ARTIST THEODORA PAVLOU ON HER SUMMERS IN GREECE BARRINGTON STYLE ಆ SUBSTANCE JUNE/JULY 2024 A GLIMPSE INTO BRYNNEN CROSSON'S WORLD







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

How do I take advantage of peak Real Estate season?

While Inventory is still historically low, now is the time when more properties go live to choose from and when children are out of school causing buyers to be ready to move so be prepared! Choosing the right Real Estate Agent who has processes and partners in place and ready to take advantage of the season is critical.

Seller Strategies

Maintenance: As the weather heats up get any needed maintenance and repairs out of the way. This is a good time to inspect your home for items a buyer's inspector will notice and can save time and deals falling apart over preventative issues. Consider having an adjustor/roofing company who works with insurance companies inspect an older or midlife roof and see if insurance can cover a replacement as this is one of the biggest items a buyer will consider costs on.

Your Next Move: Be prepared for your home to close successfully so you're ready to move when your home gets an accepted offer. If you'll be buying a new home get a jump on property searching early! Deals contingent on finding a home can lower your pool of prospective buyers so consider getting plans





in place for a rental, air bnb, or staying with family so you make your home look more attractive to a buyer without a contingency of their own. Know which moving company you'll be using and have plans for storage or renting PODs, if needed.

Buyer Strategies

Make your offer look attractive to Sellers:

In this current seller's market you may place multiple offers before one gets accepted so make yourself look as attractive as possible to sellers to avoid losing out on homes. If you have a home to sell, consider listing early and being willing to close before finding your next home by finding a short term rental or staying at another property you own or with family so there aren't contingencies. A home sale contingency will be a large factor in a seller's decision on whether to accept an offer when multiple offers are present.

Know Your Search Locations: Choosing an agent who knows your priorities and desires and is well versed in the markets they work can be instrumental in saving time by helping find areas to search. Ask your agent if you can receive listings "On the PLN" (Private Listing Network), so you have a leg up on the competition as this is today's version of "Pocket Listings".

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.





20 S Wynstone Drive, North Barrington \$2,500,000

Call Connie at +1 847.508.7775 for more information.

Jameson

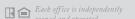




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We invite women across all industries to share their personal stories, professional pursuits, and passions with us to engage readers, inspire women, and increase visibility for their endeavors.

Our VERY BEST recommendations come from you. If you'd like to be considered or recommend a friend, neighbor, colleague, or client, please visit **jwcmedia.com/barrington-power-woman**.





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Co-owner of Barrington's Nékter Juice Bar Loren Jaynes Finds Fulfillment in Helping Others Lead Healthier Lives.

48 Summer Blooms

Soil & Spade's Heather Moister brings her passion for beautiful plants right to your doorstep as she shares tips for how you can make showstopping summer containers.

52 **Beyond the Canvas**

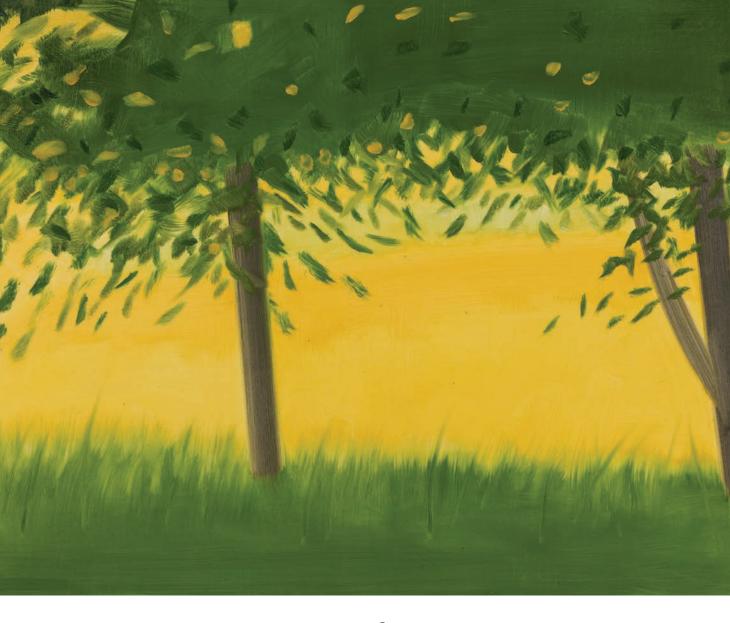
Artist Theodora Pavlov's lifelong pursuit of art yields treasures in the classroom and in the studio.

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Founder & Publisher J.W. CONATSER

Editor-in-Chief MEGAN WEISBERG

Executive Projects Director KEMMIE RYAN

Contributing Editors MICHELLE CROWE, ERIN DONALDSON,

DUSTIN O'REGAN

Style Director THERESA DEMARIA

Contributing Writers TRICIA DESPRES, MITCH HURST,

MONICA KASS ROGERS, ANN MARIE

SCHIEDLER

Copy Editor MORGAN HOGERTY

Production Manager/ Graphic Designer LINDA LEWIS

Advertising Coordinator/

CHRIS GEIMER

Graphic Designer
Graphic Designer

SAM SUAREZ

Contributing |

MARIA PONCE BERRE, IAN MCLEOD,

Photographers RUNVIJAY PAUL, MONICA KASS ROGERS

Illustrator ROBERT RISKO

Advertising Sales GRETCHEN BARNARD, JENNIFER

STURGEON

Assistant to the Publisher CHEYANNE LENCIONI

How to reach COUNTRY Magazine

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: ADVERTISING@JWCMEDIA.COM / 847.926.0911 EDITORIAL INQUIRIES: MEGAN.WEISBERG@JWCMEDIA.COM / 847.370.5840

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'm delighted to share with you our June/ July double issue—filled to the brim with sunny, summer delights. From brightly patterned fashion styles perfect for summer living, to homewares to make you smile, this issue is full of joy.

Looking for gardening guidance to make your flower blooms pop? We've got you covered with an article on the ultimate gardening goddess, Heather Moister of Soil & Spade. Speaking of creative talents, in Beyond the

Canvas artist Theodora Pavlou discusses her inspiring life; she splits her time between teaching locally and summers in Greece.

And as the sun shines upon us this season, it's a great time to reflect on our health and wellness, something Loren Jaynes makes a priority for herself and is hoping to make a bit easier for our community to do as well with the

offerings at her store, Nékter Juice Bar.

In Country Loves, Fiona Cutter invites us into her country home

life—an idyllic farm in Barrington full of horses and dogs. And Brynnen Crosson, co-owner of CrossFit Barrington, gives us some top tips in Country vs Town. Luxury Offerings continues with the theme of beauty showcasing stunning homes in Dubai, England, and Barrington.

After reading First Class, you'll be sure to want to plan your next weekend getaway at Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Set on 57 rolling acres in the Sangre de Cristo foothills, the luxury boutique's intimate 65-casita resort is surrounded by rugged mountainous beauty while being only 10 minutes from the city's vibrant downtown.

In One Last Thing we share the story of Fresh Picks, a curated grocery service connecting customers with local produce, meats, and products—yet another wonderful way to nourish ourselves.

Hoping you find a gorgeous sunny spot to relax in while reading this issue.

Enjoy,

Loren Jaynes, co-owner of

Barrington's Nékter Juice Bar, wearing Carolina He

rera, neimanmarcus.com





EDITOR'S NOTE

MY WISH LIST

Taking to the pool, Matouk's Amado Beach Towel in Candy Stripe, matouk.com





Using Sqween Sunscreen's paint-on sunscreen for my kids before camp, getsqween.com



Wearing to the pool Stylest's Aqualace™ puff sleeve caftan, stylest.com

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UP FRONT | THE BUZZ Viejos Aires

ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL SPANISH DANCE THEATER'S FLAMENCO PASSION

Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, in residence at Northeastern Illinois University, brings their popular *Flamenco Passion* performances to the North Shore June 7 to 9. These performances will cap the company's 48th multi-faceted American Spanish Dance and Music Festival (June 7 to 15). Program highlights include the Chicago premiere of *Viejos Aires / Flamenco Tango* by award-winning choreographer and former artistic director of the National Ballet of Spain, Antonio Najarro. This work, set to the music of composer, Astor Piazzolla, features a fusion of Spanish classical style and Argentinean Tango and displays the sensuality, passion, and elegance of Buenos Aires. *ensembleespanol.org*

360 CHICAGO UNVEILS A RENOVATION

360 CHICAGO, the iconic observation deck located on the 94th floor of 875 N. Michigan Avenue (the former John Hancock Center), has fully renovated its entry concourse to best celebrate Chicago's uniquely diverse communities and culture. The extensive, multimillion-dollar renovations span more than 5,000 square feet, completely transforming the space with digital, immersive installations, accompanied by artwork by local artists. The experience incorporates themes such as the city's history, unique neighborhoods, Lake Michigan, cultural celebrations, street festivals, sports, architecture and more. The journey to the 94th floor observation deck is now an additional experience at 360 CHICAGO.



Matouk, Announces their new pajama collection, matouk.com JWC | COUNTRY 22

LUXURY LINEN BRAND MATOUK DEBUTS A PAJAMA COLLECTION

Matouk's new pajama collection makes getting ready for bed just as great as getting into bed, taking all the comfort and exquisite quality of the brand's sheeting to create the ultimate nightwear. Beautifully tailored, these pajamas are just as chic outside the house as they are in the bedroom. The Luca pajamas are crafted from Matouk's dreamy Luca cotton percale in a range of vibrant Schumacher prints; the luxury of Matouk sheeting is combined with the comfort of your favorite lived-in dress shirt. The Nocturne pajamas bring the signature smooth luster of Matouk's Nocturne sateen sheeting to lightly tailored leisurewear. Wear them to relax in style at home, or dress them up for days and nights out. The Milano pajamas are lightly tailored for a chic relaxed fit, these pajamas are made from Matouk's cool crisp Milano cotton percale. Wonderfully versatile, wear them as a matching set or separate pieces, at home or out. matouk.com





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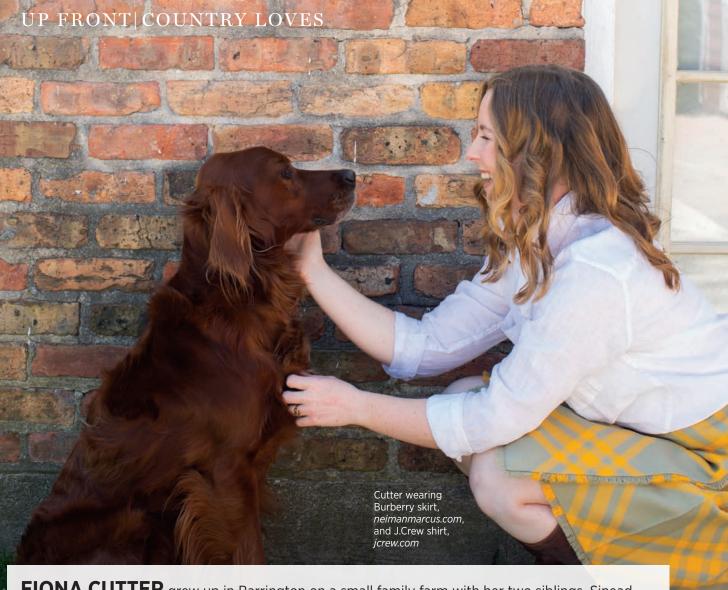
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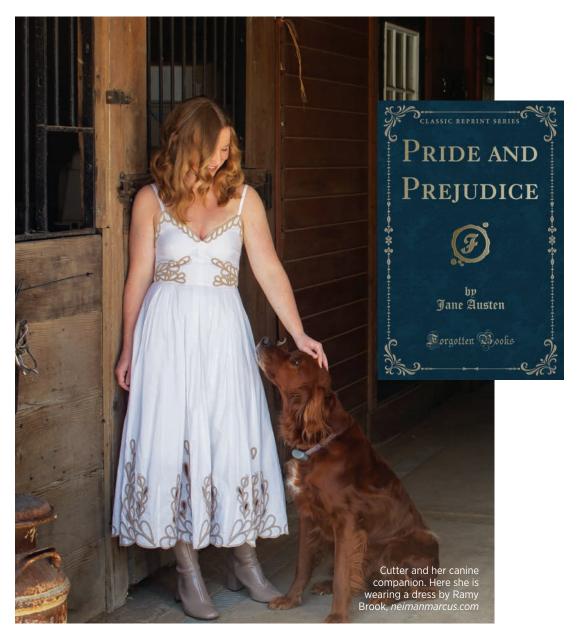
FIONA CUTTER grew up in Barrington on a small family farm with her two siblings, Sinead and Brendan. After graduating from Barrington High School in 2017 she received a bachelor's degree from DePaul University in 2022. Currently, Cutter works for a local retina surgeon while she continues her education in healthcare. A proud member of the Barrington Rotary Club, Cutter is also the volunteer director of development for the local nonprofit ophthalmology charity, FOCUS. Growing up in Barrington taught Cutter a lot about two things—horses and philanthropy. With her horse Kydd, Cutter has competed across the United States (winning her first international competition at home in Barrington) and worked for renowned equestrians, including Buck Davidson and Jennifer Rousseau.

EDITED BY MORGAN HOGERTY / PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIA PONCE BERRE HAIR AND MAKEUP BY LEANNA ERNEST / STYLING BY THERESA DEMARIA



FIONA LOVES

Gadget: My Apple Watch! Keeps me running on time (mostly) Scent: Jo Malone's Myrrh & Tonka Barrington spot: Region Kitchen + Bar in the Foundry. They make the best Bang Bang Cauliflower you'll ever have! Hostess gift to receive: Homebaked goods Gift to give: Fresh eggs from our family farm or banana bread, as there always seems to be a steady supply of both at my house



What actress would play you in a movie? Chalk it up to my Irish roots, but if I could pick anyone to play me in a movie, it would be Saoirse Ronan. She's an American-born Irish actress who has the bandwidth to play all sorts of roles. She leans classic but also embraces a wildcard character, something I can appreciate. Though my sister is the true ginger in our family, I think Saoirse and I both have the whole strawberry blonde look going for us. Who from history would you want to travel with? Dr. Paul Farmer. He is an infectious disease specialist and anthropologist who revolutionized medicine in rural Haiti, Rwanda, and other low-resource settings. He founded an organization called "Partners in Health" that works to ensure that quality healthcare is a universal human right. He famously said, "The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong with the world." Dr. Farmer's teachings and principles are what I hope to carry with me in all the places I have the privilege to go. Where do you look for inspiration? I draw inspiration from the many people in my life who are working to make a positive impact on the world, like my fellow Barrington Rotarians. The Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self", resonates

strongly with me. I feel fortunate to be a part of this incredible group of humanitarians who are committed to improving the lives of others. **Favorite book?** This was an easy one—my love for *Pride* and Prejudice knows no bounds. Call me a cliché all you want, but Jane Austen knows women and how to write them. Plus, the 2005 movie Pride & Prejudice (not the 1995 series drama) was a cinematic masterpiece that I may or may not be able to quote word for word. Most beloved cookbook? The Blue Zones Kitchen by Dan Buettner. Buettner's book is the best of all worlds: food; culture; history; and a smidge of science. His book is a collection of recipes inspired by the cultures of some of the happiest and healthiest places on earth. His tagline is "100 recipes to live to 100." Best dinner party hack? Dinner? As in dinner-dinner? Or do Cup O'Noodles still count? Really, my best hack is to embrace bonfires, pizza from Lou Malnati's, paper plates, and great company. You'll have all your bases covered and are guaranteed to have the best time. What's in your bag right now? Only the essentials. Summer Fridays Sweet Mint Lip Butter Balm, mini-packages of Advil and Tylenol, Band-Aids, peppermint gum, and dog treats. Can't forget the dog treats.



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DENTAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

WORDS BY

JAMES T. GAVRILOS

ew technologies help shape our future. Dentistry's future is no exception. With advances in electronics, software and 3D printing, dentistry is on track to bring these technologies to patients and make a visit to the dentist more comprehensive than ever.

3D printing does not need any introduction. Its incorporation into healthcare has been newsworthy with the technology's potential to print medicines, prosthetics, and even organ replicas. Its importance was further highlighted during the COVID-19 crisis to bypass supply chains to meet hospitals' demands. As the technology is set to become an integral part of healthcare practice, it will also become incorporated in dental labs.

Computer-assisted design (CAD) and computer-assisted manufacture (CAM), including 3D printing, are already changing the way dental lab technicians do their work. Traditionally, when a patient

needs a crown, a dentist must make an impression of the tooth, ship it to the dental laboratory and then wait for them to make a permanent crown.



With CAD/CAM technology, the tooth is drilled to prepare it for the crown and a three-dimensional scan is taken of all the patient's teeth. This image is then emailed to a laboratory that CAD designs the new tooth and begins the process of creating an oven fired glass-like crown. With a 3D printer doing the hard work, dental labs eliminate the bottleneck of manual modeling and can get the final product back to dental offices faster than ever before.

3D printers are also able to produce orthodontic models, surgical guides, aligners, retainers and more dental equipment faster and precisely; tasks that would take longer with traditional methods. This helps in improving workflows and reducing errors.

While there is currently CAM, that allows a dentist to have a crown milled right in the office, the materials in the final product do not have the same glass-like finish as the materials that are created in a dental lab. But as 3D printing materials improve, the dental office may be able to completely bypass the dental laboratory all together.

The dental profession is always looking for ways to improve the care of its patients. Technology is paving the way for making a visit to the dentist more comprehensive than ever. CAD/CAM will certainly play one of the biggest roles in this improvement.

Dr. James T. Gavrilos is located at 129 Park Avenue in Barrington. For more information, call 847–381–4040 or visit barringtondentist.com.

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UP FRONT COUNTRY VS. TOWN



Brynnen Crosson and her husband,

Dr. David Crosson, moved to Barrington in 2008 to start a chiropractic office. "We started ChiroFit from a passion for helping people," says Brynnen. "And that passion continues to grow." After being active at CrossFit Barrington and valuing what brothers Brian and Craig Niven built, the Crossons became part of that ownership team. Brynnen spent 17 years in luxury automotive marketing and now works for their family business. She also sits on the board of Barrington Youth & Family Services, a community-based, nonprofit social service agency focused on providing counseling and preventative programming to children and families in the Barrington area. In their free time, the Crossons volunteer with Barrington Youth Basketball and the Midwest Lakers AAU program.

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

Mantra? Work hard and be nice to people I am riding in our white Volvo station wagon Best grooming tip? The good on the inside reflects on the outside, so be kind,

do good—that beauty that lasts forever Guilty pleasure? The Pitch Perfect movies (and I don't feel guilty one bit, I love Kay Cannon) Favorite foods? My dad's cooking Music you love? Fleetwood Mac, The 1975, The Greatest Showman soundtrack Best advice ever given to you? How you do anything is how you do everything Best advice you've given? You can never go wrong by doing the right thing Earliest memory? My earliest memory is one of happiness.

while my mom is driving and we are listening

to Huey Lewis and the News, and I am feeling so happy that she is

my mom. Before bed, you? Tell my husband, kids, and dog I love them What's on your bookshelf? Pachinko by Min Jin Lee. My friends always have great recommendations You can't live without? Family and friends Love to escape to? Michigan in the summer Advice you would give to your younger self? Wear a wide brim hat. And not to worry. Just wait until you meet your husband and kids-they are awesome

WHEN IN THE **COUNTRY** WHEN IN **TOWN**

Your style is? Jeans and a T-shirt Can't leave the house without? Our miniature labradoodle, Annie Peach Transportation? Ford F-150

Raptor Driving music? Podcasts: Stuff

You Should Know and You Can't Make This U⊅ Place to eat? I love coffee and protein bites Pepper from Park, and the Raspberry Charlotte from Ambrosia Shop? Kate Marker



Your style is? Clarins Lip Comfort Oil in chocolate Can't leave the house without? A plan Transportation? If this were my dream trans-

portation, it would be a Porsche 930 Turbo Driving music? "Always

Alright" by Alabama Shakes Place to eat? Cindy's rooftop bar for brunch. Happy hour at avec. And Pequod's Pizza to close out the night Best thing about town? The lakefront trail Worst thing about town? Currently, the Kennedy Expressway construction The perfect day? Strive Village with my husband, and a Cubs game with our kids



a great place to find a gift and inspiration Best thing about country? The people and the Barrington Area Conservation Trust. The preservation of open space makes

Interiors Warehouse, it's

Barrington really special Worst thing about country? Canadian National Railway The perfect day? Would always start at CrossFit Barrington. We have an incredible community of hardworking, welcoming people









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The TRUTH about Ketamine

Despite recent headlines, Ketamine remains a highly safe and effective treatment in clinical settings.

WORDS BY TERRY R. YORMARK II

he old saying, "There is no such thing as bad press" may hold true most of the time, but unfortunately that hasn't yet proved to be the case with current stories regarding Ketamine. Unfortunately, Ketamine came up in a toxicology report in a recent terrible Hollywood tragedy and many in the media negligently created a false narrative and ran with it. Shocking, right? The "good" part about all of this press is that the dialogue around Ketamine has gone mainstream and those seeking education from reliable sources is at an all-time high.

Ketamine was first studied in the 1960s as a safer alternative to traditional anesthetics and was first used by anesthesiologists in the 1970s. To this day, Ketamine is the most commonly prescribed anesthetic globally and on the World Health Organization Essential Medication List. Ketamine causes minimal respiratory depression and does not impair the cough reflex which many other drugs do. In 2019, the FDA approved Ketamine for treatment resistant depression, which has saved countless lives.

Ketamine is to be administered in a relaxing, spa-like environment by a licensed medical professional either by normal IV or nasal injection through a product named Spravato. Individual sessions typically last between 45 and 90 minutes (depending on dosing) with the peak Ketamine experience lasting a couple of hours. A

day or two after treatment, while the body is still experiencing the effects of the treatment, it's best to meet with a psychiatrist to better process the experience which aids in the healing process. Ketamine often opens new pathways in the mind and as a result it's during these one-on-one sessions that often meaningful breakthroughs occur.

As with so many other things in life, finding the right partner makes all the difference. With Ketamine, choosing the right treatment center sets the patient at ease and greatly increases the chances of positive outcomes. Brain Health Restoration of Illinois (BHR) was founded on a very simple, but often lost, principle of putting the patient first. BHR believes so strongly in Ketamine education and sharing the TRUTH about Ketamine that we are happy to supply you with a book, free of charge, so you can begin making decisions for your mental health based on facts and your personal needs, not from the latest Hollywood breaking news.

For your free Ketamine book please email info@BHRIllinois.com and visit BHRIllinois.com to learn more about the newest premier mental health clinic in the Chicago area. Brain Health Restoration of Illinois is located at One National Plaza, 1111 N. Plaza Drive, Suite 101, in Schaumburg.



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UP FRONT LIVING & GIVING









LET IT BE US

PHOTOGRAPHY BY IAN MCLEOD

Let It Be Us hosted an unforgettable evening celebrating its 10th anniversary at the Be Mine Gala on Friday, May 10. Emceed by Dave McKinney of WBEZ-FM, who is a licensed foster parent, and held at Walden Chicago, a beautiful event space in Chicago's West Town neighborhood, the gala brought together approximately 250 people for dinner and drinks, a live auction, entertainment by teen singers from After School Matters, and an awards presentation. Let It Be Us honored longtime board members Elizabeth Felice and Doug Locke for their unwavering service and support. Proceeds from the evening will enable Let It Be Us to innovate within the Illinois child welfare system by recruiting and training foster families and placing children into the right home, the first time. letitbeus.org









UP FRONT | LIVING & GIVING









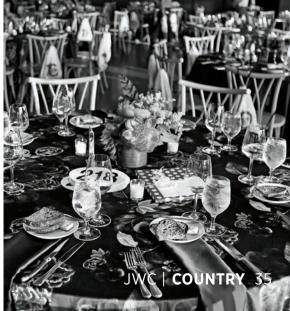












UP FRONT LIVING & GIVING







BRAIN HEALTH RESTORATION GRAND OPENING

PHOTOGRAPHY BY IAN MCLEOD

The newest premier mental health care and wellness clinic, offering innovative treatments like Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS), (Personalized Magnetic Stimulation PrTMS), Clinical Psychiatry, Ketamine, Spravato, and Optimal Wellness therapies, opened its doors in Schaumburg with a spirited ribbon cutting. Co-founders Terry R. Yormark II, Karen Todd, and Thomas Lavin IV welcomed guests into the modern space where patients struggling with anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, sleep disorders, autism, traumatic brain injuries/concussions, as well as those looking for peak mental and athletic performance, can see providers for individualized care. bhrillinois.com





Arvin Sarathy, Sarina Jeswani

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MCs of the night-Lauren

Klauer, Ethan Baumfeld



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LIZZ ESBROOK

Barrington Youth and Family Services (BYFS) would like to say thank you from the depths of the sea to all their supporters and donors. Because of their generosity, this organization can continue to be the lifeline that many community members depend on. BYFS surpassed their goal of \$300,000 and raised \$489,760. These funds will allow BYFS to subsidize counseling for those who otherwise wouldn't have access to mental health services while also expanding their outreach programming to the community. With their building expansion, they will be able to help more community members, making these funds that much more critical.





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The Village of Rosemont kicks off its summer lineup with a little something for everyone.

WORDS BY LEA GUCCIONE / PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF VILLAGE OF ROSEMONT

t's that time of year—the evenings are long, the weather is warm, and school is almost out. Those in the know are likely headed for a day trip to the Village of Rosemont, where the town's entertainment district was designed to suit the summer.

With a lineup of free events, fireworks, an unbeatable concert series, and more, Rosemont's Parkway Bank Park entertainment district has something, quite literally, for everyone. The district has been expanding on its impressive summer attractions for more than a decade and, best of all, it's easily accessible from I-90 and I-294—only a 30-to-45-minute drive from the Barrington area.

"We always thought we'd want to have this gathering spot that's a turf park in the summertime and an ice-skating rink in the wintertime," says Mayor Brad Stephens, one of the creative minds behind the district's inception and the town's mayor of 17 years. "We're creating great attractions not only for our residents but people around the region who come here—and when they come here, they want to have good time."

The marquee event of summer is the village's Rockin' in the Park concerts series. Running from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, Rockin' in the Park hosts free outdoor concerts every Thursday and select Friday nights at 7 p.m. The music is headlined by classic cover bands and coupled with food and beverage tents right near the Park's great lawn.

"Families come out, bring their lawn chairs and enjoy the music, and the kids get to run around because it's turf," says Mayor Stephens. Consider coming out on a Thursday night, when each concert ends with a must-see fireworks display.

When the music breaks, Fitness in the Park steps in with free yoga, Zumba, and PowHerhouse classes on the Park's expansive lawn. Beginning on June 9, classes are held on Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays and are open to all skill levels.

For families, there is no shortage of summer fun. Two of the town's biggest attractions are the Athletes Unlimited women's softball games and Chicago Dogs' baseball at Impact Field. "That team

leads the league in attendance, and every year it grows incrementally," says Mayor Stephens. "It's tremendous family fun."

Even more entertainment is around the corner at the Allstate Arena Rosemont Theatre and Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. Upcoming events include the Illinois Bridal & Wedding Expo at the Convention Center on June 9, and at the Allstate Arena: AJR on June 29 and July 3, Chicago and Earth, Wind & Fire on July 12, and Jennifer Lopez on July 26.

"We're only two and a half square miles over here, so you could attend an event at the convention center, walk through the parking garage, and end up at the entertainment district—it's very walkable," says Mayor Stephens.

And last, but not least, the outlets—Rosemont's Fashion Outlets of Chicago are a highlight of the town's offerings and home to more than 130 retailers. The list is long, but popular stores include lululemon, Gucci, Nike, and Aritzia, with recent additions like Sandro, Vuori, Marc Jacobs, 7 for All Mankind, and more.

As for the Mayor, who joyfully states that his most important title is "Dad" over Mayor, he'll be out there with his family to enjoy it all.

"My daughter likes going to the softball games, I like going out to the Dogs games," he shares. "My 11-year-old son is a huge AJR fan, and we have AJR coming to the Allstate arena for two shows this summer, so you know where I'll be."

To see the full calendar of events in the Village of Rosemont this summer, visit rosemont.com.







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732 Prairie Avenue Barrington \$465,000 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 2.5 Car Garage



728 Prairie Avenue Barrington \$425,000 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 1 Car Garage





arrington Hills native Loren Jaynes is living her dream life, just in a new way. A stay-athome mom to three boys, the avid tennis player enjoyed volunteering at Countryside Elementary School, served on the board of Barrington's Kaleidoscope Art School, and worked out with her friends at Pure Barre in Deer Park.

But now, her dream life has a new focus—Nékter Juice Bar. "Giving back means a lot to me," Jaynes says. "Our community is so powerful when it comes together."

And it's this power that she now witnesses everyday as the co-owner of Nékter Juice Bar of Barrington with husband Brandon Jaynes. "I've always been drawn to health and wellness," explains Jaynes. "Growing up, my mom juiced and made protein smoothies for us daily. Plus, entrepreneurship is in my blood. My great grandfather started Morkes Chocolates over 100 years ago, and my Aunt Rhonda is still running it! Nékter seemed a natural fit while also creating a legacy for my family."

The first of its kind in the state of Illinois, Nékter Juice Bar opened at 125 S. Hough Street in Barrington in March of 2022 and provides the community with plant-based, healthy food options that promote and support various lifestyles and diet preferences.

"It's hard to be healthy, but it's really hard to be unhealthy," she explains. "You get to choose your hard. Every day, it's about choices—how much sleep you get, what you read and listen to, and who you surround yourself with. But one of the important choices one makes is the choice of what food or drink you put in your body."

But make no mistake, Nékter Juice Bar isn't your ordinary juice bar.

"I really wanted Nékter (Juice Bar) to become this community space..."

"We're a juice bar, but we're not just a juice bar," explains Jaynes. "We're a real and authentic juice bar. We offer fresh juices, acai bowls, handcrafted smoothies, and superfood oats, as well as healthy 'grab and go' options. Our authenticity shines through as we handcraft everything to order, including our housemade cashew milk."

In addition to the health-conscious items on the menu, Nékter Juice Bar also provides Barrington an essential space for people to gather. "I really wanted Nékter (Juice Bar) to become this community space where families could go after games or people could host meetings and work," explains Jaynes, who first became aware of the Nékter Juice Bar franchise during a trip to Arizona a few years back. "That's why our store is one of the biggest Nékter Juice Bars out there."

And yes, since opening two years ago, Jaynes says that Nékter

Juice Bar has established a vibrant customer base.

"Our customers become repeat customers," says Jaynes, a graduate of Purdue University and a former interior designer. "This is a part of their lifestyle. They stop in before they step on the train or after a workout. And of course, it's a perfect place to get an after-school treat! When people come in, we know everybody by name. We know what they're loving."

Indeed, a current customer favorite is the PB&J Açaí bowl, which includes natural ingredients such as organic açaí, strawberry, blueberry, banana, and housemade cashew milk. It's then blended and topped with housemade peanut butter chia pudding, fresh strawberries, peanut butter granola, a peanut butter drizzle, and housemade chia jam.

Jaynes also believes in educating the customers of Nékter Juice Bar about what they should be loving, especially new customers looking for suggestions as to what to order. "There are a lot of fast-food smoothie shops out there, so it's actually about educating people that we are not a fast-food smoothie shop," says Jaynes. "We offer 'Lunch and Learns' every Friday with different nonprofits and businesses or anyone in the health and wellness for this exact reason—to teach people about health and bring community together."

Nékter Juice Bar recently debuted a new app, allowing customers to preorder their favorite items ahead of time. "It's all about educating people about ingredients, and how a fresh menu restaurant works," explains Jaynes. "You will sometimes have to wait a little longer for your items. It's a fresh menu. It's not fast food."

Jaynes lets out a laugh, because while clearing up misconceptions is a part of a job, it's a job she loves.



And so does her family.

"My oldest son is going to be in high school next year, and he actually works in the store," remarks Jaynes, who plans to expand the business in the region when the time is right. "This might be one of our favorite parts of owning a business, because what he is learning is just invaluable. There is nothing like it but being a business owner is not for the faint of heart. This has been the most amazing learning lesson, and I'm only saying amazing now because I'm coming out on the other side of it."

Nekter Juice Bar is located at 125 South Hough Street in downtown Barrington. For more information, visit nekterjuicebar.com.



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Summer Blooms

Soil & Spade's Heather Moister brings her passion for beautiful plants right to your doorstep as she shares tips for how you can make showstopping summer containers.

WORDS BY ANN MARIE SCHEIDLER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY IAN MCLEOD
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY LEANNA ERNEST
STYLING BY THERESA DEMARIA

all. That's my favorite season," says Crystal Lake's Soil & Spade owner Heather Moister. "You know why? Because spring is a growing season. When we're installing our pots in the spring, plants are still small and mostly green. But when we create our pots in the fall, our plants have had all summer to grow—all of that wonderful heat—and that fills them up with the most beautiful colors. So, if I have to pick one season to be my favorite, it's fall. But all of the others are close behind!"

Spoken like a true plant lover who has spent most of her life working with them. After holding a part-time job in a garden center as a teenager, Moister headed off to Iowa State to study horticulture. But not long into her program, Moister realized she loved working with people as much as the plants and switched gears to pursue a career that would allow her to do both.

"I graduated from college and returned to the garden center and became a perennial buyer for them," she recalls. "I eventually became the general manager. My experience at the garden center has had a huge impact on what I'm doing today."

Several years later, Moister combined her creative energies and her plant know-how to begin designing custom floral containers from her garage. Soon, Moister was so busy that she built a team to help with the floral work. Thus, Soil & Spade, part retail space and part custom on-site container installers, was born.

"Our work is obviously very seasonal," she explains. "We have four, four-week periods that are crazy busy. There are five of us who work at Soil & Spade. Soil & Spade is a woman-owned and operated business. Among the five of us, we do all the installation and staff the retail shop where people can come and shop our collection of indoor plants, indoor and outdoor planters, or anything you might need to care for your plants. The retail shop also allows us to have a space to hold workshops or small events during the time of the year when it's quieter for us. All of us who work at Soil & Spade have a passion for what we do."

Moister and her team can work with clients in any way they're most comfortable—whether it's delivering indoor trees or installing outdoor planters. When building beautiful containers, Moister has four guidelines she adheres to.

- 1. Pick the right plants. "It's important to choose plants that will thrive in the growing conditions you have, considering the amount of sunlight, temperature, and moisture your plants will encounter."
- Have a good soil mix. "There is a recipe for the right soil mix for your container. This is so important. With the wrong soil, your plants won't thrive."







- 3. Focus on texture and shape over color. "People get too caught up in choosing colors. A really stunning container will have a variety of textures and shapes—clusters, seedy flower, etc. Mixing these will make your pot more interesting. If you get this right, you can introduce any color and it will work."
- **4.** Foliage makes the difference. "Sometimes I'll have a client ask me to leave out the green and I'll gently push back. The greens set the stage for the flowers—it's amazing what the leafy color will do."

Years of experience has allowed Moister to develop an expertise in the correct scale of containers for a home or business.

"It's the worst to show up to a client's home who has purchased planters that aren't appropriate for the space," she says. "My team is happy to make suggestions on what is best. We now have a new line of fiberglass pots at the shop that are finished in a matte automotive paint that is weatherproof. Our containers can even be color matched to the trim of your house."

Moister says that floral design closely follows current interior design trends. "Many of our clients like all white to mirror the clean, minimal looks of their interiors," she says. "Greens are having a moment, too. But I've also loved some of the boho-chic elements that have been popping up—fuzzy pampas plumes, cinnamon-vanilla colorways, antiquey shades. It's all so good! Can you tell that I love what I do?"

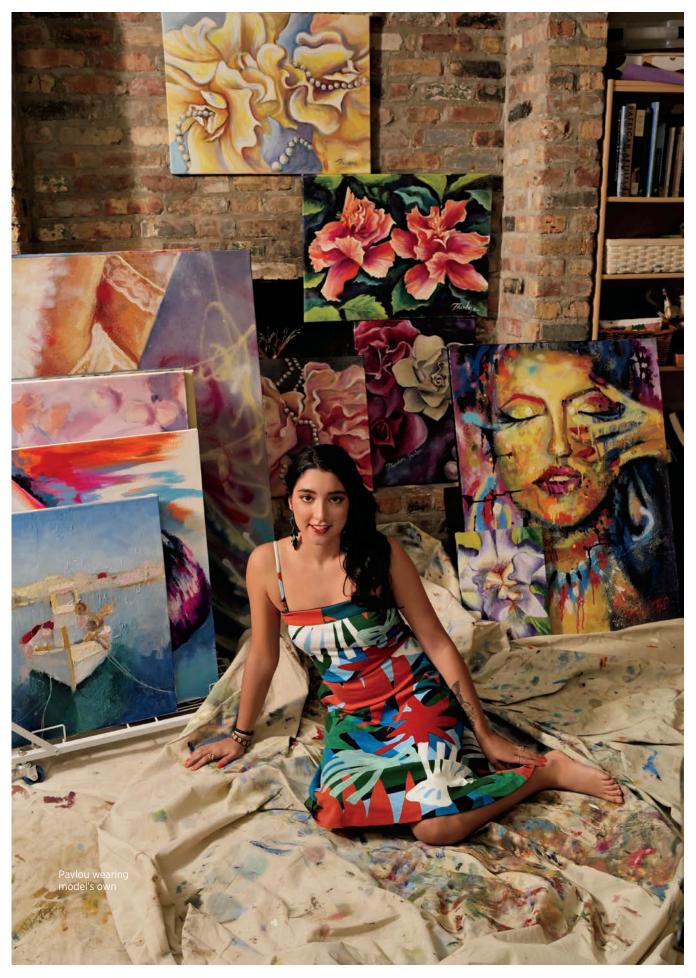
To learn more about the services Soil & Spade provide or to find out their retail store hours, visit soilandspade.com.



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BEYOND THE CANVAS

Artist Theodora Pavlou's lifelong pursuit of art yields treasures in the classroom and in the studio.

WORDS BY TRICIA DESPRES / PHOTOGRAPHY BY RUNVIJAY PAUL
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY LEANNA ERNEST / STYLING BY THERESA DEMARIA

n first glance, the story of artist Theodora
Pavlou plays out as beautifully as the colors
the artist paints on her canvas.

"I was born in Athens, Greece, and I came
to the States when I was 4," the Kildeer-based
visionary shares. "I actually took classes at
Mainstreet Art Center in Lake Zurich when I was a teen, and
my art teacher there recommended that I pursue art."

And so, she did.

But the path to where Pavlou stands today has been a long and winding one—one that has taken her from the Art Institute of Chicago, to teaching elementary school art classes in Crystal Lake, to traveling this past summer to her homeland as the featured artist in three ultra-successful art shows.

And this summer, Pavlou will make a return visit to southeastern Europe known best for its rich history, luscious landscapes, and thriving art scene.

"I'm planning on doing not as many shows as last year, but rather more plein air painting," says Pavlou, who received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Arts Education from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and currently works part-time at Guardian Angel Orthodox Day School in Des Plaines. "I work from observing life. Outside, I paint landscapes or still life. And if I want to get more of a concept, I usually sketch, and it becomes a little bit more surreal."

Indeed, Pavlou's journey with art has gone from painting for fun in the basement of her childhood home with her three older siblings to leaning on it for the betterment of her mental health.

"I wasn't the best student because I had learning disabilities growing up," she recalls. "In fifth grade, I had a reading level of a second grader. So, I had a tutor growing up and to help me understand more, she would read a story, I would color, and then we would switch. In high school, art for me was more for escapism. If I was grounded, I would just draw all my frustrations out on paper."

Leaning on what art provides her, and what it has provided to countless artists before her, has certainly helped Pavlou keep life's challenges in perspective.

"My great uncle, who passed away last year, was a painter," she remembers. "He has a house in southern Greece, and I remember when I visited his house there, I went into his studio, and I got emotional. He had this really nice view of the village, and he would paint on his balcony and I thought, 'I want a space like this."

One of his paintings now hangs in Pavlou's studio.

"My dad's side is gifted artistically," Pavlou continues. "My dad's sister has nine kids, and they all live in Greece and all of them are musical. They play instruments or they sing, or they're music teachers. My sister also did a lot of ceramic work and sculptures. I was always more into drawing and painting, and my brother did some drawings."

And while Pavlou says she knows that her inner desire to create art will continue to fuel the days ahead of her, she is much like every other creative person in this high-tech world, just trying to find their worthy place.

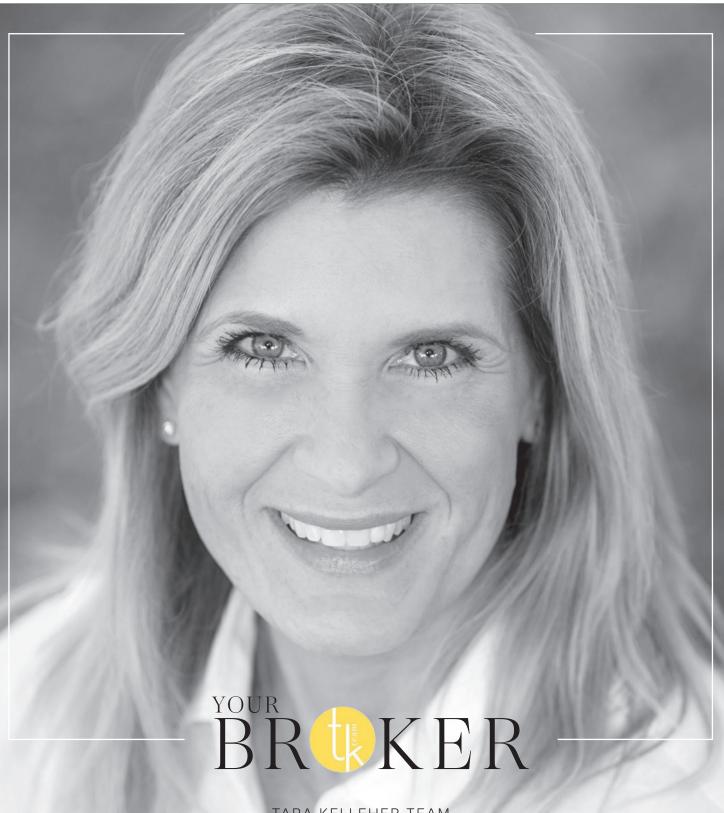
But her dreams are many.

"My dream is to have a gallery where I can just show my work and show other artists' work," Pavlou explains. "What's nice about teaching is we do get our summers off, so I'm always free to go to Greece, see my family, swim in the salt water, and soak in the sun."

Her experiences fuel creations that become treasures to others. "I have clients I've met through the gym or just through word of mouth," Pavlou says. "The latest commission I did was for a neighbor who wanted a painting for her house. I also have a client who comes over and just picks what she likes. I always like to see what other people love."

For more information or to commission your own art, contact Theodora Pavlou at artisttheodorapavlou@gmail.com.





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Raspberry Blackberry Lattice Crust Pie

WORDS, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND FOOD STYLING BY MONICA KASS ROGERS

y husband, Todd, loves tart berries. Black-berries and raspberries picked in the wild are his favorite and he enjoys store-bought the rest of the year. On yogurt, cereal, or simply by the handful, the berries brighten his every day. But with Todd traveling and a berry surplus on my hands, I decided to make this pie for his homecoming. Not too sweet, bursting with flavor and cradled in a flaky butter crust, this pie is (dare I say it?) berry, berry good.

It's OK to vary the ratio—using more of one berry or the other is fine. To round out the filling, you'll just add lemon, sugar, a pinch

of salt, and a thickener to help the juices set up. Cornstarch is most peoples' go-to for the thickener, but I like tapioca starch which is made from the cassava root and gives the filling a translucent sheen, compared with corn starch, which has a cloudier finish.

To showcase the lovely filling, do try to make a butter crust from scratch. The flavor and texture are so much better than store bought. My method, rolling the chilled dough between sheets of plastic wrap, unsticks things. You can vary the lattice top to your liking, leaving more, or less space between the weave. And, if you'd like a little more help, visit King Arthur Baking's lattice top guide at kingarthurbaking.com/blog/2021/07/01/how-to-make-a-lattice-pie-crust.

1, 9-INCH DOUBLE CRUST PIE

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE FILLING

- 6 cup mixture of raspberries and blackberries rinsed and dried, leaves discarded
- 10 Tbsp tapioca starch OR 5 Tbsp corn starch
- 2/3 cup confectioner's sugar
- Zest and juice from one fresh lemon
- 1/4 tsp salt

FOR THE DOUBLE CRUST

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 tsp sugar
- 2 sticks (1 cup) very cold butter
- 4 to 5 Tbsp ice cold milk or cream (OR evaporated milk)

FOR THE EGGWASH AND SUGAR SPRINKLE

- 1 large egg beaten with 2 tsp milk
- 1 tsp turbinado sugar

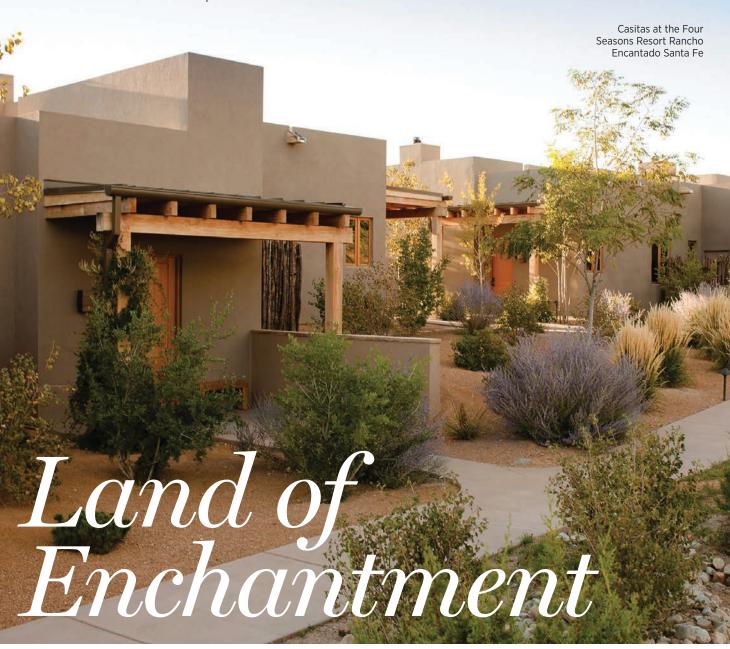
METHOD

MAKE PIE CRUSTS Place flour, salt, and sugar into a sifter; sift into a large, wide bowl. Cut butter into small pieces over flour. Using two knives, your fingertips, or a pastry cutter, cut butter into flour until mixture resembles wet sand with some pea-sized bits of butter still in it. Stir milk (or cream) into the flour mixture one tablespoon at a time until the dough clumps. Spread clean work surface with two pieces of overlapping plastic wrap to make a large square. Scoop dough onto the plastic wrap. Pulling the corners of the plastic wrap square up and around the dough, gently squeeze and gather the dough into a ball. Divide ball in half. Flatten each ball into a disk and wrap each disk in plastic wrap. Refrigerate dough for 30 minutes.

PREPARE FILLING While the dough chills, prepare the filling. Place the rinsed/dried/picked over berries in a large bowl. Add tapioca starch, powdered sugar, salt, lemon zest, and lemon juice. Gently stir, being careful not to crush the berries. Set aside.

ASSEMBLE PIE Set oven rack to lowest position. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place two overlapping sheets of plastic wrap on clean work surface. Remove one of the dough disks from fridge and center on the wrap. Cover dough disk with another two sheets of plastic and roll out dough between the plastic into 10-inch circle. Remove top sheets of plastic. Flip dough disk over a 9-inch pie dish. Remove remaining plastic. Ease dough into dish, leaving a 1-inch dough overhang. Place pie dish in fridge. Make another large square of plastic wrap on work surface. Roll out second disk of dough. Using a pie-wheel or sharp knife, cut dough circle into long strips about 1-inch wide. Remove pie dish from fridge. Fill dough with berry mixture. Loosely drape half of the lattice strips over the filling, top to bottom. Going the other direction, weave remaining half of the strips over and under the placed strips to make a lattice top. Fold bottom dough edge over the lattice crust edge. Roll and crimp to make a decorative rim all around. Brush with egg wash. Sprinkle with turbinado sugar.

BAKE PIE Bake pie in lower 1/4 of oven at 400 degrees for 1 hour until the filling is bubbling thickly up through the lattice. If the top of the pie begins to brown too quickly, tent with foil. Remove pie from oven. Rest to cool a bit on a rack. Slice and serve on its own, or with a slosh of heavy cream or ice cream.



A weekend getaway at Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado in Santa Fe, New Mexico

WORDS BY MEGAN WEISBERG / PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY FOUR SEASONS RESORT RANCHO ENCANTADO

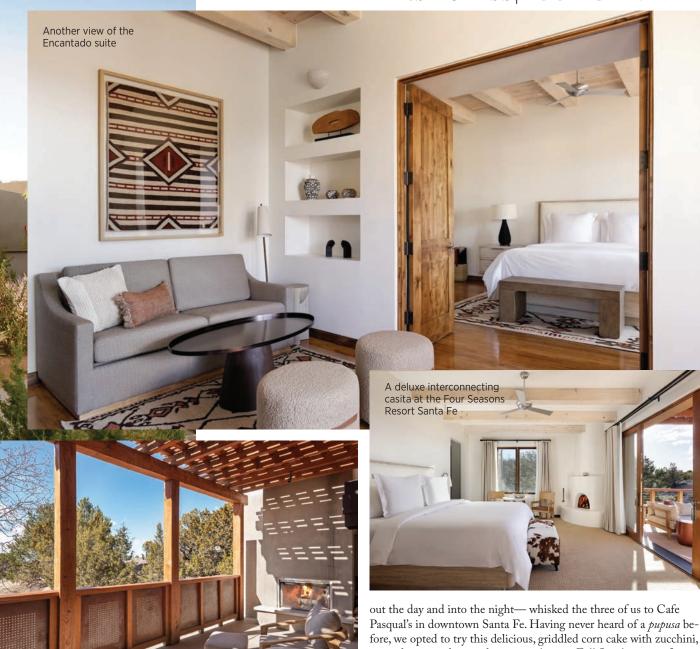
y parents are avid collectors of Native
American jewelry, and during my childhood
would return from trips to New Mexico
with gifts of turquoise jewelry for myself
and my sisters. While I have always treasured these pieces, it wasn't until a recent
weekend at Santa Fe's Four Seasons Resort
Rancho Encantado that I truly understood the captivating charm of
the high desert.

When I arrived at the tiny Santa Fe airport, the snow-capped Rocky Mountains presented a magnificent backdrop to the shiny town car and friendly driver the resort had sent to retrieve me and

my luggage. Twenty minutes later we arrived at the luxury boutique resort, which is situated on 57 rolling acres in the Sangre de Cristo foothills.

Comprised of 65 intimate casitas, the property recently underwent a multimillion-dollar revitalization. The new pueblo-inspired design elegantly blends modern elements with timeless style. My casita was exactly what one would envision for a glorious weekend stay in Santa Fe. Wood beams traversed the ceiling, and a conical-shaped adobe wood-burning fireplace graced a corner. Sliding glass doors opened to a huge private patio dotted with lounge chairs that were ideal for reading books, savoring a cup of coffee, or just sitting and thinking (or not). Thoughtful details abounded: radiant bathroom

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floor heating; a humidifier to battle the high-desert dryness; and the chicest welcome tray full of chocolates.

A casita's relaxing

private patio

As my two good friends who would be joining me for the weekend were still en-route, I set out to explore the resort. The property's groomed pathways invited meandering while wagon wheel wood rocking chairs beckoned me to sit and, well, just stop for a moment. The true beauty of Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado is allowing you to just be—a rarity in our busy lives.

When my friends arrived, we toasted our first sunset of the weekend from the restaurant's perfectly placed outdoor terrace. We raised our glasses high as the sky turned a fiery orange color—a spectacular burn-out before the sun dipped behind the Jemez Mountains and night fell.

For our first dinner of the weekend, we decided to venture off campus. The resort shuttle—which conveniently runs through-

out the day and into the night— whisked the three of us to Cafe Pasqual's in downtown Santa Fe. Having never heard of a *pupusa* before, we opted to try this delicious, griddled corn cake with zucchini, roasted corn, and roasted tomato-jalapeño. Full Southwestern flavors continued throughout our meal with the *cochinita pibi*l, a traditional Mexican pulled pork dish, served Yucatán style: a pork shoulder slow-cooked in an achiote-orange marinade, wrapped in a banana leaf, and served with tortillas, habanero pink onions, and tostones.

The next morning, after sipping a coffee while admiring the spectacular mountain view, our group headed to the resort's spacious full-service spa, which is uniquely situated on a spiritual vortex. I opted to try the Spiritual Journey treatment—a guided journey of peace and enlightenment. It began with a sage smudging ceremony to clear unsettled energy followed by a nutrient-rich adobe clay wrap. The infinitely relaxing experience concluded with a chakra-balancing massage to reset my mind, body, and spirit. After our treatments, we retreated to our private spa courtyard, complete with a sauna and hot tub, to admire the azure sky.

In addition to indulgent spa days, the resort offers a bevy of activities. Guests can experience daily hikes, yoga, culinary demonstrations, and inspiring adventure tours customized by the on-site Adventure Center, like the one-of-a-kind e-bike tour, available exclusively to resort guests, through the Valles Caldera National



Preserve—a 14-mile-wide circular depression created by a spectacular volcanic eruption about 1.2 million years ago.

We had requested a serious hike that offered an opportunity to experience New Mexico's unique culture, so our group set off into the wilderness accompanied by a knowledgeable Adventure Center guide. On the way to Bandelier National Monument, our



guide urged us to grab natural pumice stones from the hills while he educated us on the geological history of this magical land. Over a million years ago, two massive volcanic eruptions covered this area with hundreds of feet of tuff or compacted volcanic ash. The tuff that cooled quickly became very crumbly, while the debris that took hundreds of years to cool became compact. From this crumbly, porous-feeling material, the indigenous people of this land built the most magnificent village of dwellings.

Carved into the rocks, four stories high and four rooms deep with wooden beams for ceilings, these homes were accessible by ladder. We were able to explore these dwellings—climbing up ladders, sitting inside the rooms, and noticing the almost black ceilings, a result of fires burned inside the rooms to seal the dust. High above the dwellings, we spied a carving of a sun. Every year on December 21st, the winter solstice, the setting sun perfectly aligns with this beautiful carving. The genius of this lost civilization was the prime topic of our conversation while we enjoyed a picnic-style lunch prepared by the resort's chef.

Following lunch, we undertook an invigorating hike on the Middle Alamo trail toward Yapashi and the Shrine of the Stone Lions—one made even more magnificent by the thunderhead clouds looming above us. Thankfully, clear skies held and when we reached the top, yet another glorious mountain range came into view. Our guide led us through some yoga stretches that served to both counteract the rigors of the hike and as a pause to admire the natural

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The gorgeous

resort entrance

After a vigorous afternoon, it was heaven to dip into the resort's hot tub followed by a signature cocktail on my casita's private patio. Dinner at Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado's signature restaurant, Terra, featuring regional delights with global influences, followed. We started off dinner with a hearty corn chowder and a zesty halibut ceviche. For our entrée, we paired the most refreshing Sancerre with bison (a first for me and absolutely delicious). The side dishes sounded so scrumptious that we indulged and ordered each one: green chile mac and cheese; charred avocado; crispy Brussels sprouts; and the most intricately layered potato dish. The potato is peeled, then each paper-thin layer is dipped in duck fat before layering it together with a chive chimichurri. Dessert was a s'more kit that we enjoyed over the wood-burning fire the resort had thoughtfully lit at my casita. After an eventful day, the crackling of the fire

made for the most soothing of lullabies.

On our last day, we explored Santa Fe's charming downtown. Breakfast was a stop at Mille to sample their perfectly flavorful and flaky croissants (traditional and brown sugar) followed by a stroll down Canyon Road where we popped in and out of art galleries and shops. The most delightful boutiques and restaurants are every which way you turn, and the time flew way too fast as we took our time perusing all the New Mexican artistry (woven baskets, rugs, pottery, Georgia O'Keefe). Coming full circle, I paid homage to memories of my parents' childhood gifts while browsing the magnificent wares of the indigenous jewelers.

If you revere cultural marvels, admire sweeping landscapes, and delight in culinary gems, choose Santa Fe as your next vacation destination and Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado as your luxurious home base.

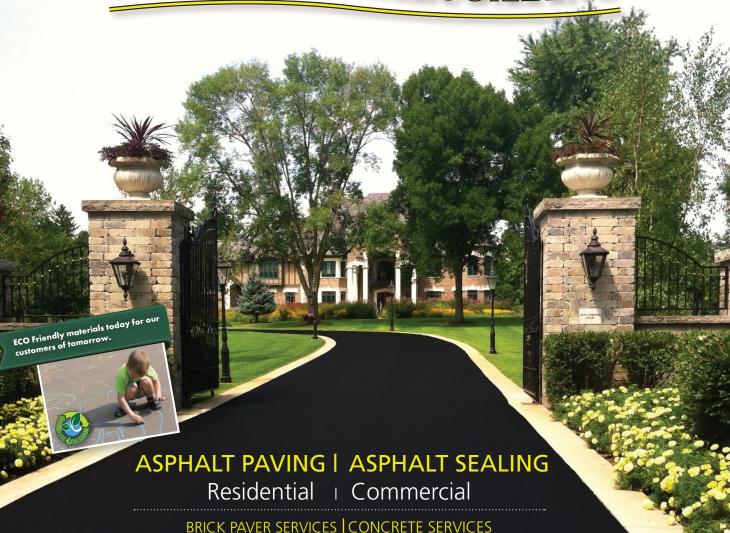
For more information and to book your next trip, visit fourseasons. com/santafe.



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From a penthouse property in Dubai to a former hotel in the English countryside to a $Barrington\ Hills$ estate, all available for close to \$3 million.

WORDS BY MEGAN WEISBERG

LUXURY OFFERINGS | HOUSE & HOME





LIV LUX, DUBAI MARINA \$2.73 million

The Details: 4 bedrooms, 6 baths • 3,306 square feet, \$825 per square foot • 24-hour white glove valet and concierge services available; fully furnished option available **Contact:** Engel & Völkers, Palm Jumeirah, Dubai, +971 4 4223500

his stunning apartment features an open-plan living and dining area, a top-of-the-line kitchen, staff quarters, and a balcony offering stunning Palm Jumeirah and Al Ain views. All four bedrooms have ensuite bathrooms, walk-in

closets, and breathtaking views. Residents can access the on-site beauty salon, residents lounge, cinema room, conference room, gym, and spa. The stunning terrace has an infinity pool that overlooks the sea.

HOUSE & HOME | LUXURY OFFERINGS







GREAT MISSENDEN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE \$2.738 million ENGLAND

The Details: 6 bedrooms, 3 baths • 7,464 square feet, \$366 per square foot • 2.66 acres, tennis court **Contact:** Hamptons, +44 (0)20 7493 8222, prime@hamptons.co.uk

uilt around 1850, this property was once a hotel. Its many wonderful amenities include an indoor swimming pool with a hot tub and approximately 3 acres of gorgeous gardens. The home's entry opens to the generous reception

hall leading to the main kitchen, a separate dining room with an open fireplace, and a guest cloakroom. The breakfast room adjoins the kitchen and overlooks the gardens.

LUXURY OFFERINGS | HOUSE & HOME







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11 MOATE LANE \$2.62 million

BARRINGTON HILLS

The Details: 5 bedrooms, 5 baths • 6,528 square feet, \$400 per square foot • 5.11 acre lot **Contact:** David Riano, Worth Clark Realty, 331-645-0525

racticing the art of relaxation has never been easier in this backyard sanctuary featuring a saltwater pool, hot tub, and landscaped gardens. An outdoor kitchen and firepit offer endless options for al fresco entertainment.

With unrivaled amenities including a heated garage for six cars and equestrian facilities, this extraordinary property offers the epitome of refined living, all within reach of town amenities for the ultimate blend of seclusion and convenience.

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DIVORCE WITHOUT COURT: ARBITRATION

Even the most contentious divorce cases can be resolved outside of court. In a divorce arbitration, the parties agree to jointly retain a third party such as a family law attorney or former judge to hear the evidence and decide the issues in their divorce outside of the public courtrooms. Arbitration of family law cases is common in other states such as California where it is often chosen by celebrities and high-profile individuals as an alternative to traditional litigation. Given the average divorce case can last 1-2 years or more in Court, arbitration offers an expedited solution. Unlike litigation, which often involves lengthy court backlogs and delays, arbitration allows parties to set their own schedules and select convenient dates for hearings. This flexibility ensures that cases can be resolved in a timely manner, allowing families to move forward with their lives and reduce the emotional strain associated with prolonged legal battles. Family law cases frequently encounter "emergency" disputes that need immediate attention, which is not always available through the court system. In arbitration, emergency matters can be promptly addressed, argued, and decided by the selected arbitrator without having to interrupt or compete with the other scheduled matters in court.

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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BUY LOCAL-ONLINE

Fresh Picks delivers fresh, locally sourced food to Barrington-area doorsteps.

WORDS BY MITCH HURST / ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT RISKO

n 2006, the husband-and-wife team of Irv Cernauskas and Shelly Herman founded Fresh Picks, an online store delivering groceries to customers' doorsteps. While the grocery delivery service Peapod preceded Fresh Picks (and Instacart would come along six years later), the couple's business model had a distinctly regional flair.

Over time, they developed relationships with independent farms across the Midwest that provided produce, dairy products, meat, and other staples. The idea, says Benjamin Harrison, a veteran of the food industry who purchased Fresh Picks in 2021, is to build up local suppliers by meeting consumer's growing demand to buy local food.

Harrison says Fresh Picks was initially more of an online farmers market that provided an outlet for local growers to sell their products online as they would in the open air. Now, however, the business has evolved into an online marketplace where individuals and families can get most, if not all, of what they need every week.

"We are a platform for fresh, local, and healthy food," Harrison says. The fact that Chicago is in the upper Midwest, one of the most robust food systems in the world, makes it a perfect hub for a business such as Fresh Picks."

"We talk to a lot of consumers and when they think of a farmers

market they think of produce," observes Harrison. "Yet, we look at it from the entire perspective of grocery. All the major categories of food are grown, produced, or raised in our area, so what once was an online farmers market has now evolved into a personalized, curated grocery service."

Fresh Picks works not only with ranchers and farmers but also chefs, brewers, and manufacturers. The company seeks to offer everything its customers might want in their grocery baskets.

"Fresh Picks is a self-contained operation," says Harrison. "We manage our own supply chain, source everything ourselves, and have it delivered to us locally. Our employees pack orders six days a week, and our drivers deliver six days a week."

Harrison says as he and the Fresh Picks team grow the business, he plans on broadening it to offer an even deeper assortment of products. The company currently delivers to more than 180 zip codes in the Chicago region, including Barrington, and processes a few hundred orders a day, give or take.

"We want to be a powerful engine that benefits the local economy," Harrison explains.

Visit freshpicks.com to place an order or to learn more.







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