

JUNE 2021

# Glenview

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**J**une! This June! 2021 June! There are so many memories of prior June's running through my mind, all fun, happy, exciting, and with so much love. I am finally looking forward to each day and future days. The sun and warmth feel wonderful. Walking the streets seeing maskless smiles is very encouraging as our return to normal is upon us. This will be Glenview's best summer! Amiright? Everyone outside filling tables al fresco throughout our town. Perhaps you will recognize our cover family out and about.

June's cover features Dan and Jean Thompson, the owners of DDK Kitchen Design Group, with locations in both Wilmette and Glenview. I for one, am looking forward to a re-do on the kitchen that we have after we downsize! They do absolutely amazing work and you can see it at their showrooms. That's my teaser. Enjoy.



**Beth and Harlan**

Thanks to all the amazing women across the NorthShore who are featured in our Women in Business feature, including our own PJ Weiland and Terese Wallen!

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## Your Kitchen is Your Gathering Place

***DDK Kitchen Design Group is a Design + Build Firm***

By Paul Clements ♦ Photos by Sari Pina

**S**ince the beginning of time, the kitchen has been the primary gathering place. The controlled use of fire for heat, light, safety, and of course, to cook food goes back to our earliest ancestors. And, while archaeol-

ogists have yet to pinpoint the exact, time, place or way the first humans were able to control fire, there is archaeological evidence of hearths found in caves in South Africa going all the way back to the Neanderthal.





Just like society, the kitchen has evolved dramatically since then, but its basic form and function has stayed the same. It is the primary place for the preparation of food and for people to come together to share it. However, after a year under a pandemic, and after seeing so many kitchens in the background of Zoom meetings, people stuck at home began to rethink and reimagine their kitchens, and Wilmette's DDK Kitchen Design Group was there for them to bring their dreams to reality, and having just sold their 5000th kitchen, their experience and expertise is second to none.

"We specialize in medium to high-end kitchens," said Dan Thompson, who along with his wife Jean, is the co-owner of the DDK Kitchen Design Group. "Our designers work with clients to create their dream kitchens without breaking the budget. We bring expertise to cabinetry, appliances, countertops, lighting, sinks, and faucets. The design process begins with a visit to one of our showrooms. We'll talk about what the client is looking to accomplish, discuss needs versus desires, look at inspiration photos, and set expectations."

DDK's flagship showroom is in Glenview. They have been located there since 1978 and they have been using the same installation crews since the beginning. That's where they also showcase appliances from great brands like Wolf and Sub Zero. The Wilmette showroom was added to highlight the value DDK adds to the design equation.

"We've used ingenuity rather than a blank check to create beautiful, elegant kitchens that won't leave you with sticker shock," Thompson said. "We've been remodeling kitchens

*Continued on page 6*







on the North Shore since 1978. It started with my Mom and Dad in a small storefront along Waukegan Road. I joined the business in 1985. We moved our showroom to the corner of Waukegan and Glenview Roads in 1996. It was the old Huerbinger's Drug Store and I always wanted to take that space if it ever became available. We opened our second store in Wilmette in 2010 on the heels of the Great Recession. It's another former corner drugstore location. Buying a new kitchen is one of the few remaining businesses that still benefits from a brick and mortar store. People need to touch and feel the textures and see how nice the soft close drawers and doors work."

New kitchens have always fascinated people. Television is and has been a driving force for new kitchens and appliances. While game shows often featured appliances as prizes, cable TV and streaming services have taken it to the next level. *House Beautiful* ranked their favorite renovation shows on television and their list included 14 shows. Then social media came along and took it to a whole new level.

"Our business has changed completely in the last 40 years," Thompson said. "Kitchens used to be a rather dark area of the house to make meals and keep food refrigerated. It is now the epicenter of the home. People now entertain, congregate, debate and show off in their new kitchens. The passion for a new kitchen has grown tremendously over the years. HGTV has lit a fire with homeowners. Instagram, Pinterest, and

Houzz have become tools that homeowners are using for inspiration. Our designers work with clients to create unique kitchens that reflect their style. We coordinate everything, so our clients can enjoy putting their personal stamp on their home."

The DDK website (<https://ddkkitchens.com>) features three beautiful galleries to whet your appetite for a new kitchen:

- The "Painted Kitchen" shows you a clean, crisp, look of elegance and sophistication. At DDK, customers can use their imaginations and select any custom paint color— at no additional charge. Today, painted kitchens are popular in all styles of homes. From vintage, country farmhouses to the most elegant homes on Chicago's North Shore, painted kitchen cabinetry adds a unique beauty to any casual or formal home environment.
- The "Transitional Kitchen" is a marriage between traditional and contemporary design. Lines are simple yet sophisticated, featuring either straight lines or rounded profiles. The transitional approach to kitchen design is most appealing for those who desire to express their own, unique sense of style and personality. Working with your DDK Design Professional, you can achieve stunning results combining conservative, traditional and historical design with fresh, innovative contemporary style.
- The "Contemporary Kitchen" reflects a clean and modern



design, with sleek and simple hardware, strong horizontal lines, and an absence of ornamentation that allows the natural beauty of the design and materials to shine through. Cabinets feature beautiful, exotic veneers. European and Asian influences are often driving forces in the overall design... accompanied by modern, creative treatments that produce a simple yet striking look.

"We are pushing cabinet makers to bring more colors, finishes and door styles to the marketplace," Thompson said. "Cabinet manufacturers have broadened their color and door style selections. Stone suppliers are searching all over the world to find new materials for countertops. Appliance manufacturers have integrated new technologies to create beautiful, efficient cooking and refrigeration elements that perform beautifully. Combining two and three colors into a kitchen has become far more popular. We are mixing colors, metals, and materials to create one-of-a-kind spaces. Clients enjoy putting their personal stamp on their home."

Visit DDK Kitchen Design Group at:

**DDK – Wilmette Showroom**

400 Ridge Road Wilmette, Illinois 60091

**(847) 728-0823**

**DDK – Glenview Showroom**

1700 Glenview Road Glenview, Illinois 60025

**(847) 998-1552**

info@ddkkitchens.com, <https://ddkkitchens.com>

**Here's what we have learned in the last 42 years.**

1. Remodeling a kitchen is challenging and can be overwhelming. Kitchen designers help navigate the myriad of choices for cabinetry, countertops, appliances, sinks, faucets, and lighting.
2. A good designer is a problem solver that sees opportunities where others do not.
3. Your kitchen should reflect your life. Design your kitchen to best serve your family and lifestyle.
4. Don't worry about the next buyer of your house. Do it right and a new kitchen will be a great investment.
5. Don't worry about trends. Buy what you love.
6. Buying quality cabinetry is important. Wood boxes, dovetail drawers and soft close glides and hinges ensure your cabinetry will last.
7. We are selling a lot of white kitchens. It will always be in style. Don't worry. If you want white, we'll design the most beautiful white kitchen possible for your home.
8. Aging in place. We are seeing a huge influx of clients looking for ways to stay in their existing homes. They like the neighborhood, neighbors, and the local amenities. We are designing with larger walkways, lots and lots of additional lighting, setting appliances at comfortable heights, and specifying low maintenance materials for cabinets, countertops and flooring.
9. Remodeling your kitchen can be cathartic. Marie Kondo has shown us that oftentimes, less is more. This is a great time to eliminate clutter. Paring down on excess plates, glasses, coffee cups, and gadgets can bring a sense of lightness to your home.

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# North Shore Women in Business

By Paul Clements



**Anna Maria Viti-Welch President, The VITI Companies**

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?** This is my family's

business; growing up I was the oldest out of 6 kids, and I was always recruited during high school and college breaks to help out in the family business. I did earn a degree in education, but still came and worked for my dad during summers. The summer following my first year teaching, my dad asked me if I wanted to leave teaching and come work for him, and here I am 35 years later still loving it every day.

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** My family has been in the area since 1938, and my immediate family has lived in or near Highland Park all my life and still does. We are lucky to have many friends and business colleagues we have known through the years and there is a solid belief in shopping local and patronizing local businesses.

**What's something people don't know about you?** I adopted my daughter from Siberia in 2013! The process was not easy but still quicker than it is now especially with Russia. I was able to go to Siberia twice – that was very interesting, and I was able to come home with her the second time.

**How do you spend your time away from work?** I love exercising and being active, I enjoy time with my family, and I have 3 grandchildren between 1 and five years old! I really like to be involved with community issues, and helping entrepreneurs get their businesses off the ground. I am also deeply involved in working with my daughter and helping her navigate the path to independence.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?** I've been doing this for 35 years which sounds like a very long time, but it feels like just yesterday I was just starting out. I will always be deeply involved, especially with mentoring and nurturing the younger staff - I still have the fire and love coming to work every day - no retirement plans on the horizon for me!



**Beth McCormack Chicago Family Law Attorney, Beermann, LLP**

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?** I worked for a Judge

when I was in my early 20s who encouraged me to consider law school as he felt my skills were suited for something more than supporting him as a clerk. I was most moved by my chance to help domestic violence survivors obtain orders of protection. After law school, my first attorney job was in a domestic violence agency and then I prosecuted domestic violence crimes as an assistant state's attorney. I re entered private practice building on my trial skills in a family law firm. I have owned family law firms for 25 years and love mentoring many lawyers on the challenges we face as family law attorneys.

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** I have always had an office in the loop and the north shore. We chose to open our Bannockburn office so we can be convenient off the tollway and ensure we have a strong Lake County presence in addition to our thriving Cook County office. Our home is directly between our two offices.

**What's something people don't know about you?** I love the chance to utilize my emotional intelligence in understanding the psychological challenges in family law while also navigating complex financial issues, including understanding business valuations, complex employee compensation and benefit plans, and the tax implications often involved in family law matters.

**How do you spend your time away from work?** I love being in our home garden which is a sanctuary for me. I consider my friend and family relationships my greatest treasures and nourishing those is what I love most. I always welcome a good pickleball or paddle match.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?** I love living on the north shore but winters are increasingly challenging to endure. I love the idea of spending more time in the sun from December to March in a few more years. The gift of Covid taught us our work can be done remotely and is actually preferred by many Judges and the people who appear before them.

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**If you weren't a divorce attorney, what do you see yourself doing?** I wish I would have pursued my psychology degree beyond undergrad. I thrive when helping others and love the idea of better understanding what makes people tick.



**Carrie Williams**  
Executive Director at Illinois PGA

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?** I decided I wanted to work in the golf industry after falling in love with the game and its administration while working at a public golf course in Cincinnati, OH as a teenager. I've been in golf administration in the Chicagoland area for the past 20 years, and I've never once regretted my decision. I love what I do.

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** We are proud to call The Glen Club in Glenview the home of the Illinois PGA and Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. The North Shore is home to so many of our constituents – PGA professionals, golf facilities, golfers, vendors, sponsors – it makes perfect sense for it to serve as our home base!

**What's something people don't know about you?** I'm a huge NBA fan! My 10-year-old son plays and loves basketball and a great way for us to spend time together is watching and following the games, players and storylines. I'm the only woman that plays in our 12-person fantasy league and just handed the only undefeated player in the league his first loss!

**How do you spend your time away from work?** Spare time is definitely scarce, but I spend it being active with my family (I have two sons, ages 10 and 19), running or reading.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?** I think that every day we have the opportunity to become better versions of ourselves. In five years, I hope I'm doing many of the same things in exactly the same place – but doing those things as a better version of myself.



**Debbie Nieto**  
Co-Owner, The Happ Inn,  
Taco Nano & The Freehling Room /  
Ravinia Festival

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?** I was a paramedic and a lab technician before becoming a paramedic! Carlos always had the dream to open his own restaurant. 40 years ago I told him I would help! And, here I am still helping!! However, now the restaurant business is in my blood and that's what happens!

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** First of all, I grew up in Highland Park. H.P. is my home. I know and love all of our friends and customers. H.P. is a wonderful community with so much to offer. H.P. is a liberal and welcoming community. I feel the same as I welcome our guests at our restaurants.

**What's something people don't know about you?** I have no idea! I am honest and open. What you see is what you get!!

**How do you spend your time away from work?** I am a very committed horseback rider. I try to ride in the mornings before opening the restaurants.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?** In the next five years I honestly see ourselves with our family in Mexico. We want to be on the ocean and we invite you all to come visit!!! Who knows, maybe we'll have a Seafood Restaurant in our future!!

Also, our restaurant at Ravinia Festival will open this July! The Freehling Room invites you to enjoy our cuisine. We'll be serving outside as well as inside the restaurant!

The Happ Inn remains open with open windows in the patio. We also have installed State of the Art Filtration throughout the entire restaurant!

Taco Nano also remains open and enlarged! We have carry out and indoor seating. Again, we have installed a State of the Art Filtration System! Come enjoy all of our restaurants!




**Gina Speckman**  
Executive Director,  
Chicago's North Shore  
Convention & Visitor's Bureau

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?** I fell into working in the tourism industry. I moved to Chicago 30 years ago and met with someone at the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau (now Choose Chicago). I was new to the city and thought working at a convention and tourism bureau would be a great way to learn the city. I thought I would be there for two years and I ended up working there for 17 years. Then I moved up north to head Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau and I have been here 16.5 years....so these two jobs have been my career. You can't really call me a job hopper!

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** The North Shore is the prettiest and most convenient place to live and work. It's very close

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**What's something people don't know about you? I'm ambidextrous?** That is kind of a joke. I am from Michigan but I think EVERYONE that knows me knows that. There are a lot of people from Michigan living on the North Shore!

**How do you spend your time away from work?** I love to travel – so I guess I picked the perfect industry to work in. I love to be outdoors. I walk a lot and I love to eat and shop. The normal things. I love to be with my friends and explore. I am a very social person.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?** Good question. I have never really planned my future, it is a superstitious thing. I just hope I am alive in five years and do not really plan ahead. I hope I am still enjoying my friends and family and traveling more – though I already do travel a lot.



**Ilyse Strongin**  
Partner, Ripple Public Relations

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?** It came natural to me!

I am a people person, a party girl, a storyteller, a constant networker. I love to help people and watch them grow. I went to college for journalism and landed my first job at a media relations firm where I was able to work with all different media and for a variety of clients. It was the best of all worlds – I did not have to choose what medium or company I wanted to work for and had to work up the ladder. After starting my own company (with my partner whose office is in East Lansing MI) I was able to choose clients that interested me in every stage of my life and my interests. I love what I do and take pride in watching my clients' successes.

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** I actually started Ripple in Downtown Chicago, just blocks from my home. As life evolved in the big city, we followed the typical family migration to the simplicity and ease of suburban living. Growing up in Skokie/Evanston, I knew I wanted to raise my family on the

North Shore and had to be by the lake! I settled in the Ravinia area of Highland Park and opened my office in Downtown (actually Uptown) Highland Park. The convenience of having two Metra stops in Highland Park to take me back to the City for meetings was a bonus. Highland Park is also located in the midst of wonderful neighboring towns with great business districts, corporations and non profit organizations that offer Ripple, or any business, the great cross customer-ization of North Shore residents and a fabulous group of clients to network with.

**What's something people don't know about you?** I am an open book and wear my heart on my sleeve, so those who know me, know me well. But for those that don't, I would share that I love the Grateful Dead. I have been to over 300 Dead shows (in their heyday), including their 25th Anniversary tour in Europe where I saw them in London play Werewolves of London on Halloween. My company is named Ripple, my house is called Shakedown Street and my dog was named Casey Jones – all Grateful Dead songs.

**How do you spend your time away from work?** I love anything to do with the outdoors...boating, biking, running, scuba diving, gardening...and I love to cook and entertain family and friends!

**Where do you see yourself in five years?** Enjoying and watching my kids grow into young adults and I live life on the lake – like a Ripple in Still Water.



**Josie Tenore**  
MD Physician at FreshSkin

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?** I became fascinated by the human body when I was five years

old and did decide on a career in medicine at that time. I never strayed from that conviction and my interest was always prevention and optimum health which includes both the internal and external body. I have reinvented my career multiple times but settled on my current practice in 2005, initially with a partner and then since 2010 with just me at the helm.

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** It is a diverse and resilient community that really cares about its fellow neighbors. I have always found local businesses and my local bank to be extremely supportive in joining forces and bringing awareness to those of us who work here.

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**What's something people don't know about you?** I was born in a very small town in southern Italy and immigrated twice in my life... first to Canada and then to the United States.

**How do you spend your time away from work?** I enjoy spending time with family and friends going to the theatre, music venues, restaurants or taking them "accidentally off course" down double black diamond ski runs in Utah!

**Where do you see yourself in five years?** I would love to grow my practice to include more nurse practitioners and wellness providers to be able to better address the health and beauty needs of the community. This would free up some of my time to complete my book and devote myself to training the providers of the future.

**What makes you different from your peers?** My focus has ALWAYS been on prevention and optimum health. My core medical training was in Canada, which focused on disease prevention, rather than disease management. Even my Master's Degree at Harvard was with the Department of Public Health which is prevention focused as well. This training has always given me a much greater vested interest in the health and wellbeing of my patients. The feedback that I get on a regular basis is that my patients feel like I have actually listened to them and tried to address their concerns.



**Louise Berner**  
MD Physician at Fenix Family  
Health Center

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?** I was always interested in science and in people. I decided more or less in high school that medicine would probably be a good fit. Before college, I did volunteer health work in Ecuador. In college, I studied biology, spanish, and anthropology, and went abroad for a semester to Bogota, Colombia. I then got a public health degree in med school in Chicago, I loved primary care and did my residency at Cook County Hospital. I worked at community clinics in the city for the next 10 years. I realized that it was difficult to work in a poorly run clinic. So starting fenix was the culmination of doing all the best things that beloved clinics do and NOT doing the things that poorly run public clinics do. For me, this was having family medicine clinicians, integrating mental health into primary care, and giving the best service possible, which in fenix's case, is having an all bilingual staff, having patient materials in pictures, with the easy to read prose all in spanish, and organizing the clinic

around latinx values and interests, like having tons of same day and walk in appointments. We are basically a concierge practice for the uninsured and underserved, which, paradoxically, costs less. It is also better medicine and more humane. I love it!!

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** The North Shore is great because:

1. it's pretty
2. the other nearby stores and services are excellent
3. the local labor force/pool is large and excellent.
4. city services are well run.
5. it's safe.
6. excellent public transportation and bike paths.
7. the local community hospitals and subspecialists are excellent.
8. rent is reasonable and there's lots of employee and patient parking.
9. convenient location for our patient population.
10. nice working with the local school nurses and social workers, and other social services locally.

**What's something people don't know about you?** I lived in Japan for two years with my kids and husband. I have four children, including twins. I love learning languages. I love fashion and design, and have been learning how to use a sewing machine over COVID. I ride my bike to and from work in the summer (20 miles). Heavenly, the Green Bay Trail.

**How do you spend your time away from work?** I like to read, garden, ride my bike, and hang out with family.

**What makes you different from your peers?** Five years: still seeing patients at Fenix Family Health Center!



**Mallory (Lindholm) Kistner**  
Owner, Lindholm Roofing

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?** I began my career at Lindholm Roofing in 2010 after graduating from the University of Illinois with a degree in business. I chose to join the company because I knew it would provide me an opportunity to learn how to successfully manage and train employees and provide an essential service to my community.

*Continued on page 12*



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I learned from the roof down. My Grandfather taught me every step of the Lindholm Process. The Initial sales call, purchasing, scheduling, installation, and finally customer satisfaction.

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** As a roofing contractor in the north shore, we see a wide variety of roofs, from historical homes that have slate and tile roofs to contemporary homes with metal style roofs. The commercial buildings here offer us a chance to install single ply roofing that provides years of service. Of course, we install all types of roofing and the typical asphalt shingle roof has come a long way since I started in 2010. Clients can choose architectural shingles that provide textures to make a roof more aesthetically pleasing.

**What's something people don't know about you?** Something that clients don't know about me is that I love to fish. I primarily fish in saltwater but I have done my share of small-mouth bass fishing in the pond in my backyard. I am proudest of throwing a mean cast net in the ocean, something I learned from a saltwater fishing captain in Islamorada Florida.

**How do you spend your time away from work?** I spend my time away from work with my husband, Taylor, raising our family. I have a 2-year-old daughter, and a little boy on the way this April. I love being a mom and it is so exciting to see the world through a child's eyes. I also love sharing a good Disney movie with my kids.

**What makes you different from your peers?** In five years, with the help of my brother, Ryan and sister, Rebecca we hope to grow our business. We would like to expand our window, siding and gutter installation services.

During 2020 we developed covid-19 protocols to help keep our clients and employees safe. The service industry is constantly changing and adapting. Lindholm Roofing puts people first whether that is safety or customer satisfaction.



**Melissa McDonald**  
Designer, Bella Tile and Stone

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?** After earning my degree in Fashion Merchandising and working many years in Retail I became interested in Interior Design. I decided to pursue this passion and earned my design degree from The Harrington Institute of Interior Design in Chicago. I worked in the field gaining as much experience as I could and then took a little break to stay home with my young children. As my kids got a little older I was looking for

something more permanent and decided to put my many years of freelance interior design experience to work assisting customers design beautiful spaces with tile. I have found a true love and appreciation for tile design, and enjoy collaborating with clients to find the perfect selections for their home. I am sincerely grateful to the Federico family for the opportunity to run this business and enjoy working with my supportive and awesome team Kimberly Gorham and Julie Tonner.

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** The North Shore has been a great place for our business. I specifically love our spot in downtown Wilmette. It has been wonderful to see the downtown grow, adding many new businesses and Restaurants. The support of this community over the years is astounding and a true testament to the quality of people on the North Shore.

**What's something people don't know about you?** I am the youngest of five born and raised in the south suburbs (Olympia Fields). My parents came from humble beginnings in a small town in Ohio and worked hard to provide a comfortable life for my siblings and I. Despite having had both parents pass at young ages they left a lasting impression of a strong work ethic, good faith and to always remember what you came from.

**How do you spend your time away from work?** In my spare time I stay busy watching my boys play hockey, I enjoy watching movies and baking with my daughter, traveling with friends and spending time with my siblings and my many nieces and nephews. I love watching Chicago baseball, hockey & Notre Dame football.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?** When I am asked the question of where I see myself in five years my answer is full of hope. Given what our world has been through this past year, I pray for health and happiness for all. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the growth of this business and look forward to a prosperous future. I hope to continue what I am doing for many years to come. There is such satisfaction in seeing a vision become a reality.



**Patricia Galli**  
Co-Owner, Producer Pastificio

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?** As a little girl, I can remember my mother Elsa -- a cook and woman with a strong business sense -- expressed her desire to show people how wonderful authentic pasta and Italian cuisine could be.

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After graduating from college and getting married in 1975, I told my mother that we should open a shop doing just that. With a lot of courage, passion and hard work, Mom led the way to a journey (1976) that has brought Pastificio to the present day. Our shop opened and began its debut in April 1977.

My father, Marco, a true Italian who immigrated through Canada in 1951 (my mother's family in 1950 through New York) was very supportive of the idea and encouraged my mother to go forward. At that time there were very few women entrepreneurs, let alone women in the food industry which was dominated by mostly men. We had to develop strong, assertive personalities to allow our dream to come to fruition.

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** Over the past 45 years, the North Shore has proven to us that it yearns for creativity, quality and customer service. Their open mindedness to cultural cuisine has developed beautifully over the years and has allowed us to expand our business very positively. Our strong belief in these qualities is what keeps our driving force alive.

**What's something people don't know about you?** I am on a continuous search to improve, grow and learn new techniques regarding nutrition, healthy habits and cuisine. I travel to Italy often (hopefully again soon) to expand my vision and creative side so that I may bring these new ideas to our community.

**How do you spend your time away from work?** I adore spending time with my family -- sharing traditions through cooking, laughter and loving to be together. Family is everything -- my life, the air I breathe, my reason for living.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?** Retirement sounds lovely. I will continue to enjoy watching my daughter, Tatiana, elevate Pastificio to the next level!!



**PJ Weiland**  
**ActionCOACH**

When and why did you choose to do what you are doing? I have been coaching in some capacity all of my life, sports, mentorships, as a consultant within other organizations. 10 years ago, I had the opportunity to discern my life's calling and at that time friends and colleagues were asking me to assist them with decisions in their businesses. I grew up in an entrepreneurial family -- all 7 of my siblings are business owners, from trucking, retail, construction, commercial HVAC...

I started my first business at the age of 10, I also worked in the family business growing up and in my older siblings businesses.

I decided that through coaching I could fulfill my life's purpose which is: To inspire and encourage others to reach their full potential.

I know that through coaching the impact that I make on others lives and businesses is significant.

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** For the first 15 years of my career, I traveled 80-90%. When I finally got off the road, I put my energy into building roots in my community and finding ways to contribute my time. There is no shortage of businesses in Chicago and the northern suburbs. From family businesses with 2nd and 3rd generation, startups, franchises, manufacturing and service based. There are many many opportunities to work locally and by helping local business owners it helps the communities they are in as well. According to SBA small businesses account for 44% of the economic activity (and

GDP) in the US -- and when local businesses do well, the local economy does well.

**What's something people don't know about you?** I am generally an open book. I would say that not many people know.... I like to use power tools.



**How do you spend your time away from work?** Outside of work I find ways to give back and be active. Some of the places I spend my time...

- Most Saturdays you will find me at the OLA Mission in West Humboldt -- feeding the neighbors, doing light construction, working on projects, helping with fundraising
- At church related activities -- teaching, religious education, volunteering, ministry work, prayer groups, guild
- Supporting the work of non-profits or volunteer work -- Project 22:9 (bucket brigade), assisting a NFP Alliance, Fill a Heart 4 Kids, Glenview Park Foundation, etc.
- I have been running every day for over three years, organizing marathons and ironman, pre-Covid I played soccer every week for 15 years
- Creating video or building technology to create awareness and build community within some of the groups I support
- Love to watch college basketball
- I am an avid reader and learner -- podcasts, audibles, youtube, clubhouse, books, internet, coaching groups, etc.
- I am an ambassador for Glenview and Northbrook Chambers
- Love to spend time with family -- all my kids, my husband and extended family

*Continued on page 14*

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**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

- Giving myself more and more in service to others
- Empowering even more small businesses
- Enjoying the success of my children and husband



**Jean Thompson**  
Owner, Designer, DDK Kitchen  
Design Group

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?**

Family is reason for me choosing kitchen design. I married into the business. My father in law started the business in 1978 in the height of the recession. The business bloomed and my husband Dan joined in after college. Since that time we have grown to two stores opening the Wilmette store in the next recession in 2008. I love working in design and the variety of customers and styles.

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** The North Shore is so wonderful community for our business. The great part for me is sometimes the connections begin in the kitchen. So many women here on the North Shore have incredible careers and it becomes a natural link to each other.

**What's something people don't know about you?** I am pretty much an open book and having lived in Glenview for 25 years. I think people might be interested in know I have an adult child with a physical disability and have educated myself on disability rights. I used to do some advocating when I was home raising my 3 children.

**How do you spend your time away from work?** My husband and I are active together. We like to bike, play tennis, go out on Lake Glenview in our rowboat and can often be seen on our tandem bike around town. I also love to garden.

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?** Sitting right here in our beautiful showrooms helping customers. And taking a few more vacations.



**Terese Wallen**  
Owner, Ms Bigshot

**When and why did you choose to do what you are doing?**

For years, I wanted to use my gifts and talents in a business but I didn't know how to use them. After 20 years working for major corporations, I realized that I had to create my opportunities myself through mind work and networking with other entrepreneurs. When my last child was getting ready to leave for college, I knew it was my time to figure it out. So, I did.

My business, Ms Bigshot, coaches women to discover their real potential using their natural gifts and talents. Mostly online, we provide members workshops, online courses, and one on one coaching.

**What makes the North Shore a great place for your business (or to work)?** I love the support available in the North Shore for businesses. From local chamber of commerce to masterminds, I've built a strong network of people who support each other. The North Shore supports small business more than any other area in Chicago.

**What's something people don't know about you?** That I love my life because I took time to really challenge my beliefs and did tons of mindwork to look at life from a completely different lens. It's been an unbelievable experience to understand the power of the mind and how to tap into your potential to live an amazing life.

**How do you spend your time away from work?** I enjoy spending time with our five children and extended family. Two of our kids live out of state so we get to live and visit often. I also enjoy taking our dog, Cashew, for agility training and reading the latest business book.

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?** Running my business, traveling and living in other places. Spending time with family and loving my life.



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<b>Sept. 8</b> Seniorpalooza	<b>For more info:</b> <b>nsymca.org/events</b>	

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By Beth Chemers

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# Water Damage from Storms: **BE**

By Kevin Ramirez, Owner Restoration 1 of Chicago North Shore

**A**nyone who has lived in the Chicagoland area knows that the weather is very unpredictable. I have been here my whole life and I have seen a blizzard in May and 90 degrees during Memorial Day weekend and storm power outages that lasted 5 days.

We cannot control mother nature; however, we can take proactive measures in preventative maintenance to limit the severity of potential damage and the major costs associated with it. Remember the old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

## **Prevention: Step 1 – Examine your House!**

Let us begin with the basics. If you own a home or business, examine how your home is set up. Starting with the foundation, have you notice any wet spots in the basement? There may be a potential of a cracked foundation due to settling. Just outside the basement, is the landscape pitched toward the house? It should be 10 degrees away from the home. If you find that this is the case, contact a water proofing company and landscape contractor that specializes in drainage. Are your downspouts pointed away from the home? Is the driveway pitched toward the home? Most homeowners tend not to consider this until it is too late.

## **Prevention: Step 2 – Window Wells & Sump Pumps**

If you have window wells, make sure they are cleaned out and have covers installed. I have experienced this one before and it is easily preventable. Most homeowners have sump pumps installed in the basement. When is the last time it was checked and replaced? The life is typically 2-3 years, and they tend to malfunction when there is a decent size storm. I installed a back-up pump with a marine battery backup and not with the small ones found in hardware stores. Marine battery? Yes! They last for days when maintained and the small ones only last a few hours. Pro tip: Stagger the installation of the back up at a different time. The reason being, if they malfunction, it usually is not at the same time (I have experienced this as well). Also, as a reference, take a sharpie and write the date of replacement somewhere you can see it.



## **Prevention: Step 3 – Sewer Pipes**

When was the last time you had your sewer pipes rodded? I recommend having it done annually. Tree roots tend to compromise the clay pipes and cause cracks that could lead a sewer leak that can enter your home. We call that a Category 3 and it is filled with hazardous waste. Not good!

## **Prevention: Step 4 – Professional Evaluation**

It is a good idea to have a quality plumbing professional check your system for potential leaks and hazards before you leave town for an extended period, we have many emergency calls from homeowners coming home to a flooded house and if it's been there for over hours, it's a Category 3 and mold begins to develop. **Pro tip: Know where your water shut off valve is located and know how to turn it off.** It can be a while for a mitigation company or a plumber to get there and you can add a few feet to the flood level.



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# PREPARED!



## Prevention: Step 5 – Checklist to Leave the House

We have kids in the home, and they tend to forget to turn the faucet off because they are in a rush or on their phones (multitasking?). There is nothing like returning from work to an overflowing sink that destroyed everything in its path. We are taking two to three floors of damage of ceilings, flooring, walls, and furnishings. Before we leave the home, we check to make sure that the faucets are all turned off. Damage can run into the high five figures.

## Prevention: Step 6 – Have a Professional Inspect your Roof

At the top of the home and business, is the roof. Remember a few months ago? Ice Damming! Many of our calls were in Glenview. Ice builds up with snow melting and freezing in your gutters. Water always finds a way to infiltrate cracks in the ceiling, walls, and windows. Ceiling paint begins to bubble and will need to be cut out and disinfected to combat mold growth. Once it is dried, reconstruction to repair the ceiling begins. Please keep your gutters cleaned and consider a gutter guard to minimize debris. Also, a type of ice damming heating system that is available is recommended. **Pro tip: Have a quality professional roofing company inspect your roof. We tend to forget until we are forced to remember.**

## Prevention: Step 7 – Check Your Insurance Coverage

Finally, your insurance coverage. Did you know your regular policy may not cover certain emergencies? In certain emergency situations, you may not be covered because it is an optional endorsement. Sump pump discharge and overflow coverage is an endorsement. Many of us around here have a finished basement and the basic coverage may not include belongings and furnishings. I would highly recommend checking your homeowners or business insurance policy and contacting your agent for a review.

## LAKE FOREST HEARING



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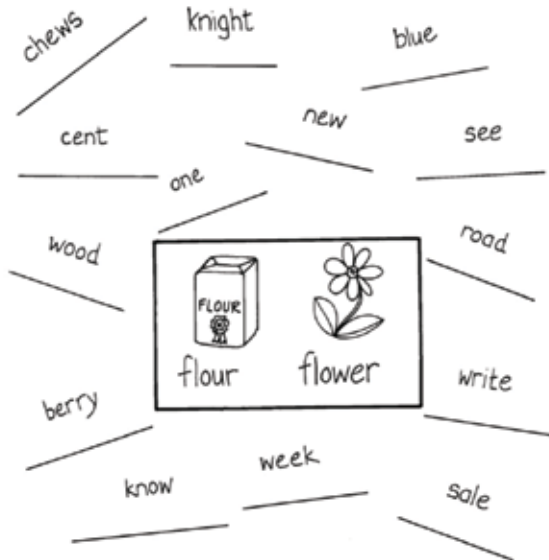
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By Bill Balatsos, Owner, Club Z!  
In-Home & Online Tutoring of Chicago North Shore

### Homophone Challenge

Write the matching homophone on the line below the word.  
Use the words from the Word Box.



#### WORD BOX

blew	bury	choose	knew	night	no	right
rode	sail	sea	sent	weak	won	would



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within, finding the  
courage and confidence  
to mine gemstones  
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# June

## Glenview Park Foundation

**Friday, June 18**

### Firecracker Golf Classic, 25th Anniversary

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The foundation, a 501(c) 3 non-profit, has raised over \$2.3 million to build playgrounds, help Wagner Farm Heritage Ctr., and renovate Willow Park Club Field-house for children and adults with disabilities.

**Time: 9:15am**

**Reservations Required**

**Info: [glenviewparks.org](http://glenviewparks.org)**

*At the time this magazine went to print, all event times and locations were accurate, but please check event websites for the most current information. Some events may have been postponed or canceled.*

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# Losing a Loved One is Hard Enough. Managing Their Affairs Doesn't Have to Be

By Corinne Heggie, Estate Planning Attorney, Wochner Law Firm

**A**t the end of 2020, Bishop Robert Barron accepted the United States Naval Academy's invitation to address the cadets in Annapolis. He discussed that in biblical times, the sea was a symbol of uncertainty, a tormentor of those who tested its waters. His intent wasn't to unnerve the graduates, but rather to present a metaphor of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

One of those challenges is dealing with the loss of a loved one. Individuals who are grief-stricken and burdened with death arrangements can feel, well, lost at sea. You might be that person, thrust into the role of a captain, and I'm here to help you navigate through these uncharted and choppy waters by presenting these five steps.

## 1. Obtain Death Certificates

Death certificates are important for two reasons. 1) Beneficiaries need them to claim property on behalf of the deceased, and 2) They help establish beneficiaries if none were named.

How do you obtain them?

Start by requesting them from the funeral home. If that doesn't work, reach out to the county or state's vital records department. Death certificates can be secured by mail, online or in person, and you must follow the protocols provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Order 10 to 15, and when you receive them, check that the social security number, name, date of birth, date of death and location of death are correct. Changes should be directed to the state's vital records department.

## 2. Notify Social Security Administration

A loved one who has passed may have Social Security Administration ("SSA") benefits at the time of their death that

are intended for a surviving spouse or children. Often the funeral home will notify SSA. If that doesn't work out, you can contact your state's SSA office by phone or online. The person in charge of notifying SSA should be prepared to answer questions and provide information and possibly documentation about the decedent.

## 3. Secure Property

There are two kinds of property left behind to be secured

**Real property** - everything attached to the land and associated with it, like keys, garage codes, and security system passwords. It's also important to assign someone to watch the property and collect mail.

**Intangible property** - items of individual value that cannot be touched or held, such as bank accounts, life insurance or brokerage accounts, which can be found by looking for folders or a list with custodian, account, and balance information. Failing that, you may need to search the person's mail to find financial account and insurance policy information.

If any pets are left behind, you'll need to find a responsible party willing and able to assist.

Additionally, email accounts, provided you have the login information, can be used to secure property, as well.

## 4. Inventory Property

You don't need the additional stress of figuring out how to distribute property to beneficiaries on top of grief. That's why it's critical to create an inventory to track useful information about the property, such as:

- ✓ Type of property
- ✓ Named beneficiaries



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- ✓ Named beneficiaries contact information
- ✓ Date of death value of the property
- ✓ Custodian of the property
- ✓ Custodian required information beneficiaries must provide to claim the benefit
- ✓ Contact information for the custodian's representative

It's helpful to use a spreadsheet or a simple pad and paper list.

### 5. Identify Interested Parties

Interested parties are those who are directly affected, and they fall into two general categories:

- ✓ People who want answers to questions about the deceased's property and what happens to it.
- ✓ The person, entity or organization that receives a benefit from a decedent's property. This can be tricky because not every interested party may receive a benefit from a decedent's property.

I recommend identifying the second interested party first, which can be done by reviewing a will or trust, or a death certificate and inventory of the property if there isn't an estate plan. Now, an interested party who receives a benefit is entitled to more information about the decedent's property than an interested party who does not receive a benefit; however, if both parties are informed, it can help avoid emotion at a stressful time.

This checklist is not all encompassing, but it can help you weather the storm and guide you to smooth sailing.



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<b><u>DETACHED</u></b>	86	97.9%	68	\$741,425
<b><u>ATTACHED</u></b>	41	98.1%	40	\$395,424



Last 30 days, 60025.

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**844-GOT-TRUX**



# Heartland Heartbeat

By Rebecca Hamlin Green

## Sasha

**S**asha has been in a foster home with a family for over a year now! They love her very much, but just are not ready to adopt. Sasha will always be part of her foster's family, but she is ready for a forever home and a new chapter!

Sasha would do best in a home with a yard- even a small one- and prefers to lie outside, play a little and be on the lookout for squirrels. Walks can be stressful and she is a strong gal but she is as content as can be in her own fenced backyard. Sasha is housebroken and has no issues in a home being left out.

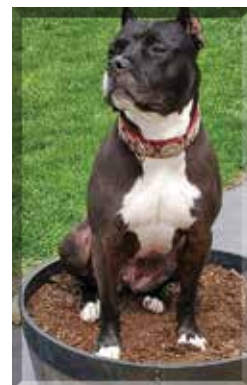
Sasha is very tolerant of other dogs. Sasha can be wary of new people, particularly men, until a proper introduction. There is lots of excitement during a greeting but a few minutes later she chills out and loves her visitors.

Sasha doesn't excessively bark. Loud noises such as motorcycles, garbage trucks, and thunder are not an issue but fireworks a big NO for her.

She is low maintenance - loves to cuddle and give kisses, lounge on blankets, is curious by nature and tolerates baths. Sasha does not have a set schedule and is content to sleep in. Here's what else her foster mom has to say about Sasha:

Sasha's quirks that are super cute

- she rests with one foot out, ready to sprint at any moment
- she likes to be at eye level with humans, and partake in your activities as a casual observer. She will crawl up on a



side chair when we eat dinner and be completely still. No begging, just observing.

-Her treat filled Kong toy is a lifesaver for when she has extra energy. Sasha plays with her toys and sometimes does destroy them. However, she leaves our belongings alone.

Sasha has brought much joy to our family and we are sure she will do the same to her forever family!!

Sasha's adoption fee has been sponsored. Also, Sasha would love it if you would follow her on Instagram @fostering-sasha. We hope her story inspires you to ask about adopting her- she will make a warm and loving forever friend!

We hope you will consider beautiful Sasha and please note that **her adoption fee has been completely sponsored by a generous donor!**



2975 Milwaukee Ave  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
(847) 296-6400



## Pair of Cats

**H**ello there! We are a gorgeous brother and sister from a southern Illinois animal control. We arrived at Heartland as older kittens and will turn a year old in June. We're still a little shy but will learn to trust if given the time and space we need. We love to play and that's the best way to bond with us! We love each other so much and need to go to our forever home together. Our perfect home will be quiet with places for us to observe the goings on from a safe distance. Our perfect people will be cat experienced with patience and kindness and who'll let us get to know them on our terms and time."



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