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February 2022

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DEIDRE RUDICH

This month we chatted with Deidre Rudich, Western Springs' leading real estate agent about the impact of changing lifestyles, home-buying, and the buying power available to prospective home-buyers. Do you have questions or concerns that you aren't sure how to articulate or solutions you wish seemed clear as a bell? Deidre has built a career based on solutions and understands the feeling of, "ugh, now what?"

LOVING YOUR HOME: CHANGING LIFESTYLES

"Most people truly love their homes, but we all know things change," said Deidre. "When you have no children, or little children, things are small. Their beds are small, their clothes are small. And when they grow, so do their things and their interests. What they needed before is not necessarily what they need now. Maybe it's a different financial situation. Your starter home can certainly be your forever home, but it can also be a stepping stone. Your needs and interests change over time. What worked four years ago might not work today."

For so many of us, things have indeed changed. Take, for instance, the pandemic, as Deidre brought up. "So many people are now working from home. Or, their kids have gone away to college and then moved back home. We try to plan life, but it doesn't always go according to plan. Life just happens," she said. "Your lifestyle is really important, so when I can figure out a person's 'why,' I can really help."

However, Deidre said that while people don't always realize it, what they're telling her they need and what they actually need are two very different things. "When I'm in a client's house and I can see that every avenue of their home is exploding, I know that a change is needed. My job is to help my clients get to the next level — that house, that space. Even if it's not a completely updated home, it's the SPACE that they desperately needed. I am certain, based on trends and the market, that change will prove to be financially beneficial."

Sometimes, though, for Deidre's clients, it's intimidating to make the decisions without understanding the whole picture, that's where Deidre's process comes in. Deidre said, "Honestly, I am no different than my clients, I start out with the same concerns, I take my time, research and decipher exactly what is needed, how to accomplish it and then I prove it to myself. Once I know the facts and the strategy, I work quickly but until that time, nothing will move me to commit to a decision."

And much of Deidre's job is understanding the emotional component that is involved for her client. "It's not just a financial transaction. It's a life change. I am honored to be a part of my client's lives whether the transaction is a happy time in their life or if it is a challenging time, as we are presented with both daily. My client's goals, and circumstances surrounding this change is their story. Maintaining privacy and providing results is my priority."

When I'm working with a buyer, I will often explain that I need to get in the house with them so I can see their reactions. It's not always what it appears online. But when I get to know clients, I learn what is going to work for them." Bottom line? If you have an inkling about making a change, have an expert like Deidre walk through it all with you.

USING BUYING POWER TO GET MORE

Today's home-buying process differs greatly from what it was 20 years ago, as there is much more buying power than ever before. Deidre said, "This specific time frame in our market is the opportunity that both buyers and sellers could only dream of provided they have the right preparation and expectations set. I have made a point to help my clients understand the big picture, the value now, the value moving forward. Regarding buyers purchase power, I make a point to work with local lenders that have a variety of products so my clients have the freedom to structure their investment to meet their goal." Deidre is her client's complete guide from start to finish.

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article that you share continues to make this publication something special, and for that, I am grateful.

We are pleased to feature the Mueller crew as this month's featured family. Nick, Sloane, and Shawna fell in love with Western Springs while visiting for a party, and the rest is history! Read their story inside.

Next month is Spring Break! Whether you're planning a trip or staycation, please send us your spring break pictures, and we'll be sure to feature! Simply email westernspringsliving@gmail.com.

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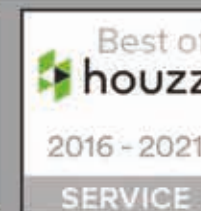
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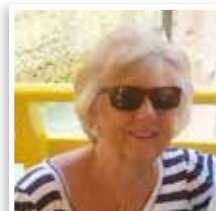
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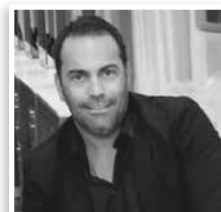
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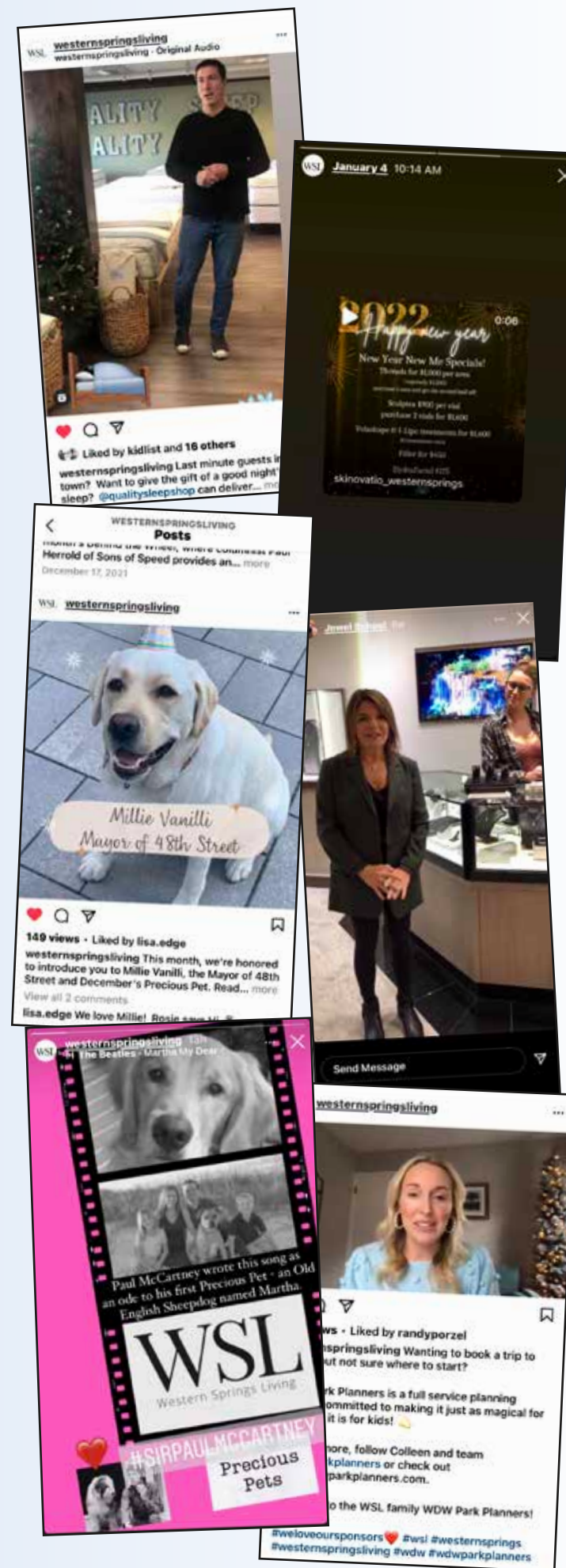
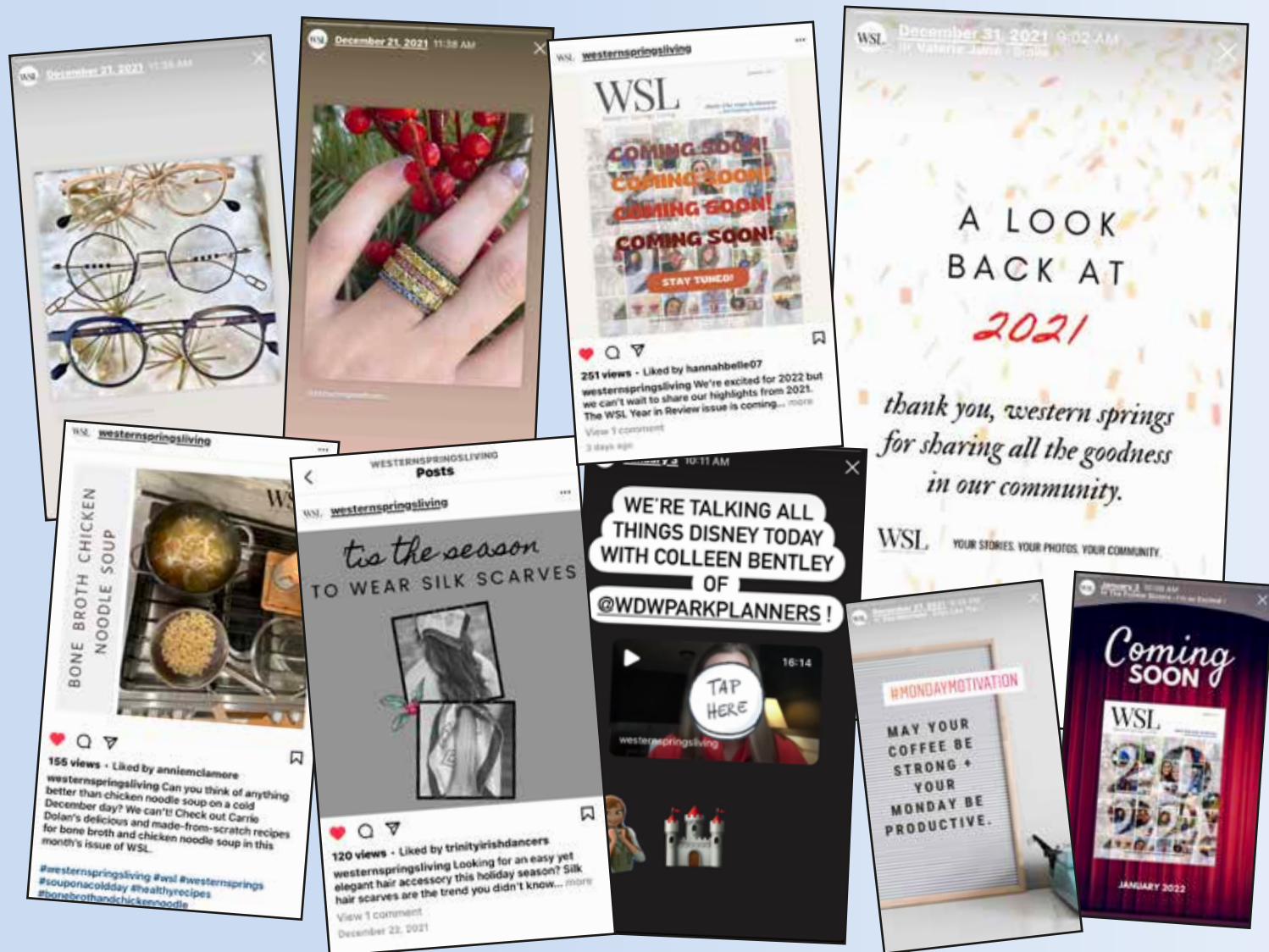
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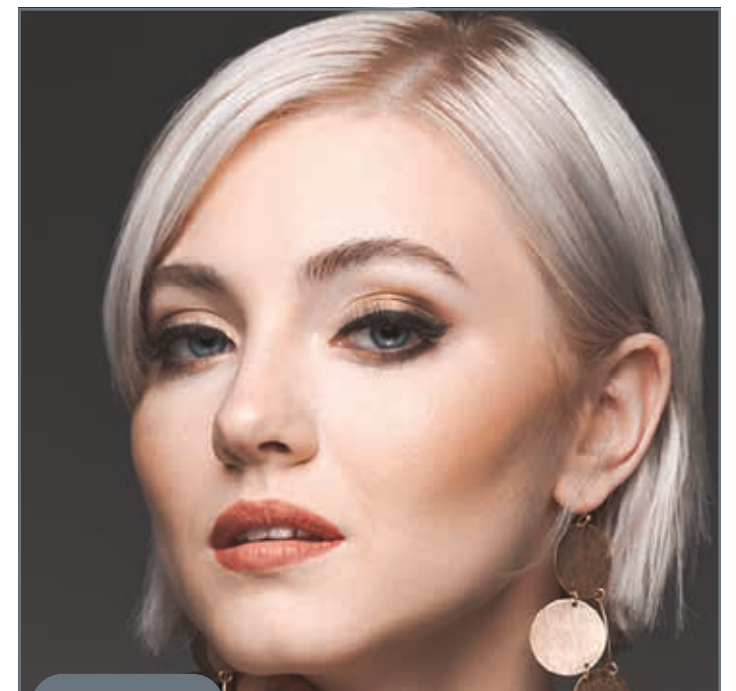
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GREETINGS From Florida

Our favorite baker, **CAROL BURES**, is soaking up the sun!

While most of us are here in Western Springs in the dead of winter, *Western Springs Living* Home Cookin' columnist is enjoying the sun and warmth with some of her family in Florida. But don't worry, Carol has a tasty sweet treat to share with us this month, and she'll be back to share another recipe for the April issue. Though we are stuck in the bitter cold, spring is just around the corner. And in the meantime, Carol shares some of her warmth, as she always does, with our wonderful community.

A note from Carol...

I'm totally relaxed in sunny Florida. I will be staying with my daughter and son-in-law for six weeks in Sarasota. The weather has been ideal: cool a.m.'s and p.m.'s, with 75 - 80 degree afternoons. We get our exercise by playing volleyball in the pool, riding the bike, or walking. It's great to be outdoors most of the day.

Here are a few photos to bring warmth to the Midwest.



Taking a bike ride to the beach not far away.



A game of volleyball in the pool.



Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy New Year!



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wsL coloring contest

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THE WSL COLORING CONTEST RULES:

1. Color the picture on the next page. Crayons, markers, oil pastels, or coloring pencils are all permitted.
2. Remember, creativity counts!
3. Take a photo or scan the coloring page and email it to westernspringsliving@gmail.com. To be eligible, be sure to include your name and age in the body of the email.
4. All entries are due no later than **6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28th**. Winners will be contacted Friday, March 4th, via email.
5. Prizes will be awarded in the under 4 age group, 5 – 7 age group, and 8 – 10 age group.
6. The winner from each age group will receive a \$10 gift card to Oberweis, have their work featured in an upcoming issue of *WSL* magazine, and have their work featured on WSL Instagram and FaceBook pages.

Have fun and good luck!

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**western springs
neighbors &
newcomers**
By Ellen Burt

It might be cold outside, but WSNN can give you great reasons to

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- Couple's Night Wine Tasting and Cocktail Making
- Galentine's Favorite Things at Davanti
- Guys Night Out – Pins, Alleys, and Beers
- Kids Valentine's Exchange
- Ice Skating Meet-ups
- Monthly Book Club
- Sledding at Spring Rock Playdates

Membership is very easy: Visit our website and locate "Become a Member." Just fill out the member form, and send in your dues! After that, the social invites will start showing up in your Evite account! You won't want to miss out on all the fun we have. Don't miss out on the opportunities for family and neighborly fun throughout the year!

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HELLO PARKER

Meet this multi-talented 4-year-old who's already a travel pro!

Name: Parker Vetter

Age: 4

School: Grand Avenue Preschool

Brothers or Sisters: None

Sports I Play: Baseball, T-Ball, Soccer, and Swimming

Musical Instrument I Play: None

Musical Instrument I Want to Learn: Drums

Something Unique About Me: I love to travel, so far I've been to six states and international three times!

When I Grow Up I'm Going to Be: I want to be Black Panther or Wolverine because he helps people, and he's a hero.



Favorites ...

Activities/Hobbies: Playing with my big puppy dog Cooper, he's a German shepherd, going on adventures with my mommy and daddy, baseball, and playing with my cousins and friends!

Animal: Tiger

Color: Blue

Food: Cheeseburgers

Movie: Luca

Music: Bieber

Place to Play: Parks of WS, Waterlemon Kids, WS Rec Center Sports, my basement.

Sports Teams: WS Little League, AYSO

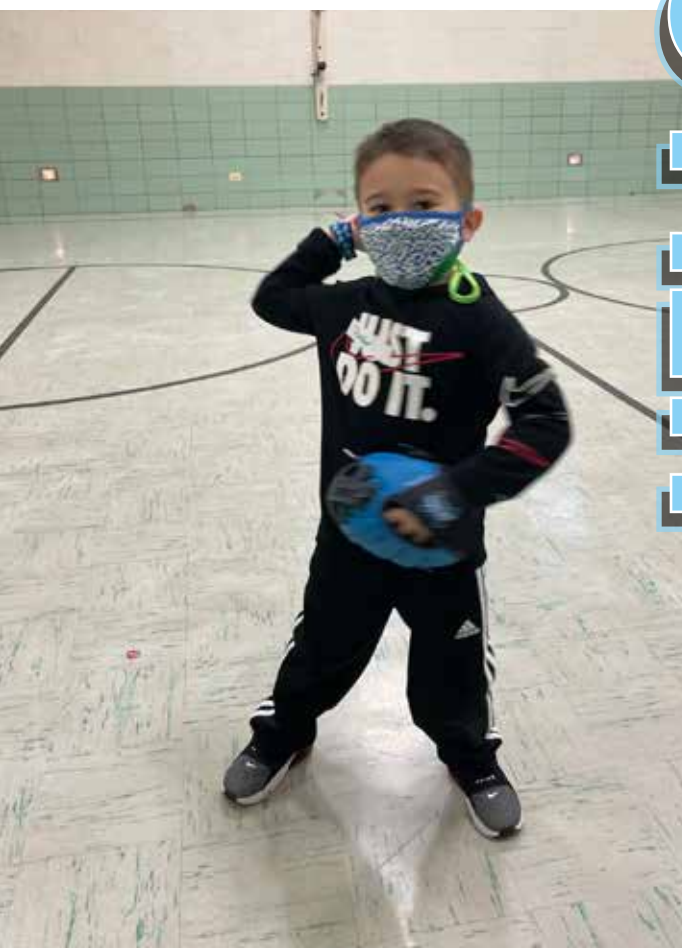
Subject in School: Science

TV Show: Paw Patrol, Booba

Vacation: Some favorites – Playa del Carmen, Miami, Sister Lakes, MI, and Lake Geneva.



Do you know a kid who'd like to be featured? Contact westernspringsliving@gmail.com for more information.



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the hair expert

By **Ross Bartolomei**, Salon Hype owner
and Western Springs Resident

Keratin Treatments

Thick and wavy hair that is prone to frizz in humidity? This might be the hair treatment for you!

Here's a frequently asked question at **Salon Hype**: *My hair is thick and wavy and has a tendency to get fizzy in even the slightest humidity. Am I a good candidate for Keratin, and what can I expect it to do, and how long will the effects last?*

We've literally done hundreds of Keratin treatments at the salons, and the results have been nothing short of remarkable for the majority of our clients. I strongly recommend a consultation first before scheduling an appointment because some types of hair respond better than others -- for example -- if your hair is too coarse or fine, the results will be less dramatic. It's very important that you understand the expectations -- Keratin is not a straightening process. It essentially smooths and softens your

hair, making it easier to for you to blow-dry and style. It is designed to make your life easier, and it cuts your blow-out time dramatically. But, if your hair is wavy or curly, you are not going to walk out with stick-straight hair.

The awesome thing about Keratin is that it's gentle, not harsh on your hair or scalp, and leaves your hair not only softer and smoother, but it gives your hair a super shiny, almost a gloss effect. And, in combatting humidity and frizz (since Keratin

is what our hair is made up of), when it's applied and infused with heat, the Keratin fills in any gaps in the hair's cuticle layer, making each hair smoother, and therefore less frizzy. It's important to use a sulfate-free shampoo -- that's critical. How long the treatment lasts varies; anywhere from four to 12 weeks, depending on your hair and if you use the preferred shampoos. We love KERASTASE Bain Fluidealiste or Curl Manifesto shampoo and conditioner. It's much more effective

and gentler than the old "anti-curl" processing that was all the rage even seven years ago. If you are constantly fighting your curls and the humidity, then you are likely a great candidate for a Keratin treatment.

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featured family

Photography by Alina Tsvor

meet The Mueller CREW NICK, SHAWNNA & SLOANE

Family members:

Nick, Sloane, and Shawna.

Pets:

Pennylane and Punky.

Schools/Colleges:

Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
and Columbia College Chicago.

Occupation(s):

Design Manager at Manifold Group
& Real Estate Broker at Compass
Smother Group.

How did you end up in Western Springs?

We were visiting Western Springs
for a party and had arrived early
from the city. So, we stumbled across
Springdale Park and hung out there
to kill some time. Sloane was playing
with some kids, and my husband and
I were sitting on the swings, watching
from afar, but we both mentioned how

nice it felt there. We both felt
a sense of ease and basically at
that moment - we had decided
to extend our home search to
Western Springs.

How long have you lived here?

Two years.

In which Western Springs neighborhood do you reside?

Forest Hills.

Best place(s) to visit in town?

We love Casey's Market for sandwiches,
Davanti, Hashstacks, Spring Rock Park, Western
Springs Children's Theatre, MusicMakers,
and we were introduced this past summer to
Tropical Sno- what a fun treat!

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What do you love most about Western Springs?

I personally love the nice blend of the old and new homes that surround the neighborhood and we have such kind neighbors. There is a lot of charm in Western Springs and Sloane loves how dog friendly it is here.

Activities and hobbies:

Nick and Sloane skateboard. You might even see Nick cruise by your home on his new electric skateboard that he was gifted for his birthday. Watch out! Sloane loves to draw anime, sketches her own designs, plays guitar, sings and plays softball along with soccer. I enjoy painting when I can find the time and really love decorating our home.

Favorite vacation spot? What's on your travel bucket list?

California. Hands down. I have family there, and Nick and I fell in love there. It's my home away from home, and always an exhale being there. Travel bucket list would be Maldives, Sicily, Normandy, Mykonos, and Sloane wants to visit Paris.

What teams do you and your family cheer for?

Nick is a Packers and Brewers fan, and I really was just a cheerleader back in the day – not a huge sports fan. But from Chicago... so Go Bears!

Favorite restaurants/meals?

Homemade mac and cheese is the all-time favorite in our household and matzo ball soup.

Favorite movies, TV shows, and music?

Nick – Movie: *Good Fellas*
Music: EDM and any hip hop
Shawnna – Movie: *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* and *Pretty in Pink*
Music: Tame Impala and Glass Animals
Sloane - Movie: *Red Notice*
Music: Dua Lipa and Cat Stevens

Any favorite family traditions?

We have mini dance parties in our basement, create these Last to Laugh competitions, play Palace (card game), hike in forest preserves, and we love watching movies together.

Aside from necessities, what's one thing your family could not go a day without? Penny and Punky's snuggles.

If your family were superheroes, what powers would they have?

Sloane says, "Mama would have the speed for cleaning, Nick would have strength because he is strong, and I would have a joy for my power."

What three items would your family take on a deserted island?
A lot of Fiji water, ramen, and our pillows – so, we would be comfortable gazing at the stars and have a touch of home.

A genie gives your family three wishes. What are they?

1. Never-ending summer.
2. Getting a fenced-in dog park in Western Springs.
3. Sloane wishes for a Maserati.



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amazing athletes

Elliot & Greer are tWInNING!

Name: Elliot Meeks | **Age:** 10 | **School:** Forest Hills | **Sport:** Swimming and Irish Dance

What do you love most about this sport?

Swimming: I love swimming because it is fun and it is something I can do throughout my whole life.
Dance: I have made great friends in dance and love competing and performing.

How did you get involved in this sport? How long have you been participating?

Swimming: I took swim lessons at Five Seasons and then joined the Hinsdale Swim Club, this is my third season on the team.
Dance: I saw the Trinity Irish Dancers perform at a community event at the Thomas Ford Library and started classes in kindergarten.

Are you on a team? If so, what team do you play for?

Swimming: Platinum group with the Hinsdale Swim Club.



Elliot Meeks

Dance: I dance with Trinity at the Village Club two nights a week, and I was also on an eight dancer ceili dance team that performed at the Mid-America Oireachtas this past November.

How often do you practice?

Swimming: Five days a week.
Dance: Two days a week.

In what types of events have you participated (tournaments, skills competitions, etc.)?

Swimming: I swim at meets throughout the year, both long and short course.
Dance: I dance at Irish dance competitions (feis) and also recently danced at the Oireachtas for the first time.

What have you learned from playing this sport?

For both sports, I have learned to keep practicing, and if I fail, to keep trying to do my best.

Favorite coach/mentor? Who and why?

Dance: Ms. Katie Noonan, Ms. Cailyn, and the drillers.



Elliot Meeks

These dual athletes are a double whammy of strength AND POWER!

Swimming: Coach Chuck, Coach Char, Coach Scott, Coaches Inna, Brogan, CJ, and Mark.

Share your favorite experience playing this sport:

Swimming: Regionals this past summer.
Dance: Oireachtas with my team.

Have you earned any awards or honors you'd like to mention?

Swimming: I qualified for the long course Regionals this past summer, and I also have qualified for short course Regionals this February.
Dance: I placed first in the Traditional Set U9 dance at the Oireachtas out of 70 dancers. I danced a hard shoe dance called St. Patrick's Day.

Give a tip for someone looking to get into this sport:

Swimming: Keep pushing yourself to do better, that is how you progress.
Dance: Keep practicing. For both sports, listen to your coaches and set goals to achieve.

Name: Greer Meeks | **Age:** 10 | **School:** Forest Hills | **Sport(s):** Swimming and Irish Dance

What do you love most about this sport?

Swimming: I love how you can push yourself to drop your time in an event.
Dance: I love to do my best to place in a dance.

How did you get involved in this sport? How long have you been participating?

Swimming: I took swim lessons at Five Seasons and then joined the Hinsdale Swim Club, this is my third season on the team.

Dance: I saw the Trinity Irish Dancers perform at a community event at the Thomas Ford Library and started classes in kindergarten.

Are you on a team? If so, what team do you play for?

Swimming: Platinum group with the Hinsdale Swim Club.
Dance: I dance with Trinity at the Village Club two nights a week, and I was also on an 8 dancer ceili dance team that performed at the Mid-America Oireachtas this past November.



Elliot and Greer Meeks

How often do you practice?

Swimming: Five days a week.
Dance: Two days a week.

In what types of events have you participated (tournaments, skills competitions, etc.)?

Swimming: I swim at meets throughout the year, both long and short course.
Dance: I dance at Irish dance competitions (feis) and I also recently danced at the Oireachtas for the first time.

What have you learned from playing this sport?

Swimming: I have learned to never give up.
Dance: the more you try, there is no limit in dance. I can keep pushing myself to achieve.

Favorite coach/mentor? Who and why?

Dance: Ms. Katie Noonan, Ms. Cailyn, and the drillers.
Swimming: Coach Chuck, Coach Char, Coach Scott, Coaches Inna, Brogan, CJ, and Mark.

Share your favorite experience playing this sport:

Swimming: I recently qualified to swim at short course Regionals this February.
Dance: I loved dancing at the Oireachtas!

Have you earned any awards or honors you'd like to mention?

Swimming: I recently qualified for short course Regionals this February.
Dance: I placed third in the Traditional Set U9 Dance out of seventy dancers at the Oireachtas. I danced a hard shoe dance called St. Patrick's Day.


Give a tip for someone looking to get into this sport:

Swimming: Keep pushing yourself to do better, that is how you progress.

Dance: keep practicing. For both sports, listen to your coaches and set goals to achieve.



Greer Meeks

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Top Ten FIT TIPS of 2022!

If asked, “Do you want to improve your health in 2022?” Most of us would reply, “YES!” But, how do we do it?

What steps do we take? Who do we enlist for help?

Lucky for us, we are surrounded by excellent, local health professionals ready to help us feel our best in 2022. Use my Top Ten Fit Tips as a guide to elevate your wellness this year.

- 1.) **Prioritize Workouts.** Plan your week of exercise sessions on Sunday night, and prioritize your workouts as if they are critical meetings with your boss or the school principal. Buddy-up with a neighbor to train together once a week and keep each other accountable to attend!
- 2.) **Walk Every day.** A walk outdoors, even on a frigid Chicago day, can change the trajectory of your mood, releasing endorphins, boosting your energy, and providing a quiet moment for introspection. A walk after a meal aids in digestion and boosts your metabolism. Plan lunch at **Hash Stacks** with a friend and walk to and fro no matter the weather.
- 3.) **Refine Your Form.** Utilize personal training sessions to ensure you’re effectively exercising with the correct form and at the right intensity to meet your fitness goals. Make an appointment with a trainer at **ELITE Fitness** for one-on-one sessions or **Lisa Dienes** (that’s me) for small group sessions at **Invicta Kickboxing** in Countryside.
- 4.) **Journal Daily.** Whether one sentence or five pages, journaling clears your mind and provides insights into your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. From a local boutique, choose a journal that inspires you to develop a daily journaling practice and connect with your inner thoughts to enhance your mood and well-being.



Clarity Physical Therapy/Western Springs



Invicta Kickboxing/Countryside



Hash Stacks/Western Springs

- 5.) **Boost your Nutrition.** Visit **Nourished Hinsdale** to improve your diet and pick up healthy versions of snacks, wild-caught fish, and antioxidant-rich spices. If you are looking for a 2022 reset, a soup cleanse, or detox may suit you well.
- 6.) **Seek Inspiration.** Read *any* book written by **Ryan Holiday**, but especially, *Stillness is the Key*, and *The Obstacle is the Way*. Holiday’s practical yet inspirational writing will revolutionize the way you problem solve and view challenges. Visit **Anderson’s Bookshop** in Downers Grove (or order via Anderson’s website: www.andersonsbookshop.com).
- 7.) **Dress the part.** Don’t underestimate the power of high-quality and well-fitting activewear and running shoes! Find a new workout look that makes you feel confident, and helps lure you out of bed to exercise in the morning from **Game Set** in Hinsdale. **Peak Running** in LaGrange will ensure that you have the right kicks to match your gait, making your running sessions more enjoyable.
- 8.) **Shift to Safer Products.** Clean eating is key to your health, but what about the products you put on your skin? Visit **Luxe-Honor** in LaGrange to explore their non-toxic, natural self-care products. While in-store, sample mood-elevating essential oils, book a massage or reiki session or participate in a fitness class taught by talented, independent instructors.

- 9.) **Address Pain + Injuries.** Any pain or injury (no matter how minor) can cause our bodies to compensate over time, resulting in poor movement patterns that expose us to further injury. Schedule an evaluation at **Clarity Physical Therapy** to refine your movements, prevent injuries and stay active in reaching your fitness goals.

- 10.) **Flow.** Have you always wanted to try yoga but feel like it’s a foreign language? Check out my free “**Beginner’s Guide to Yoga**” virtual tutorial (www.lisadyogafit.com), then pop over to **CorePower Hinsdale/LaGrange** or **Inner Jasmine Hinsdale** to try your new moves in an in-person class.



CorePower/Hinsdale



Luxe | Honor/LaGrange



Nourished/Hinsdale

home of the month

5680 Wolf Road

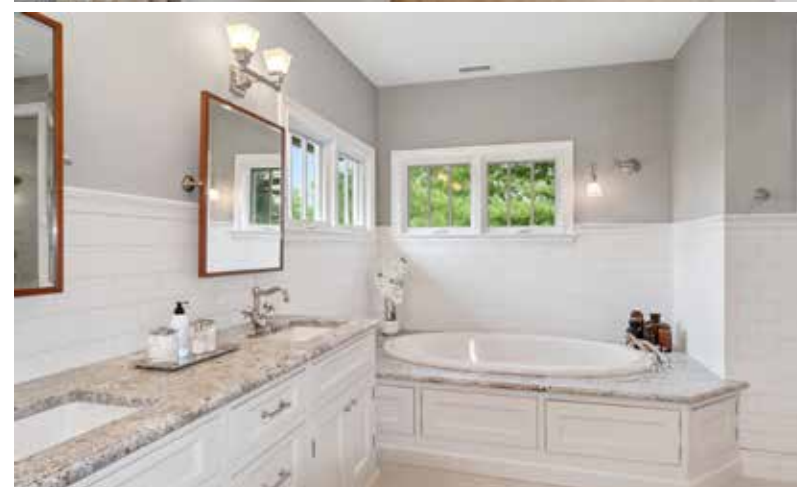
Style and Comfort Enjoyed Every Day

No matter what season it is, you will always have ways to enjoy the exceptional outside and the inside space this home has to offer! Set 90' back on the lot gives you so much privacy. A retreat for all seasons! The luxury primary suite is like no other with your own covered porch, a private sitting room, walk-in closet, and spa bath. The family room has a fireplace and French doors to another covered patio with an outdoor fireplace plus a garden-level patio, too.

This home was built by a builder for her own personal residence and the timeless details and quality features are a cut above. Spacious, sunlit rooms with great flow and function. A beautiful "chefs" kitchen with abundant white cabinetry, lots of counter space, a large island/breakfast bar, and a walk-in pantry. Preparing food and entertaining made easy! First-floor office & flexible second-floor loft space too. Finished lower level, mudroom, and an attached three-car garage!

For additional information and drone photography, please visit my website **ConnieTomlinson.com**.

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How to Cover Your Assets in 2022



**financial
fitness**

By **Randy Porzel**, Private
Vista Senior Advisor and
Western Springs Resident

It's the Month of L-O-V-E of which we all express differently. Some like to show their love with gifts, while others prefer more sentimental thoughts like a handwritten card or a properly drafted estate plan.

The current state of affairs reminds all of us that we live in a time of uncertainty. Now, more than ever, we suggest reviewing your estate plan to ensure your assets are protected in the case you pass away unexpectedly.

- The Federal Estate Tax Exemption has increased to \$12,060,000 per person (\$24,120,000 for married couples) through 2025. In 2026, it is set to sunset back to the 2011 exemption, \$5,000,000, indexed for inflation (\$6,600,000 at 2% inflation).
- The annual gift tax exclusion also increased to \$16,000 per person. This allows you to gift \$16,000 to any non-spouse individual without filing a gift tax return.

If you're an Illinois resident, the Illinois State Estate Tax Exemption remains at \$4,000,000 per person and cannot be shared with your spouse.

For example, let's assume John has an IRA worth \$1,500,000, personally owned life insurance with a death benefit of \$2,000,000 (payable to his kids), and an investment account worth \$1,000,000. Without proper estate planning, John would not owe any Federal Estate Tax, but would owe Illinois State Estate Tax on the amount in his name that exceeds \$4,000,000. In John's case, proper estate planning could save his heirs nearly \$80,000 in taxes.

For those yet to look at their Estate Plan, what better time to do it than now? Here are some things to look out for:

- **Guardianship** – If you have children under 18, who would care for them if you passed away? Without a Will, the courts would determine their guardian. This may or not be the person(s) you want caring for your children and their finances.
- **Asset Distribution** – How do you want your assets distributed if you were to pass away? Under Illinois Intestate Law, your children would inherit half of your assets, and your spouse would inherit the other half, unless you had a will in place, held assets in trust/joint name, or had a beneficiary listed on the account.
- **Powers of Attorney** – Assuming you were incapacitated, who would step in to manage your finances and make health-care decisions?
- If you have children over the age of 18, it also makes sense to have them name you as their power of attorney to make any major medical decisions.

- **Avoid Probate** – transferring assets to a Revocable Living Trust can help you avoid probate court costs associated with settling one's estate. Additionally, a Trust allows you to designate a successor trustee to manage the assets within your own parameters when you are no longer able to do it yourself.

Regardless of how you like to express your love, an organized financial plan and review of your estate plan is a great way to show your family how much you care for them. Consider reviewing this with your Financial Advisor on an annual basis to help secure a prosperous future for your loved ones.

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Private Vista LLC



See Our Guide to Planning
For All of Life's Events

YOUR LIFE ENRICHED



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precious pets

Introducing Snoop

He's a Snoop Dogg!

Family Member Names: Jamie, Matt, and Mason Rosenbaum

Pet's Name: Snoop

Type of Animal/Breed: Mini-Bernedoodle

Male or Female: Male

Pet's Age: 1

Why did you decide to get your pet? To complete our family.

How did you find your pet? Online.

Is there a story behind your pet's name? He is named after Snoop Dogg, the rapper. We liked Snoop because it went with our cat's name of Boo (a frequently-used word by the rapper in his songs).

Is there anything unusual/unique about your pet?

He's so personable, he wants to be pet by everyone and will follow your hands around until you use them to let him. He is also supposed to be a mini breed but is 65 lbs!

What do you like best about your pet ownership? I love Snoop, but the way my son and husband love him is awe-inspiring to me.

Do you have any funny or heartwarming stories about your pet you would like to share?

He loves people so much that he opens to everyone because he is just so excited to see them. We hoped this would stop as he got older, but we're one year in, and he still does it. He will also sit on your shoes when you're trying to put them on or tie them to keep you from leaving.

How has your pet enriched the life of your family?

Absolutely! He brings a lot of love and laughs to the family dynamic. We also spend more time outside because of him and with our extended family because they have a puppy the same age.



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Your Name(s): Cathy Bonaccorsi and Lee Rosenberg

Western Springs neighborhood in which you reside: Both of us live in Old Town South.

Company Name: The Flower Mamas

Industry: Floral design

Website: www.theflowermamas.com

Social Media: @theflowermamas

Phone Number: 708-269-6046



What spurred you to start your business?

Individually, we both had done floral and planter design as a hobby for years. We decided to join forces and make it a collaborative, creative endeavor that we are both passionate about. Three years later, we are a growing, local business! Thank you to all of our friends and family who have supported our dream and have cheered us on along the way.

How long have you been in operation?

About three years.

Describe the services/goods your company provides: The Flower Mamas is a full-service, floral boutique specializing in custom arrangements, event creations, weddings, and seasonal planters.



How many people does the company employ?

Generally, just the two of us, but we hire extra hands for special events

What makes your company unique? Why are you the best at what you do?

Our clients trust The Flower Mamas to create a unique, personally-tailored design every time they work with us. No two creations by The Flower Mamas are ever the same. We listen to the needs and wants of our customers, as well as current trends. The result is a bespoke design experience with the freshest and most beautiful, seasonal blooms.



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If your idea of a sport utility vehicle is something quiet, posh, and comfortable, I can tell you straight away, the new Ford Bronco is not for you. But if you want something that will actually take you places you never thought a 4-wheel vehicle could go – then get your name on the waiting list; Ford has built something really special for those who enjoy going off-road and getting away from it all.

Available as a two or four-door, the 2022 Ford Bronco is built for serious off-roading. The entire roof can be removed, as well as all the doors. Gone is all the unnecessary clutter, like sound-deadening material, swanky leather, or cushy suspension. The body-on-frame Bronco is raw, loud, and bouncy – but take it off-road, and immediately it all makes sense. It's a compromise – you can either have the on-road niceties, or the off-road capability. Ford obviously chose the latter.

The Bronco is stuffed with all sorts of off-road wizardry, starting with standard 4-wheel drive that includes both high and low gearing. Also standard is a G.O.A.T. (go over any terrain) dial, located in the center console that allows you to select what type of terrain you are going over, from mud/ruts to sand to snow to everything in-between. Other

off-road goodies vary depending on which one of the six Bronco models you purchase (Base, Big Bend, Black Diamond, Badlands, Outer Banks, or Wildtrak), with specialty options like lockable front and rear differentials, disconnecting sway bars, trail one-pedal drive, and a “trail turn assist” which helps the Bronco spin in place to mitigate through tight turns. Ford makes all of these features easy to activate with a touch of a button at any speed. Additionally, for buyers who truly want the ultimate in off-roading, there's an available add-on “sasquatch” package with 17-inch beadlock wheels wrapped in 35-inch mud tires and heavy-duty Bilstein shock.

Power to the 2022 Ford Bronco comes from either a 2.3L turbo 4-cylinder engine making 300hp and 325 lb-ft torque or an optional 2.7L twin-turbo V6 making 330hp and 415 lb-ft torque. The standard transmission is a 10-speed automatic, with an optional 7-speed manual, whereas the seventh gear is actually a slow-speed “crawler” gear intended for off-roading only. Unfortunately, buyers who opt for the manual can only have the 2.3L engine and have to forgo the “sasquatch” package, as well as the “trail turn assist” feature.

So, what was the two-door Bronco like to drive? Well, having driven

the four-door version a few months prior, there's a noticeable difference in the ride. The shorter wheel-base of the two-door makes the drive bouncier, which is only further amplified by the extra-large tires of the “sasquatch” package on my test vehicle. Although the two-door also has less cargo space and only seats four, it is lighter and easier to maneuver, making it a little better suited for off-roading than its bigger, four-door brother. The car's interior isn't bad, but it's not great either – panels flex when you push on them and there's a lot of hard plastic. However, the controls are nicely placed with real buttons and dials for the radio, volume, and temperature settings. Having a conversation at speeds over 70mph can be difficult as tire and wind noise really start to overwhelm the cabin. On the plus side, both engine options feel strong and capable, though the 2.7L V6 delivers effortless power at highway speeds and does 0-60mph in an impressive 5.9 seconds.

Prices for the Bronco are truly all over the place. The Base version two-doors starts at a reasonable \$29,995 but add more options and features, and the price starts to climb quickly: A Black Diamond model will set you back \$37,545, with the Outer Banks version hitting \$40,450. The top-tier Wildtrak starts at \$52,065 and can reach North of \$56,000 with options, making the pricing span between the lowest and highest Bronco at over \$26,000 – that is a huge price swing.

Overall, the new Bronco is great at what it is intended to do, to get off the pavement and head down the beaten path. With all of the onboard technology and different drive-modes, the Bronco makes the hard stuff look easy – no matter what your off-roading skill level is, this new 4x4 will make you look like a serious off-roading pro!

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upcoming local events

February 2022

Because of cancellations surrounding Covid-19 once again, please check with the hosting company or business to confirm these events have not been canceled or rescheduled for a later date.

Lapsit Virtual Storytime

Tuesdays, through February 15, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Thomas Ford Memorial Library

Welcome to our live virtual storytime for babies!

We are using Zoom to present these storytimes. *One registration per family (not per participant) is all that is required.* We will send a Zoom invite link to all the families that are registered. Please email youthservices@fordlibrary.org if you are unable to attend, and we will email you the recording.

Preschool Pals Virtual Storytime

Tuesdays, through February 15, 2022

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Thomas Ford Memorial Library

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We are using Zoom to present these storytimes. *One registration per family (not per participant) is all that is required.* We will send a Zoom invite link to all the families that are registered. Please email youthservices@fordlibrary.org if you are unable to attend, and we will email you the recording.

Styrofoam Recycling

First Saturday of each month

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Address: Recreation Center, 1500 Walker Street, Western Springs, IL 60558

Visit wsprings.com for more information.

Learning Anti-Racism Together (LART) Book Discussion

Wednesday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m.

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In-Person Book Discussion

How the Word Is Passed, Clint Smith

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Email learningantiracismtogether@gmail.com to register.

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Western Springs Writers' Society

Thursday, February 28, 2022

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Program Room/Thomas Ford Memorial Library

Have a writing itch? The Western Springs Writers' Society welcomes all writers from the community to discuss and hone their craft with other local writers. Whether this is your career or hobby, writers of all levels and genres are invited. Questions in advance? Please contact Marie Gerken at marie@gerken.org or Jim Swinehart at jswinehart@clausen.com.



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Here is a recipe that you will make over and over again. Everyone loves it. I had a workman here one year while I was making it for Christmas and then again for Valentine's Day. He asked me to teach him how to make it. He has since returned to tell me how often this recipe is requested by his family. If you're lucky enough to have a man like that in your life, he'll appreciate this easy recipe that looks more difficult than it is ... so he can reap the compliments.

A little background about the recipe: Many years ago (over 50) when I would cart my daughters to the Park District in Chicago for playtime activities, the moms would gather in another room and talk about all sorts of things - including recipes. We would bring our favorites and have a paper and pen ready. This one comes from a butter company and only has six ingredients, including the cherries. The dough almost tastes like pound cake with sunken cherries in the center. I hope you think it's easy and is as good as it looks.

Easy Cherry Squares

- 1 ½ c. sugar
- 1 c. Butter (2 sticks = 1/2 lb.)
- 4 large eggs
- 2 c. flour (sifted)
- 1 T. lemon juice or extract
- 1 can cherry pie filling (Aldi's has the best)
- Cream the butter and sugar at medium speed until light & fluffy.
- Add eggs one at a time beating after each egg.
- Gradually add flour and then lemon juice/extract.

- Pour batter into Pam sprayed 15x10x1' jelly roll pan.
- Mark off with the edge of a spatula into small 6x9 or 8x4 squares.
- Place two small cherries into the center of each square for the mini size or three cherries for the larger size.

Bake at 350* for 45 minutes. When warm and not completely cooled, sift or shake confectioners sugar over the entire pan of squares.

Cool completely and then cut into squares.

Now wasn't that easy? I hope so.



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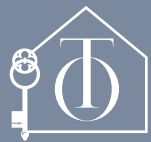
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4031 HARVEY AVE	\$755,000
4135 ROSE AVE	\$729,625
4220 HOWARD AVE	\$727,000
5236 GRAND AVE	\$665,000
5204 GRAND AVE	\$610,000
5326 FAIR ELMS AVE	\$600,000
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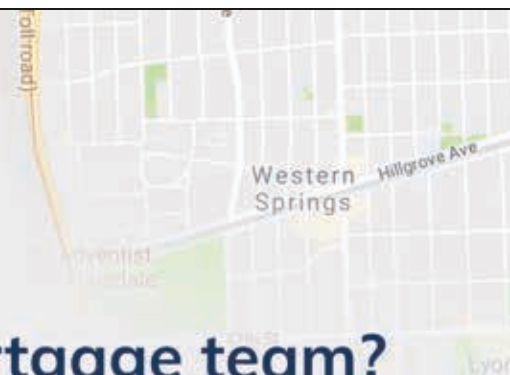
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