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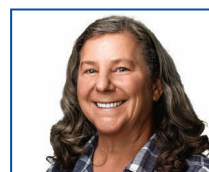
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Hot Springs Village Voice

Summer sizzles in HSV



One nice advantage Hot Springs Village has is that it contains its own drinking water lake. Seen here is Lake Lago, the deepest lake in HSV. (Jeff Meek photo)

Well Hot Springs Village, is it hot enough for you? Seriously, some folks would answer "no" to that question. I know of a few people who strongly prefer the 90+ degree heat. As for me, give me those days of 70's all day long.

Of course, the highlight of July is July 4, the 247th birthday of our nation. Here in this issue of HSV Life you'll see an article by staff writer Lewis Delevan covering all the special July 4 related events in the Village.

Many people very much enjoy the fireworks that take place on the shoreline of Lake Balboa. I remember being out there in our boat several times at night waiting for the extravaganza to begin. I also remember the scary trip back to our boat dock when some, apparently inexperienced boaters, would roar by our boat with no lights on. Yes, no lights on in the dark of night with the lake full of boats, many with children in them. Come on people. Let's use some common sense this year.

Besides the parties and the fireworks, lets remember what July 4 really represents – the birth of the United States of America. The sacrifice made by a fledgling American Army up against the most power land and sea forces on the globe at that time, England.



I know that some of you have done your genealogy and learned that you have distant relatives that were in the fight for independence or contributed in other ways like giving food and shelter. I'm proud to say I have several Meek family members that participated in the American Revolution. My great x4 uncle, John Meek, lost an eye at age 15 during the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 15, 1781. Other of my ancestors were stationed on the western front in Pennsylvania keeping the Indians at bay so they couldn't join the British forces. I'll bet many of you share the pride that I have about your past loved one's service.

So enjoy the holiday, stay safe, act responsibly and make it another month filled to the brim with excitement and experiences that make life in Hot Springs Village so wonderful.

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

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ON THE COVER: Fireworks return around dusk Saturday, July 1 at Balboa Beach. This scene is from 2022. (POA Parks and Recreation Department photos)

ALL AROUND ARKANSAS

Historic Cadron



Cabin at Cadron Settlement Park.

Darrell W. Brown

Years ago, when I attended college in Conway, I often visited Toad Suck Park at the lock and dam on the Arkansas River that shares its unusual name.

The view of the river was beautiful, and the park was a peaceful place to study or take a break from the rigors of academia. It was thanks to a brochure I picked up at Toad Suck Park that I learned about another nearby park, Cadron Settlement Park.

The brochure made it clear that the park was historically significant, so being a lover of Arkansas history, I knew I had to pay a visit. Cadron Settlement Park is indeed a beautiful and historic site, and I've visited it several times throughout the years.

Cadron Settlement Park is located where Cadron Creek meets the Arkansas River a couple of miles north of Conway. According to several early Arkansas

Site was one of the first European settlements in Arkansas

historians, the site was the location of a native American village before 1541 and was visited by the legendary Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto.

When the French took over the area in the early 1800s, the settlers established a fort, which they referred to as Quadron. The name eventually became anglicized to Cadron. A settlement and trading post formed around the fort. The trading post was quite prosperous and, according to a letter written by a fur trader named William Frazier to a friend in 1810, the site was home to about 100 men and women, both “whites and Indians.”

Noted botanist Thomas Nuttall, who traveled Arkansas in the early 1800s, visited Cadron in 1818 and made note of a trading post and a mercantile store in operation. Nuttall didn't stay long, but he did return

in December 1819 and remained until January of the following year. In his journal, Nuttall wrote that excessive drinking, jockeying, fighting and gambling were popular pastimes at Cadron.

In 1820, a post office was established at Cadron and a wagon road to the capital of the Arkansas Territory, Arkansas Post, was built. Mail arrived at Arkansas Post every other week.

Another road was built from Cadron to southern Arkansas, which allowed mail to be transported as far as New Orleans. Cadron would eventually become part of the historic Butterfield Mail Route, which connected Memphis to San Francisco.

By 1820, Cadron was home to around 720 people and the Arkansas Territorial Legislature voted to move the territory's government to the town in June. Unfortunately for Cadron residents, the acting territorial governor, Robert Crittenden, vetoed the decision and opted to move the capital to Little Rock just five months later.

Over 700 Cherokee Indians were forced to stay at the settlement during the Trail of Tears in April 1834, as low water levels on the Arkansas River stopped steamboats as a means of transport to reservations in what is now the state of Oklahoma.

While Cadron was a booming settlement during much of the early 1800s, it began to lose its prominence when the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad laid tracks 2 miles north in 1874 and people left Cadron to follow the railroad.

In 1976, the Faulkner County Historical Society, in conjunction with the Conway Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, created Cadron Settlement Park. Trails and a pavilion were constructed, as was a replica of the blockhouse written about by Thomas Nuttall in 1820. In 1991, vandals set fire to the structure, but a second one was built in 1998.

If you're in the Conway area and looking for a place



to get some peace and quiet off the beaten path or want to experience an important location in Arkansas history, take some time to visit Cadron Settlement Park. You won't be disappointed.

A proud sixth-generation Arkansan, Darrell Brown is a lover of all things Arkansas. He lives in Saline County with his wife, Amy, and their beloved Boston Terrier, Dixie. Find him on Facebook and Instagram at AllAroundArkansas.

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LITERACY COUNCIL OF GARLAND COUNTY

One at a Time

Literacy Council of GC is helping people read - one on one



Sarah Richardson is the executive director of the Literacy Council of Garland County. (Mary Eliades photo)

Mary Eliades
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

According to the Adult Learning Alliance of Arkansas, 13.7% of adults aged 16 and older in the state of Arkansas lack basic literacy skills; nearly 19% aged 25 and older do not have a high school diploma or GED, with more than 130,000 having less than a ninth-grade education.

The Adult Learning Alliance is a nonprofit organization that provides “a network of training, professional development, and other forms of support to the growing number of literacy councils in the state.”

Funding comes from the state to support staff and an office, with sub-grants going to community-based literacy councils, including the Literacy Council of Garland County.

The Literacy Council of Garland County was established in 1983 to offer tutoring “to enhance

success in daily living by building literacy skills.” According to the Council’s website, of the “80,000 residents living in Garland County, 10,000 adults are considered functionally illiterate.”

Executive director Sarah Richardson discussed the tangible benefits of improved literacy: from the ability to obtain a driver’s license or new job, to promotions, increased community involvement, health literacy – and even things that seem mundane to many, like reading to one’s children or using Facebook to engage with others.

The classes and one-on-one tutoring are completely free, and tutors are assigned to clients based on individual needs.

Several programs are offered on a regular basis. Adult Basic Education is offered for adults who speak English

but need to improve reading and writing skills. English as a Second Language (ESL) helps adults who cannot speak, read, or understand English. Both programs utilize many resources, including the Laubach Way to Reading. Ongoing citizenship classes are held at the center, Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m., for those who have already started the legal aspects of citizenship. "It's basically a test preparation class," said Richardson.

Basic math tutoring is also offered, as well as help with dyslexia.

The Council has an office with classrooms at 119 Hobson Avenue in Hot Springs, although tutors can also schedule sessions at the Garland County Library or "any shared space," according to Richardson.

"The Cedar Mountain Boys & Girls Club has been a great resource," said Richardson, and one of the Council's main goals is to recruit students and volunteers from the northern part of Garland County – Jessierville, Fountain Lake, etc.

The Literacy Council is partners with AmeriCorps, the government agency that provides volunteers and services to communities throughout the country, including the Hot Springs Village area. A series of computer classes was recently offered at the Boys &

Girls Club, taught by Village resident and AmeriCorps volunteer John O'Brien.

In addition to funding from the Adult Learning Alliance, the Literacy Council operates on grants, fundraisers, and donations – including from the Community Foundation of Hot Springs Village.

Two large fundraisers are held each year – "Read Between the Lines" and the "Rubber Duck Race," with "family fun," games, and food trucks.

Most of the tutors at the Council are volunteers, who undergo basic orientation and training in their specific fields. Tutors are matched to the needs of individuals and the pairs often stay together for years.

In addition to tutors, the Council uses volunteers for fundraising, outreach, etc. Richardson said many different areas of expertise have proved useful, and cited an example of a human resources professional who gave students pointers for getting a job.

Richardson said there is sometimes a "stigma around asking for help," and staff try to reach potential students through flyers, radio spots, press releases, Facebook, partner agencies and – most importantly – word of mouth.



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HSV BUSINESSES

Health and Wellness

Village Nutrition empowers customers to live a healthier lifestyle

Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

Now in its 17th year, Village Nutrition's roots extend back decades further.

Last October, Village Nutrition tripled its space at 3925 N. Highway 7 to offer more products.

And owners David and Cheryl Cohen continue to expand and innovate.

"Our mission is to empower customers to live a healthier lifestyle by offering quality products at affordable prices with friendly, knowledgeable staff," David Cohen says.

Soon they hope to bring in health and nutrition experts for small group classes. And later this year the Cohens hope to offer online ordering for pickup.

Discovering Hot Springs Village a year earlier while looking for a place to retire, the Cohens opened a 500-square-foot Village Nutrition near the West Gate in 2006.

They had not planned to sell their small group of health-food stores in Florida. But a woman they met



David Cohen, wife Cheryl and staff are eager to offer advice on healthy choices. Experts will soon offer information through small group classes. (Lewis Delavan photos)

at an international conference was determined that their stores would be perfect for her own dreams, and made an offer that could not be passed up.

The Cohens had expected to operate their Village store as a hobby. But demand led to moving it to a larger, nearby site.

Village Nutrition remained there for a decade, then moved down Highway 7 to a more prominent site. Last October, the Cohens tripled its size.

Village Nutrition now serves not only the Hot Springs Village community but also surrounding areas.

David Cohen's father opened Joy Health Foods in Asbury Park, New Jersey in 1966. His father had operated a small business and also an ambulance service when a customer who did not want to drive to New York City to buy health food approached to ask him to open a health food store.

In 1972, the family moved to Florida and Joy Health Foods became Nutrition World. A chain of Cohen family health food stores served Florida's east coast for more than 36 years.

With the death of his father, David inherited the original store and became the originator of one of the earliest E-commerce sites on the Internet and for the next eight years. The Cohens were also radio talk show hosts for Nature's Impact Radio in West Palm Beach and Port St. Lucie, Florida while also hosting AOL's health chat section for three years.

The past has been rewarding, but the Cohens look forward to the future.



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Good Times at Pickin' in the Pines



Swap-meet style vendor market event held on the third Saturday and Sunday of each month

Tasha Vines and Brenda Palmer of Fancy Schmancy.

Robin Raborn Burns
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Pickin' in the Pines is a swap-meet style vendor market event held on the third Saturday and Sunday of each month, March through October. It is hosted at The Venue by Fancy Schmancy, located directly

next door to the store. The property is on what was once the Wilson concrete plant which closed 22 years ago. Tasha Vines and her mother, Brenda Palmer, saw beyond the heavily weeded and neglected property and

imagined the potential.

Tasha and Brenda have owned and successfully managed Fancy Schmancy's vintage boutique for eight years. The two women started Pickin' in the Pines in August 2022, after the realization they had taken their flea market business as far as they could. After all, each of the 100 booths stays rented, and they have a lengthy waitlist. Reluctant to be content with their sole good fortune, the dynamic mother-daughter duo wanted to share their success with their neighbor businesses and create something the whole community could enjoy and take pride in. And by all accounts, the community IS enjoying it.

Tasha says "So far, everyone we have spoken to in our community has been excited and supportive. I have heard from numerous customers that this is just what our community needs!"

Brenda adds, "We have had a great response thus far and we continue to expand each month. We have numerous vendors traveling in from out of state and different parts of Arkansas."

Vendors from all over Arkansas gather and sell a variety of new, used, handmade, vintage, and antique goods and snacks. On-site food trucks offer delicious snack options as guests walk by the vendor booths or relax in the shaded outdoor courtyard with tables and chairs. The venue also has live music.

"There's nothing like it in our area," Brenda says. "It has helped bring more customers to The Fountain Lake Shopping Center." Pickin' in the Pines hosts a wide variety of vendors – and is indoor and outdoor (the majority of the area is covered.) The event is open rain or shine.

Tasha has a master's degree in recreational management from Henderson State University, and Brenda has a business management degree from Henderson State University. The mother and daughter team work well together – Tasha handles the paperwork and bookings, and Brenda adds her business savvy wherever needed.

Events in 2022 were Saturday only; events in 2023 are held on both Saturday and Sunday. There is a \$2 admission fee for adults, kids under 18 get in free. Pay admission on Saturday, and take a selfie at the gate for free re-entry on Sunday. Consider marking the event on your calendar - easy to do as the upcoming event dates are provided:

July 15-16, Aug. 19-20, Sept. 16-17, and Oct. 21-22
<https://fancyschmancyvb.com/pickin-in-the-pines/>



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COVER STORY



Fireworks return around dusk Saturday, July 1 at Balboa Beach. This scene is from 2022. (POA Parks and Recreation Department photos)

Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

The Stars and Stripes Festival offers fun for all ages on the Independence Day Weekend.

Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association Parks and Recreation Department holds the event annually. Events:

- Sold out: Colt and the Old 45s, 7 p.m. June 30, Coronado Community Center.
- "Home Alone" movie, 8:30 a.m. Friday, June 30, outdoor pool in the DeSoto Recreation Area. The normal cost of pool admission covers the movie.
- The free Kids Fishing Derby kicks off at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, July 1 at Cortez Pavilion. Arkansas Game

and Fish Commission will stock fish. Sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, the POA Lakes Ecology Department and HSV Anglers Club.

Participants are asked to bring their own pole if possible. A limited number of fishing poles will be available for use.

The derby ends around 10:30 a.m. Registration is not required for children living in Hot Springs Village or who are a sponsored guest in HSV. For children living outside the Village, call 922-0322 ext. 2310 for a link to receive a ticket.

- Fireworks show, Saturday, July 1 at Balboa



Attendees gather on Balboa Beach at the 2022 festival, left.

The annual fireworks show continues to attract crowds, right.



Beach. Balboa Lake boat ramp will close at 3 p.m., and will reopen after all pedestrians clear the area. The parking lot closes at 7 p.m.

Balboa Baptist Church will run a shuttle continuously from 5-8:30 p.m., with riders dropped off at Balboa Pavilion.

Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church's shuttle will run continuously from 7 p.m.-8:30 pm., with riders dropped off at Balboa Dam, near the HSV Animal Welfare League entrance.

Both church shuttles will resume at the show's conclusion.

For more information, call 922-0322.

- Anglers Fishing Tournament, takeoff 6:30 a.m. Sunday, July 2 at Lake Balboa. Weigh-in at 11:30 am. Cost: \$20 per team, plus \$5 for the big bass pot – pay at the ramp.

There will be 100-percent payout – and a big bass pot to team with the biggest bass. For more information or to sign up, contact Dave Keith, 501-226-9232 or dlkeithsr@att.net or Jim Gardner, 901-301-3380 or gardner.jim@att.net.

- Stars and Stripes 5K Fun Run and 1K Walk. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 3 at Balboa Pavilion, with the event at 10 a.m. Sign up online for \$30, which includes a T-shirt.



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Sweepstaking

Mary Eliades
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Shawna Yonts invests in a lucrative hobby

Shawna Yonts (aka Administrative Commander Yonts of the Hot Springs Village Police Department) has a very interesting – and lucrative – hobby: “sweepstaking.”

Yonts started out as an “extreme couponer” and sort of naturally segued into entering sweepstakes. Once she got interested, she searched for resources to help her learn the ins and outs – newsletters, chat rooms, etc. She found a particular newsletter that she liked, subscribed to it, and receives updates on a daily basis. “I enter around 300 every day,” Yonts said. “Some are daily, weekly, monthly or one-time” entries.

Her biggest win came from an Albertsons/Safeway sweepstakes, where she won a \$75,000 Corvette (she took the money). The store celebrated the win in style, with a cake, flowers, and one of those lovely giant checks.

Last year Yonts entered a sweepstakes from Camper World and won a \$17,000 pull-behind camper. She was the Week 10 winner out of 45,000 entries.

Asked if she has always been lucky, Yonts said, “Yes – but not on the scratch tickets!”

Some of her other prizes have included a trip to a wine and music festival in Las Vegas, several \$1,000 gift cards, a \$2,000 voucher at hotels.com, five Microsoft Surface Pro tablets, and “countless” gift cards worth \$500 and less.

Yonts recently entered a sweepstakes sponsored by Takis Chips; she purchased two packages, as required, sent in her receipt, and won a \$1,000 gift card.

Yonts estimates that she wins \$3,000 to \$7,000 in prizes every year – and pays taxes on the total. She keeps a log of every prize won, and has a “win closet” where she keeps prizes she doesn’t want (which she



Shawna Yonts won a \$75,000 Corvette in an Albertsons/Safeway sweepstakes. (Submitted photo)

donates or gives away).

Yonts is lucky, but she has a friend who has won more than 300 trips and another friend who has won 14 cars and four motorcycles.

Asked if she is concerned about scams, Yonts said, “You quickly learn what is real and what is not.” She added that notifications come from an official judging company, and she has never been scammed.

“Sweepers” have their own annual convention, where they learn how to enter and win sweepstakes, win prizes, and have fun. Yonts will chair the national convention in 2025 and is already scouting locations and activities.

What advice does Yonts have for newbie sweepers? “It’s important to use a separate, dedicated email account,” she said, “and don’t give it a name that refers to sweepstakes.”

To make it easier to enter multiple sweeps quickly, she recommends using Google fill or a robo form to avoid having to type in the same information over and over.

She also recommends checking out websites that teach you how to enter and win, such as Sweeper University.

Yonts would like to start a sweepstake club in the Village, so stay tuned if you’d like to become a sweeper!



Yonts in her day job as Administrative Commander of the HSV Police Department. (Mary Eliades photo)



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ABOVE AND BEYOND

*Generosity of
spirit makes
HSV strong*



Joe Clem and golf friends. (Photos courtesy of Joe Clem)

Robin Raborn Burns
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Communities have different architectural styles, layouts, and landscaping patterns. Some are a collection of older homes - some have a much more modern flair. But the soul of a community comes from those who reside there. The neighbors who enrich your life, the people who inspire you and positively impact your perspective for the rest of your life. Here are three Hot Springs Village residents who, through generosity of spirit, and simple acts of kindness, make our community strong.

Joe Clem – A Hot Springs Village golf ambassador

Joe Clem has become somewhat of an institution in Hot Springs Village. Born and raised on a farm in Indiana, Joe was a successful State Farm agent in Southern California for many years before retiring to Hot Springs Village in August of 2004. Joe is one of those people who has achieved the status of first-

name-only recognition; Madonna, Elvis, Tiger...Joe.

His love of the game of golf is legendary. Joe is one of the most active golfers in Hot Springs Village. He started his popular Wednesday game (aptly named Joe's Wednesday Game) in 2005. When a new resident wants to get involved in golf, the way to go is through Joe, and he finds a way to add that person to his team. The Hot Springs Village Ryder Cup competition is an annual event led by Joe, who is captain of the Blue Team, and Harry Diffrient, captain of the Red Team. Joe and Harry meet before the competition and go through the careful process of drafting players for the team. They include a few scratch golfers, numerous middle handicappers, and a few high handicappers. Joe gets a lot of satisfaction from co-hosting the tournament. Part of his pleasure comes from watching his large circle of friends enjoying themselves. Harry also golfs with Joe regularly and says "Joe never meets a stranger. He will meet someone he has never seen

before and immediately begin a conversation – and they interact as if they have been friends for years. Harry attests to Joe’s generosity, “If he encounters someone in need, he is willing to offer his time and resources to help that individual.”

Joe’s friend Mark Drew describes that Joe likes to share the story of his end-of-life plans. “He loves to tell everyone how everything is planned out, paid for and nobody will have to do anything. He has the songs selected for his funeral, the menu for the “memorial party” and every other detail. The funny part of the story is when Joe recalls his conversation with the funeral coordinator. He tells him the burial site will be in Indiana. When the coordinator asked Joe if he wants his body to be transported via airplane, Joe emphatically said no because he was afraid the plane might crash. Classic Joe.” Drew adds that “Joe is always coming up with funny sayings. Sometimes it will be so obvious that it is hilarious. I like to call these Joe-isms. Here are a few of them:

“I never golf by myself because I know I will cheat.”

“I keep waiting for golf club makers to come up with a driver that has the “sweet spot” around the edges.”
“When a fellow golfer apologizes for how poorly they have played and that they were embarrassed, Joe says to not be embarrassed. 90% of the guys do not care and the other 10% are happy.” “When someone calls to cancel playing in his weekly Wednesday game at the last minute, Joe will not accept it. He says I hope you are going to a funeral....and it better be yours!”

Spend a half hour with Joe, and it becomes evident that he loves the Hot Springs Village Community. During Covid, Joe encouraged residents to purchase gift certificates from a local restaurant so they could support the establishment by ordering carry-out. Joe makes it a priority to send emails of support when a fellow golfer or member of the golfer’s family is ill or facing a challenge. If someone he knows starts a new business venture, Joe informs everyone he knows to garner support. Harry attests to Joe’s generosity of spirit. “If he encounters someone in need, he is willing to offer his time and resources to help that individual.”



A very dapper Joe.

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Matt Lewarn, Joes son- in -law, adds “Being a part of a community runs through his veins. His generosity knows no bounds.”

As is the case with most people who place a high premium on taking care of others, when the focus turns to Joe, he is very humble. When informed about the article, Joe commented that an article should be written about his daughter Lisa, who is the owner of the popular Barkansas Pet Supply, which she opened in 2005. Joe also has two sons, Randy, and Russell. He is also extremely proud of his four grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Joe also has an extended family in Hot Springs Village. Bill Burns, says, “When my wife and I moved here, I wanted to take advantage of these beautiful courses but I knew no one. I was told to call Joe, and he got me involved in weekly games. He introduced me to people who became friends, many of who are still friends of my wife and I. And I know there are countless others Joe has done the same for.” Friends of Joe will probably wonder what his reaction will be

to reading an article written about him. Perhaps he will come up with another Joe-ism, or come up with a new golf game for his group, or in his humble way, wonder what all the fuss is about.



Peggy Hadley gets into creative mode.
(Photos courtesy of Peggy Hadley)

Peggy Hadley – Helping women find friendship and community in HSV.

Peggy Hadley, leader of the Newcomers: Renewing the Hearts of Women, classes have a favorite hobby – people! She shares that fact whether she is engaged in a friendly conversation or leading a NEWcomers: session. MNEWcomers is a Bible-based ministry for women who have just moved to Hot Springs Village. It is based on Susan Miller’s book, “After the boxes are unpacked” and is part of the Just Moved Ministry: <https://justmoved.org/after-the-boxes-study/>. Built on biblical principles, it helps women who have moved to Hot Springs Village deal with the range of feelings that accompany a major move.

Through the process of sharing stories in a safe and supportive environment, many lasting friendships





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are formed. The class is also helpful for women going through other life-changing events - the loss of a spouse or family member, health issues, retirement, or feelings of loneliness. Peggy has experienced those feelings first-hand. She and her husband Leon moved from Wichita Kansas to Hot Springs Village in the fall of 2004. Peggy shares that when they moved, she felt she was a bit too young for retirement.

“After retirement, I got off the fast lane of life and hit a brick wall,” she says. Peggy became the charter member of her own self-described private pity party. To deal with her sense of displacement, Peggy wanted to remain busy and immediately found a job as a senior home companion at Good Samaritans. “I enjoyed feeling like I was bringing love and joy to my clients, and it helped me deal with the sadness I felt leaving my beloved mother in Wichita. Peggy eventually left her job at Good Samaritans and enjoyed a few other positions - a lunch friend at Fountain Lake Elementary School, a volunteer with Hospice Home Care, and the

children’s Sunday school teacher at the church she still attends-Mountainside Methodist Church.

During a telephone conversation with a friend, Peggy confessed how lonely she felt, and shared her guilt about leaving her family in Wichita. Her friend encouraged her to read Susan Miller’s book, and Peggy said when she finally sat down to read it, she read it in one day. A fellow parishioner at Mountainside who read Miller’s book approached the pastor with the suggestion that a Bible study for women, based on the book could help other women who were having a tough time relocating. The pastor liked the idea and the first Newcomers class was in January 2005. Peggy attended that very first newcomer class. The leader turned off the lights and they were shown a video based on Miller’s book.

As she watched the video, Peggy was overcome with sadness and regret. She confessed that sitting there on that very day she came up with a very specific plan. “As soon as the class was over, I was going to



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get in my car and drive. I was not going home to get my clothes or makeup; I was going to drive back to Kansas. Peggy says her plan felt so real she could visualize herself driving into Oklahoma, then calling her husband to say "I cannot do it, I am not coming back, I am going home." When the movie was over, and the lights were back on, Peggy looked at the pile of wadded-up tissues she had used. She felt embarrassed about her tears, but she glanced up and saw a woman across from her at another table who had used even more tissues than she had. The two women locked eyes for a moment and Peggy felt like she had found a soul mate. She found someone who without even speaking understood what she was going through. Peggy did not go through with her escape plan.

Before leading the classes, Peggy was an assistant. She recalls a day when the instructor was teaching and she saw a woman get up and leave. Seeing the woman's distraught look, Peggy rushed after her into the parking lot. When she got to the woman's



Peggy and her Newcomer Angel team – Class #27.

car, the woman said tearfully, "It's too hard, I can't do it!" Peggy said, "I've been there, I've done this, and you're going to make it." Speaking in that comforting voice that women who have attended her classes are so grateful for, Peggy said to the woman, "Go home today but please come back next week. We will make it through together."

Perhaps the truest measure of how impactful the NEWcomers class, with Peggy Hadley as a facilitator, is that many of the women in each session continue to get together regularly and nurture their friendships. Many classes have even created their own Facebook pages and blogs.

When Newcomers class number 35 begins August 30, Peggy (along with her "angels" who help facilitate the sessions) will glance carefully at the women in the group, just in case there is a woman there who needs extra support. Perhaps there will be a woman she will lock eyes with. She hopes that she can provide the same kind of guidance, friendship, and hope that she felt when she locked eyes with a kindred spirit years ago.



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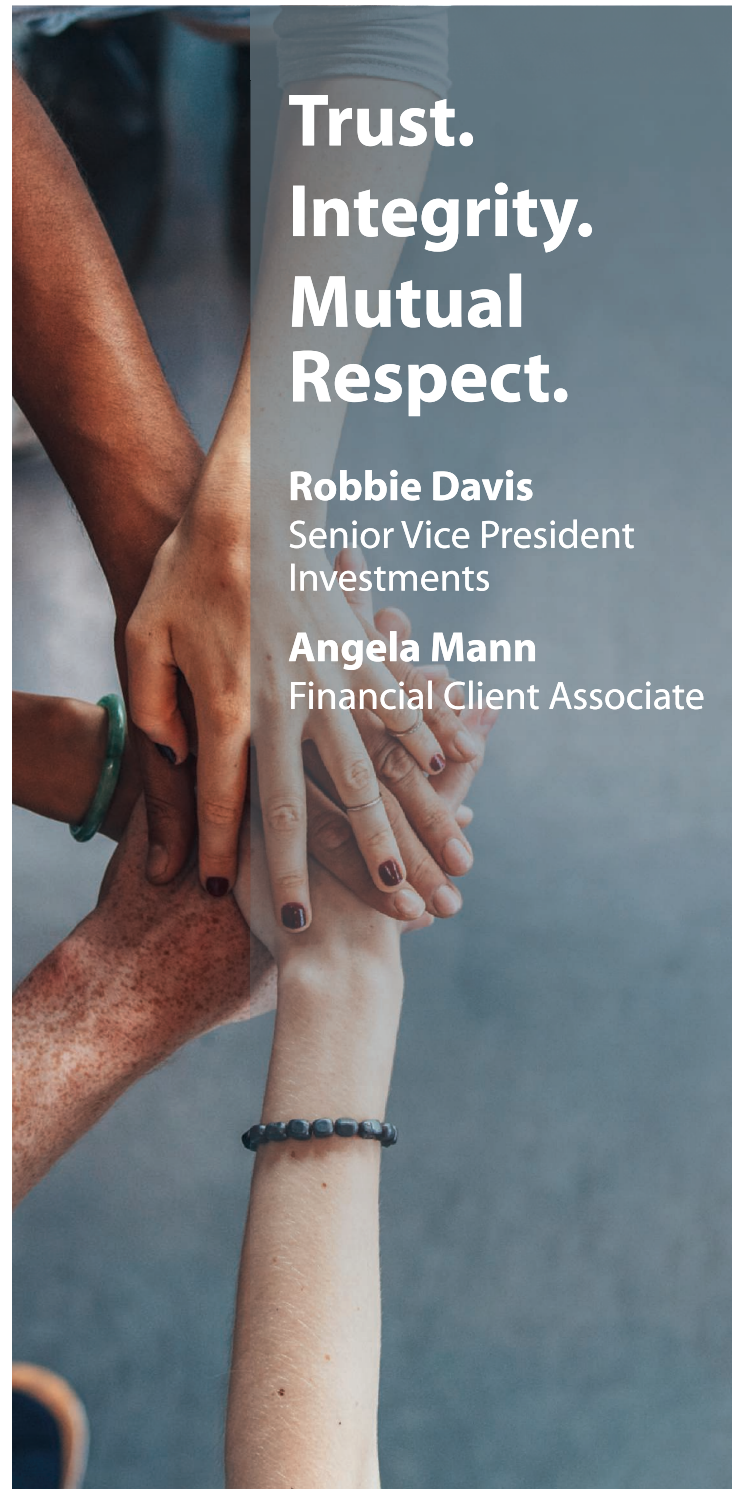


Michelle and her husband, Dominic at the 2023 Boys and Girls Club spring event.

Michelle Alford – Offering a helping hand to man’s best friend

Enhancing the quality of life for a community is not limited to reaching out to people; our four-legged friends need support too. Hot Springs Village resident Michelle Alford knows this all too well. She has been involved with rescuing, fostering, and advocating for animals for most of her life.

The Hot Springs Village Animal Welfare League (HSVAVL) volunteer started with animal rescue in her native Chicago. Michelle unloaded semi-trucks of dogs in kennels originating from Kentucky and Southern Indiana that would go to local private rescues for future adoptions. Michelle said, “My heart would break a bit with every cage I lifted, but I knew I had to help.” She was also active in shutting down local pet stores that sold animals. Michelle says “People do not know about the underground network of puppy mills and backyard breeders that is pervasive across the country. More law enforcement is needed



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to protect animals and stop these operations.”

Michelle’s suggestion to animal lovers - “Stop buying dogs from individuals, stores, and kennels!” Michelle’s family was also involved in the Dog Show industry. “I enjoyed working with shows because there was so much to learn from those individuals. Participants in the shows were professional breeders who focused on the welfare of the dogs. They were strong advocates for proper breeding, spay-neuter programs, as well as puppy mill and backyard breeder eradication.” Michelle first started visiting Hot Springs Village when her parents came here seasonally and eventually became full-time residents, Michelle relocated to Hot Springs Village in 2016 to help her mother after her father passed.

Michelle enjoys volunteering at HSVAWL, she treats each dog as if they were her own. Shelley Shepherd, Adoption Coordinator at HSVAWL, says, “Michelle continues to be a dog walker, she has been a dog foster, has worked at the Spay/Neuter clinics, and provided

help in searches for stray dogs that were led to safety.” Michelle currently has three dogs at home. Gigi is 19 and moved with Michelle to Hot Springs Village from Chicago. Gigi was found in an abandoned building in Joliet, Illinois with her puppies. Daisy is ten and previously belonged to one of Michelle’s clients who passed away. Michelle brought her home because Daisy knew no one else, and now she is a member of the family. Cubbie is four and a recent addition to Michelle’s home - he came from HSVAWL. He is learning the benefits of being a village prince,” Michelle says.

Michelle, her husband Dominic, and her mother Gloria are members of Woodlands Presbyterian Church. Michelle says Dominic is very active in local service groups, and she lends a hand when she can. The story of Michelle and her husband Dominic is a romantic one. They each attended Lane Tech High School, but they had different friends. Michelle and Dominic had a couple of classes together, but their schedules were varied. Michelle was a swimmer, and Dominic was a musician. “We reconnected later in life after a reunion and were friends. We eventually realized there was more to explore about our relationship. Our life goals and values were in perfect alignment. We were married on May 1, 2021” Michelle says.

(Here is an interesting tidbit about Dominic. He is VFW American Legion Post Commander Dominic Listermann. Dominic has served both in the Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy Reserve, and was in Desert Shield and Desert Storm.) Michelle says she has one regret. “I wish my father was still alive to see the life we have built here in Hot Springs Village. He would have been so thrilled. I am grateful my mother can enjoy her home, with her dog Posie (from HSVAWL) and us nearby. Michelle says, “Hot Springs Village is a special place that allows you to grow whatever your passion is.” She plans to continue her volunteer work with HSVAWL. “They are an amazing group of people who do incredible work. I am so proud to be part of a team that works so diligently to provide care for



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animals and educate the community about their needs and well-being. Michelle nurtures the people in her life, the friends and neighbors in her community, the pets she has at home, and the animals who need support and love as they try to find their homes.



Michelle's dogs
Gigi (back),
Cubby (L), Daisy
(R). (Photos
courtesy of
Michelle Alford)



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Balboa Docks are convenient and ready for rental. (Photos by Sandy Johansen)

Lake Life

Two HSV lakes have excellent dock facilities, dining and one features short term rentals

Sandy Johansen
STAFF WRITER

Hot Springs Village has picturesque lakes ready for boating, paddling, canoes, water skiing and many other water activities. Not only are the lakes beautifully maintained, but two lakes have excellent dock facilities and dining and one features short term rentals with a beautiful view of the lake.

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Wine Down at DeSoto is surrounded by docks as it is located on a Lake DeSoto peninsula.

DESOTO MARINA AND WINE DOWN AT DESOTO

Zach and Lindsey Smith recently signed to lease and operate the DeSoto Marina and happy to name the grill area, Wine Down at DeSoto. Moving to Hot Springs in 2010, this is their first venture in the area. Open times may change depending on traffic so be sure to call 512-226-3100 as they may be open or closed earlier or later depending on the season and traffic.

At this time they are open Noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and Sundays Noon to 6 p.m.

Located at 200 Marina Road, they offer a nice variety of menu choices and often feature specials of the day. Zach is ready to cook it up today! He is an experienced

chef specializing in many styles of cuisine. Wine Down at DeSoto also features local entertainers including the Chad Marshall Band, Livin' the Dream, Lewis Mathis and Nick Flora. Many enjoy relaxed dining and talented local entertainers.



Zach and Lindsey Smith always cooking their best and treating diners as neighbors.

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Stars & Stripes 4th of July Fireworks

Balboa Beach

July 1 at dusk

Anglers Fishing Tourney

Balboa Pavilion

July 2 from 6:30 a.m. to noon

Independence Day Fireworks

Lake Hamilton

July 2 at dusk

Chris Jansen at Oaklawn

Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort

July 2 at 8 p.m.

Stars & Stripes Fun Run/Walk

Balboa Beach

July 3 from 9:30 a.m. to noon

Balboa Boat Club Lighted Yacht Parade

Lake Balboa

July 3 from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Evening Lions Bingo

Coronado Center

July 7 at 7 p.m.

HSV Country Two Steppers

Coronado Center

July 8 at 7 p.m.

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July 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Evening Lions Bingo

Coronado Center

July 21 at 7 p.m.

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