dress 159214 in Mauve, [toryburch.com](#) 17 Diotima, Stona Paneled Twill Straight-Leg Pants, [net-a-porter.com](#) 18 Brunello Cucinelli, Floral Print Silk Satin Wide-Leg Pants, [net-a-porter.com](#)



8



9



18



10



16



11



17

12



13



14



AT AUCTION

*April Matteini, Vice President, Associate Director,
Jewelry and Watches of Freeman's | Hindman previews
the exciting jewelry offered at auction this month.*

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **FREEMAN'S | HINDMAN**



Bulgari, Sapphire, and Diamond 'Trombino' Ring

The Trombino Ring by Bulgari is one of the brand's most iconic and longest lasting designs, dating back to the early 1930s. While the ring is sold with various stones in the center, it always features the pavé set diamond sides and tapering baguette shoulders. The one on offer features a beautiful, unheated oval sapphire, weighing in at 5.04 carats.



Van Cleef & Arpels, Ruby and Diamond 'Mystery Set' Flower Earrings

The Van Cleef & Arpels mystery set flower earrings are a spectacular feat of craftsmanship, from one of the most storied French jewelry houses. The secret is the gold rails that each gemstone is carved to be inserted on, leaving no metal visible in the finished ruby petal of these extraordinary earrings.



David Webb, Carved Rock Crystal and Diamond Cuff Bracelet

This wonderful cuff bracelet by David Webb consists of an oversized rock crystal disc with a cross hatch design, secured by pavé diamond prongs. It has all of the play of light that rock crystal is known for and the design makes it more durable and easier to wear than other designs.



Van Cleef & Arpels, Yellow Gold, Diamond, and Coral Inlay Cuff Bracelet

Fun, colorful, and perfect for spring and summer. The diamonds placed in the flower create a wonderful sparkling effect in the sun that makes this the perfect statement piece for a garden party or just to wear on a warm summer day.

The Important Jewelry auction will be held live and online on May 14 with bidding beginning at 10 a.m. Bidding is available via Hindman's Digital Bid Room, bid.hindmanauctions.com or the Hindman app. For more information, contact April Matteini at 312-280-1212 or aprilmatteini@hindmanauctions.com.



COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE

Pediatric Brain Cancer is the leading cause of childhood cancer deaths. This month, the Steve Napleton Auto Group will donate for every car sold and serviced in support of the Violet Foundation for Pediatric Brain Cancer. Their mission is to raise money for critically needed research and to support the families of pediatric brain cancer patients in every way they can.

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A CENTER FOR HEALING

How Brain Health Restoration is transforming mental health in the Midwest.

WORDS BY **LEA GUCCIONE** / PHOTOGRAPHY BY **IAN MCLEOD**

Mental health and brain health have never been more widely discussed, and for good reason. Experts agree that the brain holds the capacity to solve some of our most significant challenges—and the team at Brain Health Restoration (BHR), in Schaumburg, know this all too well. They are on a mission to fill an enormous gap in mental health and wellness treatments for anyone struggling with anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), sleep disorders, autism, traumatic brain injuries (TBI)/concussions, as well as peak mental and athletic performance.

“At the heart of who we are and what we want this clinic to represent is a center for healing,” says co-founder Terry R. Yormark II. BHR is one of the only clinics in the Midwest offering a range of innovative treatments like TMS (Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation), PrTMS (Personalized Magnetic Stimulation), Clinical Psychiatry, Ketamine, Spravato, and Optimal Wellness all under one roof. Pairing Psychiatric Care with nuanced therapies like Ketamine is a rare offering but a vital part of BHR’s comprehensive approach.

“We’re rooted in Psychiatric and Wellness principles,” says co-founder Karen Todd, “which means that we are delivering these modalities with the help of other clinicians, psychologists, and psychiatrists, who are in the community and advise us in customizing the treatment plan for each client. We then match treatments to where the brain is experiencing deficiencies and monitor progress through a weekly EEG (electroencephalogram)/EKG (electrocardiogram). Where other clinics are delivering treatment with a one-size-fits-all approach, we are following a more customized treatment protocol that we believe will become a gold standard in the industry.”

TMS and PrTMS are particularly notable offerings at the clinic. The non-invasive procedure uses magnetic fields to stimulate brain cells, creating new neuropathways in the brain that can dramatically improve symptoms of autism, depression, anxiety, PTSD, and other disorders. These modalities can also be used to enhance peak performance for high power CEOs and athletes looking to take their game to the next level.

“I believe there is a big misunderstanding that these modalities are only for people who are experiencing a decline in mental health,” says Todd. While treating disorders is fundamental to BHR’s mission, so is helping any patient find mental clarity and optimal performance. “I sought treatment after having symptoms related to menopause,” Todd shares. “As I experienced a very big gap in the market for non-pharmaceutical options for healing.”

A Psychiatric consultation is needed for all treatments, though patients without a psychiatrist or therapist can come to BHR to be paired with one and begin their path toward wellness.

Giving back to the community is paramount to this team, who believe that everyone should have access to these life-changing therapies. “We want to make a significant impact and help people who need our services and can’t afford them by offsetting costs, raising funds, and partnering with foundations to impact veterans

with PTSD and people struggling with autism,” says Thomas Lavin IV, the third co-founder and partner to Yormark and Todd. “As we’re starting to expand that effort, we’re seeing how much need there is for these services in underserved communities.”

“Our intention when hiring was to find people who are heart-minded with our vision and who strive to make a difference,” says Lavin. “We share that passion and we’re so excited to make a difference in the community.”

Brain Health Restoration is located at 1111 N. Plaza Drive, Suite 101, in Schaumburg. For more information, visit bbrillinois.com or call 224-208-1247.



Co-founders
Terry R. Yormark II, Karen
Todd, and Thomas Lavin IV



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Essence of **Entrepreneurship**

Barrington's Rebecca Tole built a highly successful millwork installation business after traveling with her military husband around the globe.

WORDS BY **MITCH HURST**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MARIA PONCE BERRE**

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY **LEANNA ERNEST**

STYLED BY **THERESA DEMARIA**

Rebecca Tole grew up in Elwood, Illinois, a small town near Joliet. It was at a campus church while enrolled at Northern Illinois University that she met her husband, Brandon, who was already in Officer Candidates School with the Marine Corps. The travel that often accompanies military life followed soon after. They lived in Manassas, Virginia, Pensacola, Florida, Surf City, North Carolina, Mundelein, Illinois and Stuttgart, Germany. While in Germany, they purchased a home in Barrington Hills, sight unseen, in search of land and in anticipation of rejoining the civilian workforce.

Along the way the couple had three children, and Tole began to scratch an entrepreneurial itch by starting several businesses. The couple now runs a highly successful millwork installation business, Division Six Details, using the skills of experienced carpenters for commercial projects.

It's no secret that there is a nationwide shortage of skilled labor, and Tole identified a gap that needed to be bridged between skilled laborers and the commercial companies that hire them. Once that need became evident, she started putting the pieces together to create Division Six Details.

Tole began to immerse herself in the construction and millwork industry. "At its core," she says, "the business is about building relationships. It's not enough to just connect a carpenter to someone who needs to hire them." It takes a lot of relationship-building skills in addition to administrative skills.

"At its core,
**the business is
about building
relationships."**

"We bid out the jobs and then follow along as a project manager until completion. I have to be in consistent contact with all of the people involved in the project to help manage



Rebecca Tole in
A.L.C. black dress,
neimanmarcus.com



Tole in Proenza
Schouler dress,
neimanmarcus.com

unforeseen changes,” she says. “The business is largely run remotely; very rarely am I on-site because the jobs are all over the United States.”

Tole has grown Division Six Details organically, starting with one employee—a carpenter. She now has almost 20 employees on her Rolodex. She builds relationships with millwork manufacturers, other tradesmen, and general contractors, and continually looks for people to add to her team.

In addition to his military commitments, Brandon also plays a role in Division Six Details. “It’s my wheelhouse, but we support each other in all of our ventures,” Tole explains. “He definitely has helped with his business-minded background. He has his MBA, and he’s getting his second Masters in construction management at Louisiana State University.”

Tole credits her success to effectual planning, the knowledge and experience she’s gained from her previous small businesses and to keeping a daily routine, which is important when juggling her business duties and her role as a mom.

“I am a wife and mother, first and foremost. I spend a lot of time driving my kids to and from school and activities, but that’s when we have some of our best conversations,” she says. “To have a successful day and keep myself focused, I don’t have a rigid schedule, but instead I have a daily checklist. It’s best for me to be flexible.”

Tole says the millwork installation industry is booming. Companies need good millwork installers and finish carpenters, and the trades need a new, fresh generation.

“I definitely appreciate having carpenters who are experienced and have a lot of seniority. I make it a point to pair those individuals with apprentices who are hungry and eager to learn because I want to grow the next generation,” she shares. “I’ve looked in some pretty interesting places for carpenters, including Instagram. I’ve contacted high school shop teachers for referrals and reached out to smaller residential cabinetry shops to find carpenters.”

She’s also handing down her entrepreneurial spirit to the next generation.

“This year I have the opportunity to mentor a small group of students enrolled in the Hoffman Estates High School Business Incubator Program. The year-long class gives students a platform to create a business and pitch to investors, similar to the show *Shark Tank*,” Tole explains. “Mentors meet with students in person a few times throughout the school year and communicate as needed via email to help guide them through the business creation process.”

Growing the next generation, while growing her business and raising her family certainly keeps Tole on her toes.

For more information about Division Six Details, visit divisionsixdetails.com.

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Karlyn Martin and Dave Martin strategize pre-game.

Game, Set ... Slam!



Barrington Hills' Dave Martin and daughter Karlyn are a Grand Slam team on the USTA circuit.

WORDS BY **BILL MCLEAN**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JAMES GUSTIN**

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY **LEANNA ERNEST**

STYLING BY **THERESA DEMARIA**

The father is a Barrington Hills lawyer. The daughter is a Vermont hematologist. Together, this duo has reached amateur tennis' pinnacle of success—the Grand Slam.

Last November, in Wellington, Florida, Dave Martin and Karlyn Martin achieved a career pinnacle together—on a tennis court. They battled Wisconsin teaching pros Lyle and Kalla Schaefer in the Super Senior division final of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Father-Daughter Clay Court Championships. In the middle of the Martins' fifth match point in kiln-like conditions—with all four players planted near the net—a Schaefer lifted a lob over Dave.

That was no small feat. Dave stands 6 feet 5 inches, a talented, ageless skyscraper in sneakers. Karlyn, who at age 41 hasn't lost a step since her All-Ivy League tennis days at Yale, pivoted quickly and dashed to the baseline to keep the point alive, lofting a jet-stream high lob.

"The father yelled, 'I can't see the ball!'" Dave recalls. The Martins won the point to seal their 6-3, 6-4 victory.

But Dave—father of six, grandfather of nine, and half of the Illinois high school boys tennis state doubles championship duo in 1969—and Karlyn, who had captured the Illinois high school girls tennis state doubles title for Barrington High School (BHS) with her twin, Ashley Martin, in 1999, celebrated more than a national father-daughter championship that day.

They had completed a 2023 Calendar Grand Slam, a feat as rare as a total solar eclipse. The duo had previously won USTA national father-daughter tournaments in Providence, Rhode Island (indoor) in May, in San Diego (hard court) in June, and in Boston (grass court) in August.

The triumph on clay upped Dave's Gold Ball (the USTA's most coveted prize) total to seven, five with Karlyn and two with Ashley. The matriarch of this "Barrington Tennis Royalty" family, retired veterinarian Sally Martin, has earned two USTA mother-daughter



bronze prizes, both with Ashley.

“After we won in Wellington, my dad said something like, ‘Thanks for dragging me along,’” remembers Karlyn, an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Hematology and Oncology Division at the University of Vermont in Burlington. “But he’s a strong, competitive player, with his net play, his lobs, his drop shots. And his cut serve to the deuce side, the one he uses to frustrate and pull players way off the court ... it’s wicked.”

“After we won in Wellington, my dad said something like, **‘Thanks for dragging me along...’**”

Karlyn swam competitively until she was 14 and garnered eight varsity letters (four in tennis, two in basketball, two in water polo) at BHS before joining Ashley at Yale.

“Karlyn is astute on the tennis court, athletic, and she’s excellent at making mid-match adjustments,” says Dave, who played tennis at Princeton University. “She has such a great return of serve and an outstanding two-handed backhand, both cross court and down the line.”

Karlyn completed her residency at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago and her fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She served as an Assistant Professor of Medicine in Hematology and Oncology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine before accepting the post at the University of Vermont last September—two months before securing the fourth leg of the Grand Slam.

“I had to quickly find a tennis club in Vermont,” explains Karlyn, who did just that and stayed sharp by training with and competing against formidable talent.

Dave’s longtime home tennis club is the South Barrington Club, where he plays three or four times per week. Dad and daughter tuned up by playing sets against a handful of accomplished netters there and at other Chicago-area clubs ahead of each major last year and then asking for feedback afterward.

“It’s highly competitive at the majors, with typically seven or eight father-daughter pairs capable of winning each,” Dave says. “We wanted to make sure we were as ready as possible for each surface, except for grass courts; there aren’t a lot of those in Illinois.”

Alas, the marvelous Martin tandem likely won’t connect for another calendar Grand Slam in 2024. Karlyn is scheduled to attend a work-related conference in Thailand this summer during the dates of the indoor nationals.

But Dave has a sure-fire backup plan.

“Ashley,” the patriarch says with a baseline-wide grin.

“The greatest thing about playing at these tournaments,” Dave adds, “is the time, usually four days, that I get to spend with an adult daughter while competing in a sport we both love. They are fun opportunities for me, and times I will always cherish.”



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www.BHRillinois.com

Julie Harron joins Cervera Real Estate group to open an office in equestrian-centric, Wellington, Florida. Here she wears ETRO, neimanmarcus.com



HORSE COUNTRY SOUTH

Julie Harron and her real estate firm, JH Group, bring their expertise to the horse country of South Florida.

WORDS BY **MITCH HURST**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **KATRINA WITTKAMP**

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY **LEANNA ERNEST**

STYLING BY **THERESA DEMARIA**

Longtime top real estate brokers in Barrington and throughout the Chicago area, Julie Harron of JH Group Real Estate have joined Florida-based Cervera Real Estate to open an office in Palm Beach. The office, which opened this past February, is the first Palm Beach location for Cervera, which has a strong presence across South Florida.

Harron had connections in Florida before she relocated there with her team just before the pandemic. When she was younger, she often visited her grandparents. As she built her real estate practice, the similarities between Wellington, a world-class winter equestrian destination located just 14 miles from Palm Beach, and Barrington became front and center.

Harron says the timing for opening the new office is just right, with an influx of people moving to the region.

“It’s really simple. West Palm Beach is exploding,” Harron says. “And they’re very happy to have somebody who understands Midwestern values. I’ve done my homework down here to be able to connect them with the right lifestyle.”

Harron observes that, while there had always been a trickle of people moving to South Florida, once the pandemic hit and companies such as Citadel Securities started migrating to Miami,

the market grew exponentially.

Several large, luxury condo buildings are in the works, including Ritz-Carlton residences, so opportunities to buy exist. Yet, with Michelin Star restaurants and other luxury amenities being added to the mix, the market is sure to tighten up even after a post-COVID slowdown.

Transportation infrastructure is another plus. The



Harron joins her practice with Cervera Real Estate to connect Barrington to Florida..



Harron in Burberry, neimanmarcus.com

Brightline fast rail service from Orlando to Miami has contributed to the area’s appeal, and the private airport in West Palm Beach tends to have more air traffic than Palm Beach International.

“I was at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast the other day and they are really thinking about infrastructure,” she says. “It’s amazing to watch the infrastructure change around here and now is a good time to get in as the prices continue to rise.”

The Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in downtown West Palm Beach serves as a cultural anchor in the region, offering theater and musicals, comedy shows, concerts, and other attractions.

Harron says about half of her clients are looking for winter homes and the other half are seeking to relocate. A lot of those coming down from Barrington are interested in Wellington because of the horse connection.

“Wellington is to Palm Beach what Barrington is to Chicago in some ways,” says Harron.

While the weather is wonderful, Harron’s favorite aspect about South Florida is that it is easy to live a healthy lifestyle.

Harron is also enjoying her work life. Cervera is one of South Florida’s largest brokers and has a five-decade history of success and a strong network of people in the industry in South Florida and internationally.

“Cervera is a three-generation-owned firm founded by Alicia Cervera Sr. and now run by her daughters. They have been at the forefront of real estate development in South Florida since the 1960s. They know everyone and everything about the area and love to share their knowledge with their clientele,” Harron says. “I’m honored to represent them in Palm Beach County.”

For more information about Cervera Real Estate, visit Cervera.com.

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WILD ABOUT AFRICA

Vegan Red Curry with Bok Choy, Sweet Potatoes, Squash & Lentils

WORDS, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND FOOD STYLING BY **MONICA KASS ROGERS**



This veggie-laden curry is a favorite go-to for a sweetly spiced and satisfying healthy bowl. I've made it with Thai red curry paste or with Thai panang curry paste depending on my mood. Both are hot, red, and wonderful. The squash, sweet potato, and coconut milk sweetness is balanced with the deep green of the bok choy leaves and earthiness of protein-rich lentils. And the turmeric and ginger in the mix are super-health-boost rhizomes full of anti-inflamma-

tory agents that also add color and tang. A few helpful notes: if you use fresh turmeric, wear gloves when grating, or you'll have bright yellow fingers for the rest of the day! I used whole red lentils in the recipe, so they would hold their shape, but split red lentils, which cook more quickly (sold as masoor dal) can be substituted. For a lower-fat rendition, you can opt for reduced-fat coconut milk but full-fat coconut milk or cream makes for a silkier finish.



YIELD: 6 TO 8 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 small acorn squash, washed well and halved
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into bite-sized chunks
- 3 Tbsps of olive oil, divided
- 1 yellow or white onion, peel discarded, diced to make 1 cup
- 1 ½ to 2 Tbsps Thai red curry paste OR Thai Panang curry paste (use a bit more, or less to suit your palate)
- 6 garlic cloves, peels discarded, minced
- 2-inch finger of fresh ginger, peeled and grated OR 1 Tbsp ground ginger
- 2-inch finger of fresh turmeric, peeled and grated OR 1 Tbsp ground turmeric
- 6 cups low-sodium vegetable stock, plus more if a soupier soup is desired
- 1, 13-ounce can unsweetened coconut milk OR coconut cream
- 4 heads baby bok choy OR 1 head regular bok choy leaves chopped and placed in one bowl; white stems chopped and placed in a second bowl
- 1 cup whole red lentils, picked over and rinsed OR 1 cup split red lentils (masoor dal)
- Salt to taste
- Fresh lime and minced cilantro for garnish

METHOD

ROAST SQUASH AND SWEET POTATOES Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place acorn squash halves cut side down in small roasting pan or oven-proof dish with ½ cup of water. Cover with foil. Toss cubed sweet potato with 1 Tbsp olive oil; scatter on a parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet. Place squash and sweet potato in 350 degree oven for 30 to 40 minutes until pierceable by a fork, but not mushy. While sweet potato and squash are roasting, begin the rest of the soup.

SIMMER STOCK

In a heavy-bottomed soup pot over medium-low heat, add remaining 2 tablespoons of olive oil and curry paste, whisking with fork for 1 minute. Add diced onion and cook until onion is soft and translucent. Add ¼ cup water

plus minced garlic, grated ginger, and turmeric and cook 3 minutes more until garlic is soft but not browned. Add vegetable stock, chopped white stems of bok choy, and lentils. Increase heat to bring to a boil; immediately reduce heat to medium-low and simmer ½ hour.

COMPLETE SOUP

While soup is simmering, peel squash and discard seeds and skin. Cube squash. Add coconut milk (or cream), roasted chunks of sweet potato and squash, and chopped bok choy leaves to soup pot and simmer an additional 15 minutes until leaves are tender and all flavors are blended well. Season with salt to taste. Serve curry hot on its own, or with rice. Garnish with lime wedges and cilantro.

Giraffes and zebras in Chobe National Park.



CALL OF THE WILD

Savor the spirit of Botswana's wilderness in luxurious accommodations with Desert & Delta Safaris.

WORDS BY **DUSTIN O'REGAN**

One adjective comes to mind with the mention of southern Africa—soulful. Its exquisite natural beauty, the wildness of its furred and feathered inhabitants, and the beauty of an African sunset ... all are, with a nod to Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, "the stuff that dreams are made of."

I recently ventured through Botswana with my high school best friend and a group of intrepid travelers hailing from all corners of the globe. We chose to travel with Desert & Delta Safaris, one of Botswana's oldest and most recognizable safari brands. The company is a continent leader in ecotourism—think electric vehicles and solar-powered boats—and focuses on the empowerment of the country's residents—98 percent of lodge staff

positions are held by Botswana citizens.

The company has nine premier safari properties that create a circuit allowing guests to experience the country's diverse regions. We spent time at two lodges—the Chobe Game Lodge, Botswana's oldest five-star hotel (where Elizabeth Taylor married Richard Burton) and Camp Moremi located on the beautiful Okavango Delta.

We visited during the "green season" for 10 days, which were full of more exhilarating moments than I could recount. During late October through March, you'll find green leaves, undulating grasslands, and plentiful sources of water. It is the perfect season for adventurers who enjoy the challenge of spotting animals through dense foliage and driving deeper into the bush to discover wildlife that no longer need to congregate for water at the river's edge.



River safari in our solar-powered pontoon boat on the Chobe River.

Encountering a giraffe on a game drive in the Chobe National Park.



A colorful bee-eater viewed on a river safari on the Chobe River.

pool with stone surround. The suite was beautifully decorated with gorgeous barrel-vaulted ceilings, quarry-tiled floors, and an elaborate bathroom boasting Arabic motifs. Handcrafted Rhodesian teak furniture and original African carvings created a homey atmosphere. Our private terrace overlooked the lawn and river.

Each day at the lodge included a combination of river safaris and game drives with our guide, Tussaud. Desert & Delta Safaris' corporate principle of empowerment has a particular focus on women. Tussaud explained that Chobe Game Lodge has an all-female guiding team dubbed the "Chobe Angels," which has raised the profile of female guiding throughout Africa. Tussaud's pride in her company was so evident she wore it like a badge on her pressed khaki uniform.

Typically, we rose before dawn and headed out on a game drive to track animals who favor the early slices of light. Breakfast awaited us on our return and my daily choice—the Chobe Joe—consisted of minced beef on toast with peri peri sauce. We then would head out on a mid-morning river cruise followed by lunch. On hot afternoons, our plush beds and air-conditioned quarters beckoned naps.

The afternoon respite was followed by a sunset cruise or game drive culminating with the "sundowners," the famous African tradition of cocktails and appetizers at sundown. African sunsets splash the most beautiful pinks, oranges, and purples across the sky as the sun dips beneath the horizon. Upon our return to the lodge, the colors gave way to a vast black dome blanketed with stars that lit our path to dinner. The evening often concluded with great conversation around the campfire as laughter floated in the air.

Like life, days on safari were never the same. On our solar-powered pontoon boat, we meandered down the Chobe River cutting a path between Botswana and Namibia. One day it would be a herd of elephants running toward the shore with their babes in tow—some so young it was hard for them to keep up on their teetering little legs. My favorite river safari moment was watching an elephant herd playfully swim in the river using their slender grey trunks as snorkels. The calves rolled on the sandy river bank and crawled over each other in the awkward way of youth—a display of pure uninhibited

CHOBE GAME LODGE

The Chobe Game Lodge is the only riverfront lodge in the Chobe National Park, a wildlife paradise known for its huge herds of elephants and lush landscape. The park lies in Botswana's far northeastern corner near the juncture of four countries—Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

We flew into Kasane airport where a Desert & Delta Safari representative greeted and drove us the short 20-minute trek to the Chobe National Park entrance. Our adventure began even before reaching the hotel when we glimpsed a herd of hippos precariously perched on what appeared to be a marshy outpost in the river. A few minutes later, we came upon an immense, trumpeting elephant with

giant flapping ears, reminding me of a little boy waving his arms and exclaiming, "Hello, hello." Just past a gate (intended to keep larger animals at bay), appeared the Chobe Game Lodge—an impressive, amber-colored stucco structure half hidden by a huge fountain splashing at the courtyard's center. After our cool welcome cocktail, we were led to our riverfront suite. En route, we marveled at the lodge's extensive riverside veranda and large



Chobe Game Lodge suite

Aerial view of Camp Moremi located on the Okavango Delta.



Camp Moremi safari tent



Bumping over the sandy terrain in pursuit of elephants, zebras, impalas, curly-topped water buffalos, spotted hyenas, and giraffes, we passed giant termite hills resembling Angkor Wat's grand lotus towers. We rarely encountered other cars during these drives—a wonderful aspect of the Chobe National Park.

On our final night, my birthday was acknowledged with a huge celebration and a delicious fruit-topped cake. At least once daily during a meal, the staff performed a heartfelt show, sharing African songs and dance routines with their delighted audience.

We bid farewell to our friends at Chobe and headed to the airstrip for our Safari Air flight to the Okavango Delta. Safari Air, a company owned by Desert & Delta, connects the nine safari camps with a fleet of beautiful, air-conditioned planes.

CAMP MOREMI

The flight to Camp Moremi offered a glorious view of the marshy Okavango Delta—a vast inland river delta known for its sprawling grassy plains that seasonally flood, becoming an abundant animal habitat.



A pride of lions on the Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana.

One of the largest wetlands in the world, the Okavango Delta covers almost 2,000 square miles of pristine wilderness including savannahs, winding waterways, and dense forests. In the green season, rainwater from Angola's lush highlands spills into the delta, setting in motion an ecological spectacle. Fueled by the promise of a fertile floodplain, more than 200,000 large mammals return to the delta.

We landed (after a slight delay due to a family of warthogs trotting down the runway) at Camp Moremi's Xakanaxa Airstrip in the Moremi Game Reserve. Situated in the east of the Okavango Delta, the reserve is known as one of the most beautiful of its kind.

We were greeted by our Camp Moremi guide, Gwist, and climbed into our Toyota Safari Landcruiser. Just like at Chobe, the fun began even before we arrived at our destination. En route to the camp, we encountered a pride of 12 dozing lions. We were mesmerized by the gentle camaraderie among them. One young male with just a whisper of his adult mane, slept with his limbs entwined around his siblings. Every now and again, his giant paw rose to give a leisurely pat to his brethren. After hundreds of photos and many videos, we

joy on a sweltering afternoon.

Other days you'd see baboons and impalas who often travel together for protection. The baboons lazily combed through elephant droppings in search of undigested treasures while the impalas pranced along the shore, tails in constant motion.

One breezy day, we happened upon a pod of hippos in a watering hole. When immersed, these "river horses" conceal their massive bodies beneath the water revealing only their snouts and mischievous round eyes. As one enormous mass exited the watering hole after another, the scene resembled a "clown car." Post exit, they ambled toward the river—a spot favored for its protection of the hippos' delicate, sun-sensitive skin. Another hippo sighting was equally memorable but not nearly as comedic as we glimpsed two warring hippo bulls on the Namibian side of the river—their testosterone-soaked cries gave me chills!

Spotting the Nile crocodile, the world's second largest, is a coveted river cruise moment. The crocodile tends to exist in two states—swimming in a serpentine pattern on the river's surface or basking on the riverbanks with its jaw ajar. Both sights are equally terrifying.

Chobe National Park is also a birder's delight as it is home to more than 400 recorded bird species. Favorites of these feathered creatures include the colorful bee-eater, the bird nicknamed "Jesus" because it appears to walk on water, and the Cape turtle dove whose constant call sounded like a chant of "keep working, keep working" to some or "drink lager, drink lager" to others. It became a running joke between our group, some insisting on the "keep working" verse while others insisted on "drink lager." When you hear the dove, let me know your vote.

Our daily game drives were as thrilling as the river safaris. The electric, open-glass vehicles allowed silent and unimpeded views of the wildlife. One afternoon, we came upon lions lazing in the shade of Mopane trees. The king of the jungle didn't appear to fear anyone or anything.



Hippos grazing.
Photography by Tina Albrecht

finally tore ourselves away and drove toward our resort.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by clapping and singing staff members who welcomed us with cool hand towels and cold drinks. Camp Moremi is an intimate camp with huge tents boasting luxurious accommodations—think expansive living rooms, sumptuous mesh-enshrouded beds, and stone-tiled bathrooms with rain showers. The camp is situated on the edge of the Xakanaxa Lagoon in an area well known for its spectacular game-viewing opportunities. A screen “wall” was all that separated us from baboons, water buffalo, and other creatures rolling past our tent on the delta.

An elevated wooden pathway led us from our thatched safari tent to the main compound, which houses the dining room, library, reception, fire pit terrace, and a pool nestled in the grassy plain.

Like the Chobe Game Lodge, Moremi offers both river safaris and game drives. The delta’s waterways are a series of narrow serpentine passages flanked by head-heavy billowing grasslands. Therefore, small, narrow boats are used to traverse the delta, setting us at eye level with the coast and putting us in closer proximity to the lurking hippos.

The safari vehicles were like those at Chobe and perfect for unobstructed views of wildlife. Gwist noted that his favorite “newspaper” was laid out beneath us in the golden sand—it kept “track” of who went where and in what direction. Gwist’s readings led us to a dazzle of zebra—the gorgeous striped creatures grazed with foals (who wear a lighter chocolate brown stripe) at their sides. The “paper” also directed us to a tower of giraffes—the elegant foursome swanned along the sand through tall sausage trees. During one game drive, a herd of elephants seemed to appear out of thin air. Although these leather-skinned creatures are giants, they are silent walkers. It’s as if they tiptoe through the bush wearing enormous slippers.

Moremi’s game drives felt more “wild” than those at Chobe. We saw two pythons on the reserve—one was mid-meal, consuming a giant desert hare. We also encountered a pride of lions devouring a wildebeest as two hungry hyenas circled in search of leftovers. On our final game drive, our eagle-eyed guide spotted a dung beetle rolling a ball of dung. These insects entice mates based on the size of said stinky balls—a bit of information that caused an eruption of scatological-laced laughter from our group. Early one morning, Gwist motioned toward a snaggletoothed hippo while simultaneously reversing the jeep. Apparently, that particular hippo is rather hostile and better to avoid. Later that day, my friend and I were headed to dinner when we noticed a hippo right next to the pathway—ter-



Baboon with infant.
Photography by
Tina Albrecht

rified, we quickened our pace toward the main campus. We later learned that we had met “Oscar,” a friendly hippo who frequented the camp.

A “wildly fun” send-off occurred on our last morning with a troop of baboons whooping on our tent’s rooftop. The furry fellows eventually descended with a large male stopping to stare at us through the screen before journeying on. These thrilling experiences are a constant on safari—appearing as often as emails in our inboxes on a typical workday at home, but so much more meaningful.

Visit Botswana and discover the majesty and mesmerizing beauty of nature. Desert & Delta Safaris offers luxurious accommodations, expert guides, and unmatched experiences of viewing animals in their natural habitat. Book now, the lions, elephants, giraffes, zebras, baboons, and of course, the hippos are waiting to enchant you.

For more information visit desertdelta.com.



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SAFARI ESSENTIAL

I highly recommend traveling with Swarovski Optik’s binoculars. We used Swarovski Optik CL Companion 8x30, which brought every experience 8x closer. Another must is the Swarovski VPA phone adapter that connects your smartphone to the binoculars so you can easily photograph magical moments. Using the phone adaptor allowed me to capture moments so closely that it looked as if I were lying with the pride of lions—feeling the heat of their breath on my cheek. The company is the world’s leading manufacturer of high-precision optical instruments and I love the company’s motto—to care for the environment, protect nature, and preserve biodiversity. The binoculars and adapter are compact and lightweight making them an easy addition to your suitcase and a great accessory as you bump around in a safari vehicle.



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HOUSE & HOME

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Timeless beauty is shown in Luxury Offerings and delightful and comfortable pieces are highlighted in Home Style.

The dream. A Parisian pied-à-terre from Engel & Völkers.



LUXURY OFFERINGS: WHAT YOU GET FOR \$4 MILLION

A Parisian apartment in the 16th arrondissement, a timeless *Barrington Hills* property, and back to the banks of the *Seine* ... all for close to **\$4 million**.

WORDS BY **MEGAN WEISBERG**



AVENUE FOCH
\$4.032 million

ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, PARIS, FRANCE

The Details: 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths • 2,658 square feet, \$1,516 per square foot • Includes an 118-square-foot studio and two cellars **Contact:** Engel & Völkers Paris MMC, +33 1 456430 30

Situated in the beautiful 16th arrondissement in a stunning Haussmannian building this apartment occupies the entire third floor, ensuring exclusive privacy. The interior space unfolds with a spacious entrance gallery, a bright and gen-

erous living room, an elegant dining room, a fully equipped dine-in kitchen, and three bedrooms, including a master suite with its private bathroom and dressing room.



546 OAK KNOLL ROAD
\$3.95 million

BARRINGTON HILLS

The Details: 4 Bedrooms, 6.3 Baths • 11,000+ square feet (main house & guest house), \$359 per square foot • In-ground pool with hot tub, guest house, finished lower level with incredible rec room, wine cellar, sauna and exercise room • Sits on 25+ acres **Contact:** John Morrison, @properties Christie's International Barrington, 847-409-0297

Steeped in history, this gorgeous Barrington Hills home was 17 years in the making. Boasting custom architectural details reserved for masterpiece builds including rich walnut trim and doors, plaster crown moldings, herringbone hardwood

flooring, and five fireplaces. Incredible living and entertaining spaces are found throughout and chefs will delight in the striking kitchen and breakfast room offering panoramic views. A heated, four-car garage features a charming guest house.





BANKS OF THE SEINE \$4.287 million

PARIS, FRANCE

The Details: 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths • 2,475 square feet, \$1,732 per square foot • A large cellar is included **Contact:** Engel & Völkers Paris MMC, +33 1 456430 30

This fourth-floor apartment has an unobstructed and breathtaking view of the Seine and the Eiffel Tower. It has been completely renovated with high quality materials and still maintains its old-world charm with herringbone wood floors, fireplaces, beautiful mouldings, and a ceiling height of more

than 10 feet. The apartment has a beautiful entrance hall, a double living room situated in a rotunda, a dining room, eat-in kitchen with high-end appliances, and a laundry space. There is also a parental suite with a bathroom and numerous closets, three additional bedrooms, and two shower rooms.



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Shana Vitek is an Equity Partner at Beermann LLP, the largest family law firm in Illinois. For over 20 years, she has practiced family law exclusively and is trained in mediation, arbitration, and collaborative law.

For more information, visit www.beermannlaw.com/team/shana-l-vitek.

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4



6



5



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 3 Hudson Grace, Sunkiss Appetizer Plates, hudsongracesf.com 4 Hudson Grace, Henri Glass Green, hudsongracesf.com
 5 Wicker Cabinet, hollywoodathome.com 6 Coco Republic, Lazio Outdoor Dining Chair, cocorepublic.com
 7 Sanderson x Jennifer Manners, Emperor Peony Rug, jennifermanners.com 8 Coco Republic, Belize Outdoor Sofa, cocorepublic.com 9 Flos, Bilboquet Table Lamp, flos.com 10 Flos, Bilboquet Table Lamp in Linen, flos.com
 11 Coco Republic, Belize Outdoor Occasional Chair, cocorepublic.com 12 Ligne Roset, Fila Multicolor Vases, ligne-roset.com 13 Coco Republic, Kubu Outdoor Oval Coffee Table, cocorepublic.com
 14 Coco Republic, Hudson Outdoor Soda, cocorepublic.com 15 Coco Republic, Architect Outdoor Swivel Chair, cocorepublic.com

The Home on Sara Lane

Jake and Amelia Sullivan
*persevered through a demanding
home renovation project to be
rewarded with the Barrington
home of their dreams.*

WORDS BY **ANN MARIE SCHEIDLER**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MARIA PONCE BERRE**

STYLING BY **THERESA DEMARIA**

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY **LEANNA ERNEST**

When Jake and Amelia Sullivan were looking for their first house, they had their hearts set on somewhere in Barrington. The duo grew up in a nearby suburb—just blocks away from one another—and hoped to purchase their own family home with the same neighborhood feel. They were looking for a house with character, but not one that would be considered a “fixer upper.”

“We finally came across the listing for the house we bought and on paper, it was everything we hoped for,” Jake remembers. “The family we bought it from had owned and loved it for 25 years.”

The Sullivans closed on their new home in July 2022 and immediately rolled up their sleeves. Jake, who works in construction, decided to first tackle the drop ceiling in the basement.

“As I was taking tiles down, I started seeing all of these exposed electrical wires that made me nervous,” Jake says. “I brought in a friend who’s an electrician, and he confirmed that we had to look at all the wiring in our house. He was worried there might be other issues hiding.”

Talk about foreshadowing.

The Sullivans came to discover that behind nearly every wall, underneath nearly every floorboard, and inside nearly every duct, there was a problem they needed to address.

“It was overwhelming—I’m not going to lie,” recalls Amelia. “We found a tree growing in a wall, tons of mice, a hornet’s nest in another wall—it was a lot. We weren’t sure where to start or even if we should start.”

Amelia Sullivan wearing Rag & Bonewhite vest, Giorgio Armani pleated knit skirt, COTI necklace. Jake Sullivan wearing Kiton shirt and pants, neimanmarcus.com



Bookshelves styled to perfection.



A hearth to stay warm by.



Study



A beautiful bathroom vanity.

But the Sullivans decided to move forward and went project by project, room by room, never letting themselves think further ahead than the task at hand. Amelia had long dreamed of one day having a modern farmhouse and now she had her chance.

“I’m a big Pinterest junkie,” she says. “I’ve been pinning things for inspiration forever. I wanted our new home to be warm and cozy, pulling in some modern touches without them taking over.”

Knowing what she liked was hugely helpful when Amelia tapped interior designers Katie Wozniak and Erika Maroney from KED Interiors for their expertise. Not only was the KED team able to bring the couple’s vision to life, but they also helped them enhance the functionality of their house overall.

“One of the first rooms I worked on with Jake and Amelia was their primary bedroom,” explains Wozniak. “The original layout had you walking through the closet to get to the bathroom. As we were talking, I suggested they steal a little space from a nearby guestroom to create a bigger closet. We also created this special little sitting room for Amelia. I love the new flow from the bedroom to the bathroom to the closet. And the crisp white bedding contrasting with the natural wood tones throughout the space is so lovely.”

Wozniak interpreted Amelia’s love for all things vintage and antique with a few wallpaper choices, including in her sitting room. “Katie really brought that classic essence into the space,” Amelia observes.

Another functional issue Wozniak addressed was the lack of a mudroom in the home.

“We live in the Midwest so we know there will be weather,” Wozniak says. “We need space for coats and boots. And the Sullivans also have a dog. Luckily, the garage had a lot of extra depth, so we were able to add an actual mudroom. This was one of my favorite transformations in the house.”

The home renovations were nearly complete when it came time for the Sullivans to tackle the kitchen. It was the last space to be touched.

“We almost weren’t sure if we were going to do the kitchen,” Jake explains. “But we didn’t love the idea of leaving the kitchen for us to redo down the road. So, we went for it.”

KED Interiors suggested three options for the kitchen, spurring the conversation about them with questions about how the Sulli-



A most relaxing soaking tub.

vans planned to live in their kitchen and entertain from it.

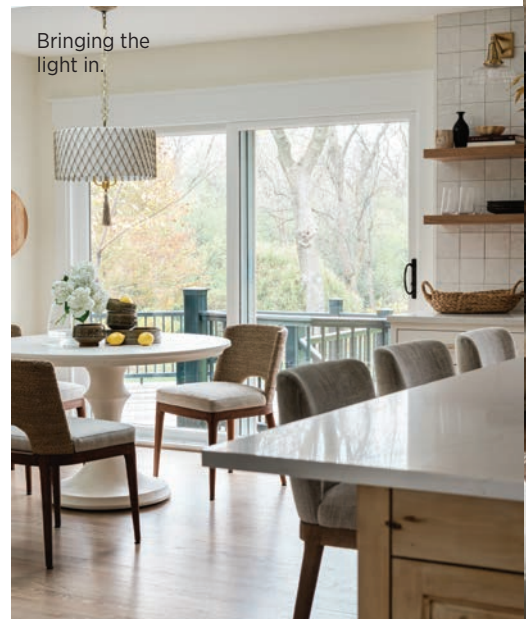
Amelia says she still can’t believe that the final kitchen belongs to her.

“Even though I had my Pinterest boards, Katie had us think about things we hadn’t even considered,” Amelia reflects. “She redesigned the traffic pattern in the space, and she carried the pearl white backsplash over more of the wall in such a pretty way. My favorite part is the perfectly imperfect handmade tiles that are above the stovetop. They look like a piece of art.”

The kitchen opens into a now all-season sunroom that overlooks the backyard. “This view is what kept me going when the project would get tough,” Jake says. While Jake did a great deal of work on the house, most of the renovation was completed by Custom Build Construction. “We couldn’t have done this project without Pawel and his team. They were amazing!”

The delight the Sullivans feel for their reimagined home is undeniable.

“When we started working on our home, it killed us to chip away at the character of this house that we fell in love with when we bought it,” Amelia says. “And even though the house looks different, we feel that the soul of this house feels grateful that we’ve brought it back to life. The house feels happy, and we agree every day that we are in our dream home. In fact, it’s even better than anything we could have dreamed of.”



Bringing the light in.



Bedroom

A light-filled room.



A PERSONAL CAUSE

The Napleton Automotive Group will once again be raising funds this month for the Violet Foundation for Pediatric Brain Cancer, named in honor of Steve and Madeline Napleton's daughter.

WORDS BY MITCH HURST

Each May and October, the Napleton Automotive Group donates a portion of car sales and service fees to fund childhood brain cancer research and to provide support for families with children who are suffering from brain cancer.

Violet Napleton was a smart, sweet, and silly girl who loved Disney movies and dance parties. Just over two years ago, she was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, (DIPG), a rare form of childhood brain cancer with a nearly 100 percent fatality rate. In just three-and-a-half-months, she succumbed to her disease when she was just 3 years of age.

The astronaut Neil Armstrong's daughter, Karen, died of DIPG at the age of 2 in 1962, and there has been very little tangible advancement in treatment for the disease. The Napletons established the Violet Foundation to raise awareness of DIPG and to fund potential new treatments.

"May is Brain Tumor Awareness Month and it's something that is very personal to us," Steve Napleton says. "October is Violet's birthday month, so for those two months we involve our employees, customers, and anybody else we can to fundraise."

During the two months, Napleton donates a portion of the revenues from every automobile it sells and services to the foundation,



Violet Napleton

and while Countryside Mazda serves as a de facto headquarters for the effort, it involves 55 Napleton car dealerships in the Chicago region and beyond.

In addition to providing grants for research, the foundation also provides grants to families who are going through the same situation the Napletons went through just a few years ago. Napleton was fortunate that the day after Violet received her diagnosis, he was able to take the time off from his work to be with her during her treatment.

"The reality is when someone's child is diagnosed with cancer invariably everything in life kind of stops," says Napleton. "In most situations one of the parents stops working or has to cut back on hours to spend time taking their child to treatments. That can create some real financial problems."

The foundation, which was established in October of 2022, has to date provided grants to more than 100 families and raised over \$2 million for both family support and research grants.

To raise awareness, the dealerships offer purple license plate frames to customers who purchase during May or October that draw attention to the Violet Foundation and childhood cancer.

"I've actually been surprised by how many people take us up on the purple frames," Napleton says. "Customers really appreciate knowing that they're not just buying a car but supporting an important cause. It makes it more than just a transaction."

Napleton says that while all cancer diagnoses are tragic, there's something different about a child receiving a cancer diagnosis. It reorders what should be the normal sequence of life.

"When it happens to a child it just seems so wrong and I think people recognize that," he says. "We realize there's a lot we take for granted."

If the Violet Foundation can garner some more attention and resources behind research for DIPG, he says, future generations of children who are diagnosed will have a better chance of survival.

"There are some really bright minds who are on it. There are clinical trials that are going on and being imagined now," Napleton says. "There's some really good momentum."

For more information about the Violet Foundation, visit violet-foundation.org or napletonscountrysidemazda.com.



Steve Napleton

Photography by Robin Subar



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Chasing Storms

Scout Storms, Barrington High School's record-setting runner, produces lightning-fast efforts on the course and on the track.

WORDS BY **BILL MCLEAN** / ILLUSTRATION BY **ROBERT RISKO**

There's Scout Storms, the teen. Then there's Scout Storms, the athlete.

The teen, who's a dual citizen (UK, USA), is soft-spoken, humble, Miss Manners-polite, and she'd rather talk about her teammates than herself on any day of the week that ends in "y."

"Scout," BHS cross country coach Deb Revolta says, "is as fun-loving as they come, our spark of energy, the teammate in charge of the music played at practices and on bus trips. She's always carrying her portable speaker around. She's got that personality that makes her teammates laugh and relax. In a punishing sport like cross country, it certainly helps to be around someone fun on days we practice and on days we race. But, once that starter's gun at a race goes off, Scout is all business."

The athlete—a star cross country/track runner—is fiercely competitive, trains relentlessly, has Alps-high goals (a D-1 college scholarship, a professional runner's contract), and she's tougher than a ranked UFC fighter.

How tough?

Two years during the track and field season, Storms was running the 1,600-meter when she incurred a broken navicular bone in her right foot at the 800-meter mark. She shrugged off the pain and then completed the back half of the race.

Last autumn, she put that toughness to the test and became the first BHS Filly to win an Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Cross Country State Championship by clocking a program-best three-mile time of 16:38.46 at Detweiller Park in Peoria. Storms won by a tad more than four seconds. Her victory and her comrades' strong performance resulted in a third-place win for the BHS team.

"I was very tired after the finish," recalls Storms, who lost only one race last fall. "In shock, too. It felt like a culmination of a lot of things. I remember looking up and seeing my happy teammates and others running toward me. The first to greet me was my sister (eighth-grader Georgia), who was wearing a horse costume."

Storms arrived stateside with her sister and parents, Abigail and

John, when she was a first-grader. Mom and Dad encouraged their daughters to try multiple sports. Storms chose cross country, softball, and field hockey. She excelled at the latter, playing attack as a freshman and sophomore for the nationally ranked Windy City Field Hockey club team.

As a freshman on the BHS varsity cross country team, she ran away from everybody else at the Wheeling Cross Country Invitational. Storms, with about 400 meters left in the 2021 race, did not expect to hear only her spikes pounding the course and the occasional fallen leaf.

But competitor that she is, a healthy lead couldn't slow Storms down. "I thought, 'Might as well keep running hard,'" Storms says. "When I won, I was surprised. Later I thought, 'Maybe I'm OK at this.'"

"OK at this" is an understatement for a runner who last Thanksgiving weekend traveled to Liverpool, England and nearly made the UK's national U-20 women's cross country team. "Ok at this" is an understatement for a runner whose podium moments include an individual bronze medal and a team silver medal at the 2023 IHSA State Track & Field Championships.

"Scout never backs down from a challenge," Revolta says. "It's who she is; it's how she's wired. She enters every race with the same mindset—I can run with anybody."

Storms said she didn't truly start enjoying cross country until the sixth grade. What she's sure of today: her relationship with running has never been stronger.

"I love the everyday grind of cross country, putting in the work and doing everything I can to get better at it," says Storms, whose frame recently shot up from 5 foot to 5 foot 7 inches over 18 months. "But what I love just as much is getting to run with my favorite people after school."

"It's an individual *and* a team sport," the consummate teen athlete adds.



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