

LITTLE ROCK soirée

JULY 2024 \$ VOL. 23

Nº5

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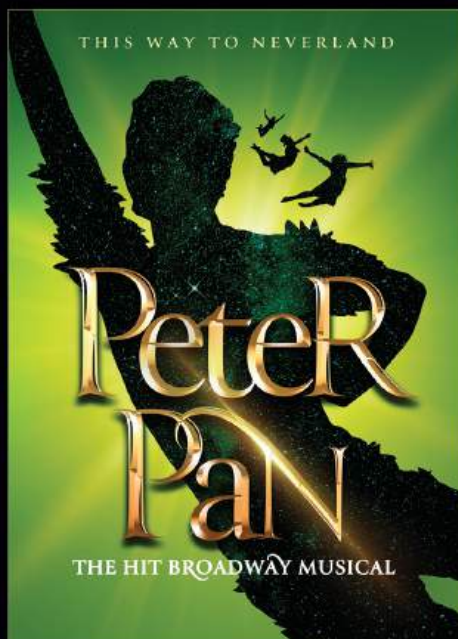
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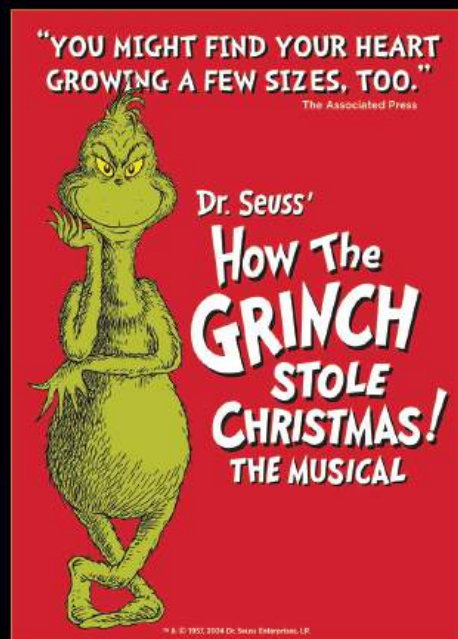
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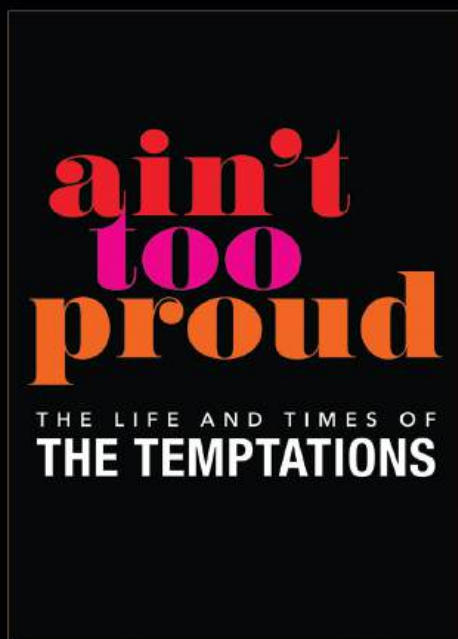
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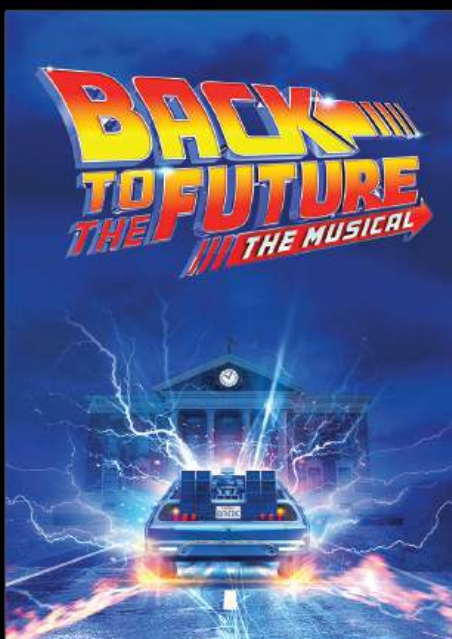
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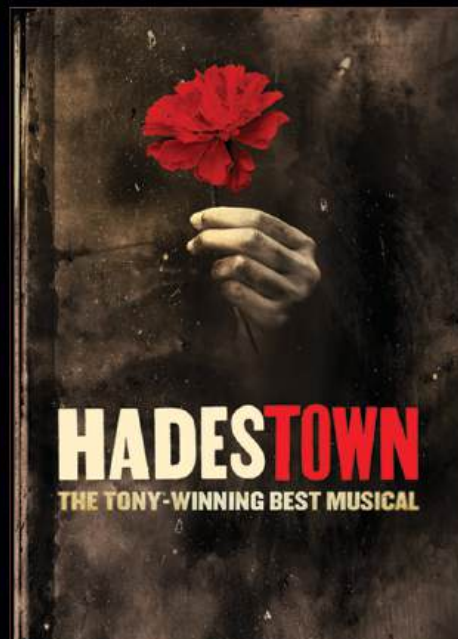
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(FRONT) - APRIL FINDLAY, MOLLIE BIRCH, AMBER GIBBONS, EMILY YOUNG, JILL CHILDERS, JONIE BURKS (NOT PICTURED)

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Little Rock's Most Beautiful Homes

Modern mansions, cozy cul-de-sacs, secluded hideaways — this is how you do Little Rock in style.



On the cover

One of Little Rock's Most Beautiful Homes, 9101 Pinnacles Cove.
Photography by JASON MASTERS.

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p.30

For the carnivores among us, this month's spotlight of three local burger buffs will no doubt have you salivating. But we haven't forgotten you, non-meat-eaters. You can opt for a scrumptious veggie patty instead on any of your **Smashed 'n' Stacked** burgers or a falafel patty at Brood & Barley.

p.38

*"It wasn't
ever
about me."*

- VINCENT INSALACO,
CO-FOUNDER AND PRODUCING
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE ARGENTA
CONTEMPORARY THEATRE



As is tradition, we spent the month of June deeply invested in our 10th annual **Cutest Dog Contest**. Head to littlerocksoiree.com to see who won, and keep an eye out for their editorial debut in our September issue!

LITTLE ROCK
soirée
CUTEST
Dog
CONTEST

p.36

Exploring the **Ninth and Co.** showroom for our story with co-owner Megan Thomas was a wonderful trip down a stylish rabbit hole. The outdoor lifestyle retailer was, of course, filled with furniture for enjoying the yard life, but we were also impressed with the selection of decor, fragrances, lighting and serveware they have in store. Who wouldn't want to sip something chilled from this elegant set poolside?



p.42

Speaking of poolside, our **Most Beautiful Homes** feature once again took us to some of the most luxurious spaces in the city, and we'll be daydreaming about this one for the foreseeable future.





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Engel & Völkers congratulates our Soirée's best real estate agents!



JoJo Carter

JoJo has been in real estate full time for 20 years. She has a construction and renovation background as well as an interior design degree, both of which prove to be very helpful to buyers and sellers. "I assist my sellers in everything from staging their homes to remodeling advice," JoJo says. "With buyers, I pay close attention to their needs, wants and personal tastes to ensure I find and show them the best homes for them. My background also helps me show buyers how to look past the current condition or floor plan of a home to see its true potential so we don't miss what could be the perfect home!"

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Selen Strickland

Selen believes in turning dreams into reality. She believes home is where you make it, create memories, and build a life. She is driven by a passion for helping clients find their perfect home by providing personalized, dedicated service tailored to their unique needs. Selen has had the opportunity to study and travel across the globe while growing an extensive network and gaining valuable marketing experience. With a Master's degree in Global Luxury and Management from North Carolina State University, Selen brings strong, expert guidance, and in-depth knowledge of the local market to benefit her real estate clients.

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Ryan Stephens

Ensuring each client's journey is deeply valued by delivering tailored and personalized service — this is Ryan Stephens' hallmark. Whether discussing a selling strategy in the living room or educating on the complexities of real estate over coffee, Ryan is all about providing intentional service. Clients are drawn to his passion, integrity, and commitment. Ryan cherishes the relationships he's built and the opportunities to serve. With hundreds of families served and consecutive years as a Diamond producing agent, his dedication and expertise clearly pay off. Ryan is deeply thankful for everyone who has trusted him with their real estate needs or referred family and friends.

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DINING AT OAKLAWN

Nestled within Oaklawn Hot Springs, The Bugler offers a restaurant experience that is the perfect combination of culinary excellence and casual elegance. This dining destination promises an unforgettable meal for guests who seek sophisticated ambiance, impeccable service and, most importantly, delicious cuisine.

At The Bugler, each dish is a testament to culinary artistry. Executive Chef Ken Bredeson and Room Chef Omar Escobar curate a menu that celebrates quality ingredients and timeless techniques, from succulent steaks cooked to perfection to seasonal produce, fresh seafood and more.

Start your evening with appetizers such as the decadent crab cakes, with jumbo lump blue crab and a tangy tarragon remoulade, or the Fresh Caprese Flatbread, with fresh mozzarella, Heirloom tomatoes, basil pesto and balsamic drizzled field greens. Soup offerings include classic French onion as well as lobster bisque, while you can choose from a variety of salads like an iceberg wedge with pork belly or a seasonal salad with field greens, fresh tropical fruits and dressed with citrus vinaigrette. These are perfect accompaniments to an entrée or can make a lighter meal on their own.

For the main course, the filet is a favorite, seared to a mouthwatering finish and paired with a velvety béarnaise sauce. If you're a seafood lover, choose from the miso marinated sea bass, the pan-seared scallops with cured chorizo or the Seafood alla Marinara, featuring a bounty of gulf shrimp, cherry stone clams, black mussels and scallops in a spicy tomato broth. If you're in the mood for something on the lighter side, try the Mediterranean, with orzo salad, olive-brined chicken, artichokes, blistered tomatoes, feta cheese and white wine sauce.

Don't forget dessert. The seasonal menu currently features summer favorites with something for everyone to love — strawberry shortcake with Grand Marnier strawberries? Tahitian vanilla and citrus crème brûlée? Chocolate mousse torte? Deciding might be tough, but there's no wrong answer.

No exceptional meal is complete without the perfect wine. The Bugler's extensive curated list features selections from prestigious vineyards around the world. Whether you prefer a robust red, a crisp white or a sparkling champagne, your server can help you select the ideal pairing to complement your meal.

In addition to providing food and drink recommendations, the attentive and knowledgeable staff are dedicated to ensuring that you receive outstanding service. From the moment you are greeted at the door to the final sip of an after-dinner drink, they will aim to make your visit seamless and memorable.

The right ambiance can make a good meal great, and stepping into The Bugler, guests are immediately enveloped in an intimate, inviting space. The décor is a seamless blend of modern sophistication and classic charm, featuring rich wooden accents, soft ambient lighting and plush seating. Panoramic windows offer a view of the iconic Oaklawn racetrack, adding a unique backdrop to the experience.

The Bugler is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. Whether you're celebrating a milestone, enjoying a romantic evening or simply seeking to indulge in a great meal, reserve your table and discover why The Bugler is Hot Springs' premier dining destination.

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MAJOR MILESTONES

At its annual meeting with boards of directors and trustees, the **Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts** announced a slew of achievements and goals to cap the museum's first year. Key takeaways include the return of the museum's famed Tabriz gala in 2025, an upcoming Diego Rivera exhibit, the presentation of the Winthrop Rockefeller Memorial Award to Van Tilbury and a final tally of the AMFA's capital campaign that raised \$176.6 million, far exceeding its goal of \$66 million.



Restore Hope, an Arkansas-based nonprofit assisting families in crisis, announced its 100 Families Initiative model will be adopted by communities in Michigan and Canada. The model has been implemented across 16 counties in Arkansas and connects resources via one software hub to better "serve a family holistically."

"Families in crisis have many needs, like help with food, housing, transportation, substance abuse treatment, child care or access to mental health services. A single organization can not help a family with all of those," Restore Hope Executive Director Paul Chapman says. "The software allows providers to communicate efficiently about the various needs of a family and see who all is able to assist them. This way providers are not working in silos and services are not being duplicated."



HIGH PRAISE

Camp Aldersgate is now the first Heart-SAFE Project ADAM Designated Camp in the country, a designation requiring the necessary tools and training to respond to cardiac emergencies quickly and effectively.

The **Women's Foundation of Arkansas** announced its 2024 Power of the Purse honorees: Dr. Nirvana Manning as Woman of the Year in Public Service, Lenore Trammell as Woman of the Year in Business and Cathy Tuggle as Woman of the Year in Philanthropy.

The **Argenta Contemporary Theatre** is teaming up with Celebrity Attractions to host the inaugural Broadway Bound Awards highlighting high school musical theater and wrapping with a "one-night-only special showcase event" next spring. Winners will advance to the National High School Musical Theatre Awards in New York City next summer.



NEW DIGS

Refuge Village, the city and partnering organizations recently broke ground on Providence Park, a housing initiative in southwest Little Rock utilizing sustainable tiny homes and a deep connection to community in hopes of providing a permanent solution to chronic homelessness.

Seis Puentes, a nonprofit empowering the Latino community in central Arkansas, will officially open its new headquarters in North Little Rock on July 31.

Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas has announced a new ReStore location coming to the Colony West Shopping Center in Little Rock. ReStores sell discounted new and gently-used furniture, appliances and building supplies with proceeds going to the nonprofit.

BIG MOVES

Adra Winter is now the chief financial officer of **Girl Scouts-Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma & Texas**.



Economics Arkansas appointed seven new board members, including Holly Lenderman, Susannah Marshall, Jacob Oliva and Jeremiah Wood.



Camp Aldersgate added Ryan Miller as its new senior development officer.

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Frontier Fourth of July

10 a.m., Historic Arkansas Museum.
Info: 501.324.9351, historicarkansas.org.

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5 p.m., First Security Amphitheater. Info: 501.378.3807, pops.arkansasonline.com.

9

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12-13

“Henry V” with Shake on the Lake

6:30 p.m., Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts. Info: 501.372.4000, arkmfa.org.

13

Discover Trust Tree benefiting Trust Tree

7 p.m., Museum of Discovery. Info: 917.202.6344, trusttree.org/events.

18

Bingo Bash benefiting Access Group

6 p.m., The Hall. Info: 501.217.8600, accessgroupinc.org/events.

“Legally Blonde: The Musical” Opening Night

7 p.m., The Studio Theatre. Info: 501.374.2615, studiotheatrelr.com.

24

“Grease” Opening Night

7:30 p.m., Argenta Contemporary Theatre. Info: 501.353.1443, argentacontemporarytheatre.org.

25,
27-28

Delta Triennial Programming

6 p.m., Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts.
Info: 501.372.4000, arkmfa.org.

POSITIVELY PALM BEACH

Get a taste of the famed resort destination everyone from Hillcrest to Hollywood is craving.

BY JOSIE BURNETT | PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BREAKERS PALM BEACH



Palm Beach circa the 1960s is very much in vogue thanks in part to the new Apple TV+ miniseries “Palm Royale.” Filled with stylish visuals of tropical destinations and colorful clothing, you can’t help but daydream of a warm Floridian oasis after binging the season. Inspired viewers or vacationers searching for a fabulously nostalgic getaway should look no further than The Breakers Palm Beach Resort.

The Breakers is an American legend. Founded in 1896 by magnate Henry Morrison Flagler, its famed architecture, indulgent amenities and ritzy decor are instantly recognizable and even helped it land a spot on the National Register of Historic Places.

As a AAA Five Diamond property, the design is texturally rich in every sense. Simply approaching the property is an exercise in time travel thanks to the palm tree-lined driveway, Florentine fountain and sun-drenched backdrop.

Entering the dreamy lobby wraps you in a warm embrace with sky-high windows and hand-painted vaulted ceilings. Custom

carpentry accentuates the main masterpiece and floral arrangements, making the space feel alive and blooming with possibility.

Within the Italian Renaissance-style hotel you’ll find 534 guest rooms, including 72 suites with hand-picked furnishings, luxury bath products and, best of all, captivating views of the Atlantic Ocean or glamorous resort grounds. The Breakers’ ultra-exclusive, privately accessed boutique hotel Flagler Club features 21 rooms and suites that sit atop the resort, ready to provide any luxe experience you seek.

Top-tier amenities include an exquisite indoor-outdoor spa with a private courtyard, a 6,000-square-foot fitness center above the resort’s Mediterranean-style beach club, 13 signature boutiques and a range of resort activities such as biking, paddleboarding and kayaking.

There are amenities for the whole family, too. The family entertainment center features an indoor and outdoor space devoted to kids’ activities with a mini golf course, playground, basketball

court and an arcade. If you're sporty, there's plenty of tennis to be played at the resort's beautifully groomed Har-Tru courts, or you can go for a round on the plush green courses. A total of 36 holes are available to guests, including the Ocean Course, Florida's oldest golf course, and the recently renovated Rees Jones Championship Course at Breakers West.

Of course, it wouldn't be a luxury Palm Beach experience without a picturesque pool, and The Breakers has four, plus six whirlpool spas. There's the main pool that sits adjacent to the beach club restaurant, an infinity-style adult pool, an active pool for families and an infinity-style south pool.

Looking to retreat in style? Opt for a private, poolside bungalow with a perfect ocean view, a dedicated concierge, refrigerator, fully equipped bathroom and a lounge area for up to six guests. The bungalows make it easy to relax on the shore with complimentary WiFi, canary yellow loungers and colorful accents.

Roaming the 140 acres of oceanfront property and relaxing with the upper echelons can be exhausting, so you'll need to recharge with a decadent meal. Ten distinctive and delicious restaurants and bars are located inside the hotel including Henry's Palm Beach showcasing elevated comfort food; Echo, which blends bold, unique flavors in an urban space; and HMF, which is situated in the Florentine Room serving up a globally influenced menu, an extensive wine list and original cocktails.

As a guest, one must-have experience is to put on your Sunday best and dine at The Circle. The Old World architectural gem serves up a mouth-watering breakfast each morning, while a superb brunch takes over The Circle's elaborate spread on Sundays. There you can treat yourself to Belgian waffles, eggs benedict, made-to-order omelets, fresh fruit and a raw bar with sushi, caviar, Maine lobster, oysters and more importantly, desserts galore.

Billing itself as the "original home of R&R," The Breakers is a quintessential warm-weather escape. Its grandiose scenery, fashionable atmosphere and endless charm make it nothing short of magical, while the rich history and ambiance of the resort steadily uphold its reputation of class and pedigree. In the search for tropical paradise, there's no doubt The Breakers will continue to inspire travelers, filmmakers and dreamers for years to come.

LEARN MORE at thebreakers.com.



HOT STUFF

The local burger scene is keeping customers fed, full and hungry for more.

BY ASHTON RAY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON MASTERS



ORIGINAL
SMASHED 'N'
STACKED

July is cookout season, and on every grill in America this summer, one comfort food will always be there: burgers. Popular for its versatility and endless array of add-ons, the burger can be found at picnics, pool parties and ballgames all summer long. To find out what takes a burger to the next level, *Soirée* consulted three burger pros in the Little Rock metro who continually bring the heat and unique local flavor.

Smashed
'N' Stacked

Smashed 'N' Stacked co-owner Brannon Racop says burgers were a natural choice for his food truck.

"They're universally loved, customizable and perfect for on-the-go eating," Racop says. "Plus, there's endless room for creativity with burger toppings and flavor combinations, which lets us put our own spin on this classic food."

According to Racop, the key is high-quality ingredients.

"Our secret weapon is perfectly seasoned, juicy patties," he says. "We don't skimp on flavor, either. We handcraft our sauces in house using unique blends of herbs and spices."

The truck, which can be found most days in Pettaway Square, has a clear bestseller. Its namesake burger features a "bacon bit smashed patty" topped with a shredded cheese blend and their signature sauce, which co-owner James Mann describes as a take on barbecue sauce with a honey mustard base.

Kent Wulf eats at the food truck weekly. While he loves their burgers, the heart and mission of the business are what keep him coming back.

"James spends a lot of time in the community feeding people when he could be making money," Wulf says. "That's not a decision many people choose to make, but he does. And for [my husband and me], that makes the burgers taste even better."

Smashed 'N' Stacked's "More Than a Burger" campaign features an exclusive item each month where a portion of proceeds go to a local nonprofit serving people in need. The evolving menu gives them a chance to get creative, such as with June's Mediterranean-inspired offering, while keeping customers coming back and donations coming in.

"This isn't just about selling burgers for us," Mann says. "We love our community and the people in it."

JULY'S
BIG STUPID
BURGER



SIGNATURE
SWEET HOT
BURGER



Brood & Barley

"It starts with the grind," says Jess McMullen, co-owner of Brood & Barley, and he means that literally.

The Argenta restaurant uses a proprietary beef blend for its burgers — "Fat ratio matters." — as well as high-quality bison for its umami burgers, plus a distinct blend of toppings, condiments, sauces and spices.

"What truly makes a great burger is the balance between the entire creation," McMullen says.

Each month, the Brood & Barley staff competes for the esteemed honor of creating the next "Big Stupid Burger," a monthly special with a cult-like following. Recent favorites include June's The Hulk with pork belly, green chilis, fried avocado, mixed greens and a green goddess sauce; and April's Big Stupid Bulgogi, which boasted house kimchi, Korean braised beef short rib and bulgogi sauce. July's offering showcases local peaches, Tajín Seasoning and a bruleed bun.

On its main menu, the restaurant offers six different smash burgers for the lunch crowd and hosts happy hour Monday through Saturday. McMullen's current favorite is the Yum Yum Burger, complete with American cheese, pickles, house-made yum yum sauce, red onions and a brioche bun.

"Brood & Barley has happy hour figured out," returning diner Juli Summitt says. "We always come back for the duck wings, and we can't leave without getting the 'Soprano Smash Burger.' All around, it's a great culinary experience."

Copper Grill

"The approach we take is simple," Copper Grill Owner Dan Kovach says.

The downtown restaurant has perfected the elevated burger its diners crave: a beef blend of chuck and brisket, an in-house seasoning blend and two four-ounce patties on a char grill. According to Kovach, most customer feedback revolves around how flavorful, juicy and expertly seasoned the burgers are.

One of the most notable elements of a Copper Grill burger is the bread it sits on, a custom brioche bun created by Community Bakery.

"The brioche bun is a hit," Kovach says. "It looks big, but presses down perfectly."

The signature sweet sot burger is their bestseller, topped with bacon jam, sweet hot millionaire's bacon, sriracha aioli, house-made pimento cheese and arugula.

Regular customer Pattie Davidson has lived above the restaurant since 2015 and appreciates the environment Kovach and his team have created.

"The food is always delicious, and the staff and patrons are all so friendly," Davidson says. "In the warm weather months, Dan has created a very welcoming patio space. There's no place like it downtown."

"The burger is an American classic because it's a food item that brings people together," Kovach says. "Everyone has a fond memory of their favorite burger or has debated what restaurant makes the best burger. Copper Grill strives to be a consistently excellent choice in the Little Rock dining scene, sourcing the best ingredients being produced by an amazing team of people."



A Soirée Paid Promotion

LITTLE ROCK soirée

TOP MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS 2 0 2 4

Finding your dream home isn't always a struggle. Sometimes the hard part is making it yours. These local professionals are some of the best in the area at making that dream a reality.

Little Rock Soirée surveyed readers, homebuyers and financial peers to compile this list of the metro's top mortgage pros, all licensed and registered with the state regulatory board.

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ALLAN HUDDLESTON
BANK OF LITTLE ROCK
MORTGAGE

ANDREA JOBE
ARKANSAS FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION

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ENCORE BANK

MATT KACZOR
FIRST HORIZON BANK

JOHN KERR
BANK OF ENGLAND
MORTGAGE

BRIAN LOVETT
PRIMARY RESIDENTIAL
MORTGAGE

CAROL PARHAM
FIRST HORIZON BANK

GREG RAMER
GATEWAY MORTGAGE

DARLA RAY
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EAGLE BANK MORTGAGE

JACOB RICE
BANK OF LITTLE ROCK
MORTGAGE

KATHY RICE
GUILD MORTGAGE COMPANY

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SCOTT TAYLOR
MORTGAGE FINANCIAL
SERVICES

MICHAEL WALLACE
NEW AMERICAN FUNDING

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COMMUNITY MORTGAGE

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ENCORE BANK

CHRISTA WILLIAMS
SIMMONS BANK

RICKY WILLIAMS
SOUTHERN BANCORP

GABRIEL WOMACK
GUARANTEED RATE

JESSICA WOODHULL
FIRST COMMUNITY BANK

BOB WORTHINGTON
BANK OF LITTLE ROCK
MORTGAGE

On the following page, you'll meet some of these professionals through paid promotional content. Whether they choose to advertise in the magazine has no bearing on this list.

John Kerr

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF RENOVATIONS & SALES,
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"I want to thank everyone who trusted me in the purchase of their new home and thank you to those who referred them. Thank you to *Soirée* and all the voters. It's an honor to be voted one of the top mortgage professionals in our area," says John Kerr.

Kerr believes a true mortgage loan officer works what he calls "realtor hours" meaning that he is always on call. If he is on the golf course, at the lake or in the duck blind, he is always available to take a client's call and help them out. He says, "When you have the best team surrounding you, the loan process becomes easy and stress-free."



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Green is More on Fillmore

Go inside a Heights home designed with Mother Nature in mind.

BY JESS ARDREY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON MASTERS

WHEN BRAD AND Kathy Workman decided to build a home in a historic neighborhood, they knew two things for sure: It would be as environmentally friendly as possible, and Brad's career in architecture would help bring it to life.

Brad called on his old friend Keith Wingfield, managing member of River Rock Builders and a specialist in green and environmental design, and with realtor Brandy Harp's help securing a property, the team set out to construct a new, green residence in The Heights.

And although life has since drawn the Workmans away from the capital city, what now stands on North Fillmore Street is a home in harmony with its habitat and inhabitants. *Soirée* sat down with the couple and Wingfield to learn more.

Brad, how did your background in architecture, particularly in integrated practice, influence how you approached a project so personal?

Brad: I was a young registered architect when a recession occurred. That motivated me to return to college and pursue a degree in computer science. The majority of my career has been in the CAD (computer-aided design) and BIM (building

information modeling) industry where I initially wrote software for architects and engineers and later became an executive in a CAD/BIM international company. I applied BIM during the design and documentation process. Integrated practice meant I involved the contractor (River Rock Builders) during the design process to get their input before the design was finalized.

Why was it important to you for your home to be energy and environmentally friendly?

Brad + Kathy: We wanted to be good stewards of the planet. Therefore, we made this home a high-performance, net-zero house. We applied many of the "passive house principles." This house is one of the [most air-tight] houses in Arkansas. ... Of course, you need fresh air in the house, and we achieved this with a ventilation system that filters and dehumidifies the outside while recovering heat or cooling.

As one of a few "green" builders in the area, what are some of the notable ways this house meets those standards?

Keith: The most critical methodology for green building is to reduce the overall demand for energy, either electricity or natural gas.





This is done by creating a better “building envelope” for the entire home, reducing the air leaks in or out of the home while still bringing in the fresh air necessary for any new home to be healthy and environmentally clean. We used both open cell and closed cell foam to help accomplish this with a key focus on where and how to apply the foam. Foam is not a cure-all, and if used improperly can cause greater harm than good. We’ve trained on all the aspects of energy efficiency and green building to bring high performance to each home we built. Finally, the use of a small amount of solar panels takes care of the rest of the equation for green building by providing electricity for the small amount of energy required for this high-performance home.

What are some elements you’d never know are green, or better yet, perform better than their traditional counterparts?

Brad + Kathy: Desiring to apply the passive house

principles meant the house had to be all-electric and energy efficient. We discovered that induction cooktops are up to 10% more energy efficient than conventional electric stoves. Additionally, we discovered a heat pump hot water tank consumes up to 60% of what a standard electric hot water tank consumes.

What did you learn from this project that you’ll take with you going forward?

Keith: We used the electric hybrid heat pump water heater for the first time, and it seemed to perform very well. I hope to be able to compare its performance with the tankless natural gas water heaters that we normally use.

What green home trends do you think will stick around for the long haul?

Keith: Builders must begin to use fresh air systems to introduce clean air into the home at a temperature that can be tolerated. Our technology

tempers the air to a usable range so that we are not introducing hot or cold air into the home, rather we put air that is near normal temperature and heat or cool it to bring it to the set temperature of the HVAC system. This is a must for a healthy home.

What are some ways you were able to blend fun and function on the property?

Brad + Kathy: We like to swim for exercise, and the pool heat pump powered by solar panels allowed us to extend the swimming season considerably. With the recent tornado activity, we also decided to build a FEMA F5-rated shelter inside the house. We insulated it and added a cooler, allowing it to become a dual-purpose wine cellar/storm shelter.

What is your favorite feature of the Fillmore home as a contractor?

Keith: The outdoor area with the pool wrapped by the U-shaped house and accessory garage building, along with the spacious rear patio, outdoor kitchen and invisible electric screens make this area a must-use place for any homeowner. In addition, I think the eyebrow front porch roof made of copper is a unique architectural element that fits The Heights Historic District very well. My compliments to Brad on this feature.

What advice would you give to first-time home builders?

Brad + Kathy: Have patience with the subcontractors. We would also tell them not to be afraid to step out of their comfort zone when building their home. In the past, we leaned toward modern designs. With this house, we felt it should honor and fit in with the older homes in The Heights, so we settled on a modern Craftsman style with the eyebrow entry roof.



Garden Charm

OUTDOOR LIVING GETS A NEW LOOK IN THE
LATEST CHAPTER OF A LITTLE ROCK INSTITUTION.

By Jess Ardrey | Photography by Jason Masters
Hair & Makeup by Lori Wenger

Clothing from BARBARA/JEAN. Shot on location at NINTH AND CO.

As the summer months continually beckon us outdoors, they also invite us to reimagine our outdoor living spaces, rethinking every green and paved square inch until it fits our open air dreams.

That's when people come to see Megan Thomas. Thomas is the co-owner of Ninth and Co., an outdoor-centric retail shop and showroom located in The Promenade at Chenal. The business is an offshoot of Antique Brick & Block, a building materials store her father opened in the 1970s. In 2005, Thomas joined the family business at the same time it began offering outdoor furniture and accessories, an expansion that became known as Antique Brick Outdoors.

After nearly 20 years of growth on Ninth Street downtown, that expansion evolved again in 2023 into its current rebranded space on the other side of the city, and with a name that pays homage to its beloved Hanger Hill home.

Soirée sat down with Thomas to talk Ninth and Co., this year's outdoor trends and why shopping local always pays more in the end.

As Ninth and Co. operates under the Antique Brick umbrella, can you tell us how the two work together and what their key differences are?

MT: Antique Brick & Block offers all masonry-related building materials. Starting with the basic building blocks in the foundation of a home — the brick and stone veneers that often are the most daunting decisions for a homeowner — to the finished hardscapes of a patio and pool deck, we carry every element, even manufacturing many of the concrete-based items at our downtown Little Rock facility. Ultimately, Antique Brick & Block offers all of the permanent features of a home.

Ninth and Co. offers all the outdoor furnishings to complement the outdoors from dining to lounge spaces, fire pits and pool chaises, even art and accessories for the interior. In our previous location downtown, Ninth and Co. was more of a destination center with limited hours, but our move to west Little Rock has allowed us to expand our hours, offering a true retail shopping experience including weekend hours.

Both companies cater to both commercial and residential spaces and are characterized by a wonderful team of people focused on the customer experience from the initial design phases all the way through delivery and installation.

When customers come to Ninth and Co., what are some of the most common problems they're trying to solve?

MT: At times, budgets run out by the end of a project and little is left for outdoor spaces. While the outdoor furnishings we offer are high-end and can sometimes be pricey, we love the challenge of a budget. Additionally, space planning is a common challenge. Homeowners often want to include both dining and lounge spaces, and that's not always feasible without crowding out a space. So we work hard to incorporate non-traditional seating areas — arranging ottomans as coffee tables or selecting decorative stools or poufs that serve as both end tables or additional seating — depending on the need. We also see a lot of customers who just need replacement cushions or could benefit from covers that help prolong the life of their outdoor furnishings.

Of all the services you offer, which is the most underrated?

MT: Our free white-glove delivery service and in-home design consultations, including space planning. It's true (and unfortunate) that many of the products we offer can be purchased online directly from the manufacturer, and sometimes with free shipping. However, many of those items come in a box requiring assembly and boxes that need to be disposed of, and there are often damaged items and warranty claims that come from that. We take care of 100% of those headaches, and often for less than what is offered online.



When someone is rethinking an outdoor space, what questions should they ask?

MT: When thinking of your outdoor space, it's important to consider how you'll spend your time. Do you enjoy dining outside? Or do you prefer to lounge and enjoy cocktails? If it's truly dining, how many people do you plan to seat on a regular basis? A very important and often overlooked question is how much maintenance and upkeep you are committed to doing.

What popular new trends are you seeing this year?

MT: Sustainable outdoor furniture has become a cornerstone of outdoor living. Many of our products are manufactured with recycled ocean plastics, including the weaves. Even the fabrics are now produced with a minimum of 20% recycled content. Not only does this furniture have a great sustainability story, but it is virtually indestructible and amazingly low-maintenance.

Likewise, what classic elements do you think stand the test of time?

MT: While there has been a shift toward modern design and mid-century styles, the reality is that we are still in the South, and that Southern living charm still commands for many buyers. Teak and wicker are classic elements that we will continue to see in outdoor living designs.



**MEGAN'S
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HELP TO GROUND AND
CENTER A SPACE)





NO PEOPLE LIKE SHOW PEOPLE

How the Argenta Contemporary Theatre built a cultural haven, and how Vincent Insalaco built the Argenta Contemporary Theatre.

BY ALEXIS PETERS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JASON MASTERS

AS A POLITICAL fixture in the 1970s, Vincent Insalaco can fill stories of Arkansas' political history with living, breathing characters. Or he can help you understand the obvious, but not immediately apparent, connection between the video rental business, independent film and the straight-to-streamer options we enjoy today.

To date, his 70 years have been anchored by not just one, but several fulfilling careers, a lasting and influential love story and a deeply rooted community. It's a compelling narrative, to the point that even Insalaco, at times, feels his life has been too perfectly scripted to be his own. So it seems fitting the thread he can always pick out between his many chapters is the importance of story, performance and the meaningful connections that form on both sides of the stage.

In some ways, his journey to co-founding the Argenta Contemporary Theatre (ACT), originally the Argenta Community Theater, and holding his current position as producing artistic director started with a lonely childhood in New York. As a kid in the 1950s, he developed a years-long case of rheumatic fever. He was often bed-bound, so instead of playing sports like his brothers, he turned to reading and music. He credits his arts-focused interests with setting his path to the

theater. And it's why to this day, while always quick to defend sports, Insalaco equates the significance of the stage to the discipline required on the field.

"Theater provides the same characteristics that a young person needs: discipline, education, how to put yourself in a community, professionally," he says. "A football player will practice for months in order to have that field goal or that touchdown, and an actor will do 100 hours of rehearsing before they stage a show. It is very much in common. And I think most people don't see that, but I do."

His family relocated to Florida in his teenage years, but after an unhappy stint there, he ended up in Arkansas at 16.

"What can I say? I'm one of those people who prefers mountains to the beach," he says.

There was enough rustic beauty and a burgeoning performing arts scene to keep Insalaco in The Natural State. He immediately started acting in dinner theater, then transitioned to directing through the Arkansas Arts Center (now the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts), and all by his late teens.

It was through the arts community that he met Sally Riggs. In fact, it was Bill and Judy Trice, parents of Will Trice, the current executive director of the Arkansas Repertory Theatre, who introduced them when they all worked together

at the arts center. It was a fateful introduction that would change both of their lives and, by extension, the performing arts landscape of central Arkansas.

Riggs, as Insalaco rightly describes her, is a North Little Rock icon. When she met Insalaco she had just returned home to Arkansas after performing in numerous traveling productions, in "Hello Dolly" on Broadway and as part of the original cast of "Jesus Christ Superstar" on the West End in London.

"When she came home, she was considered one of the best dancers, certainly in the region if not in the country," Insalaco says.

Riggs was supposed to be back home for a short time, but it turned out to be a new chapter instead. She decided to stay, and they made a life together. The two were married for 33 years and had two children. During that time, Riggs opened Studio One for the Performing Arts, sharing her love of dance with thousands of students in central Arkansas.

Insalaco also made a career pivot, but into politics. Putting up yard signs for David Pryor in 1972 led him to become president of the Young Democrats of Arkansas and eventually chairman of the Democratic Party of Arkansas. He also worked for Governor Bill Clinton, and subsequently President Clinton, working in

events. But the shift from the stage to politics wasn't as stark as it seems on the surface.

"It has a great deal of similarities with producing. You're telling stories in theater, and in politics you're putting stories in place, whether it's in a commercial, whether it's at an event or at an arena. It's still a production."

In the 1980s, Insalaco also owned a successful video rental business, supporting independent film by stocking plenty of straight-to-video options before selling in the early 2000s.

The 2000s also brought tragedy. At just 57, Riggs died from renal cell cancer. Insalaco's community rallied around him and encouraged him to find something positive to focus on in the wake of Riggs's death.

"I really wanted to honor her," he says. "Most people who knew us knew I pretty much worshiped her."

Judy Tenenbaum, his faithful friend and fellow theater lover, was there to support him when he decided to return to the stage.

"Judy had really started the whole movement in Argenta. Judy and some others like John Guidan helped make it possible for us to get the building we are in now."

And with that, the Argenta Community Theater was well on its way to becoming an icon itself, complete with a mainstage theater named in honor of Riggs, nestled in the heart of the Argenta Arts District. Papers for the project were filed in 2008, but remodeling the space pushed their official founding dinner to February 2010. President Clinton, Mary Steenburgen and Governor Mike Beebe headlined the gala, hosting nearly 1,300 people in support of ACT.

"It was a remarkable group of people," Insalaco remembers. "It was a magical evening."

After an enchanting kickoff, Insalaco wanted to make sure ACT's productions had a promising start as well. The first show was directed by Bob Hupp, then The Rep's producing artistic director. While Hupp encouraged Insalaco to direct the first production, Insalaco remained firm in his vision.

"I was afraid the community at large might think we were trying to open a competitor, and we never wanted to do that," Insalaco says. "We were trying to help the repertory theater."

According to Insalaco, ACT's original "C for Community" mantra was never meant to describe production quality, but instead the theater's connection to local artists and the public.

"What I really wanted was to start a small community theater," he says, "not at a professional level, but one that could train people who could go on to do professional work."

In other words, ACT was designed to strengthen Arkansas' contribution to the art community as a whole.

One contribution that stands out to Insalaco is producing the world premiere of "Mrs. Miniver." The story, originally written for the stage, was first told in William Wyler's 1943 classic film of the same name. Using connections forged during his stint in the video industry and the help of Courtney Pledger, now director of Arkansas PBS, ACT was able to get the rights to "Mrs. Miniver" and present it to the world in 2015.

"It's a remarkable story about the strength of women when men were at war," Insalaco says. "I was glad to be able to put that on stage. It was a highlight of my theatrical career, or certainly one of them."

Yet beyond bringing fresh stories to the stage, Insalaco is most proud of ACT's growing

"I THINK THAT'S THE MOST EXCITING THING ARGENTA CAN OFFER CENTRAL ARKANSAS."



education program. Christen Pitts, a protégé of Riggs, introduced a dance and education program at ACT. The initial program started with ACTing Up, a two-week summer camp for about 30-40 students. From that promising start, ACT's education program has continued to expand, especially when demand for in-person experiences grew after the pandemic.

Alyson Courtney, who joined the ACT team in June 2022 as the director of development, guided the staff as they added ACT II and the Sharon Heflin Performing Arts Education Center in October of that year. ACT now supports a full-time teaching staff of 12, several contract employees, hundreds of volunteers and impacts 2,500 students annually through year-round programs for all ages.

And it was Courtney who first pushed for ACT to trade Community for Contemporary.

"At first I was against it," Insalaco recalls. "I said, 'Oh, no no no, we can't do that.' And then it became apparent that maybe I'm the past and I need to think about the future."

So Insalaco dusted off his campaign manager hat and polled focus groups to help guide the ACT leadership team as they contemplated a rebrand. The focus groups confirmed Courtney's hunch: It was time for a change.

With Insalaco enthusiastically on board, ACT rebranded in March 2024.

"As ACT grew and began to include an expansive education program, we realized that what Tenenbaum and Insalaco created had become so much more than just a community theater," Courtney says of the shift. "We have professional actors, designers and technicians that grace our stage; we have teaching artists that travel in from New York, LA and Chicago to work with our students; and we now reach patrons from all over central Arkansas."

The next chapter looks bright for ACT. As producing artistic director, Insalaco is intentionally setting the foundation for the future, one he hopes will long outlast his tenure. For the 2024-2025 season, Insalaco is focusing on expanding the directorial bench to include nation-wide talent.

The biggest update, however, involves ACT's education program. Through the years, ACT has expanded into three buildings: the main stage, the ACT II educational center and a facility the team calls "the shop" that stores all its sets and supplies. Looking forward, ACT is hoping to expand into a fourth location to support even more education programs.

"We want to have multiple classes going on at one time, all the time, not just in the summer. Those classes will be acting, music and dance for all ages from third grade to adult," Insalaco says. "ACT will really become an academy. That's the only word I can think of. An institution in its own right. I think that's the most exciting thing Argenta can offer central Arkansas."

With support from the city of North Little Rock, Pulaski County and generous sponsors, these expanded offerings will be available to any student who wants to perform.

"No child is ever turned away because of the inability to pay tuition to our classes or camps. We are committed to making our programming accessible to everyone," Courtney says, adding they recently began outreach in schools for students without transportation.

Yet even as ACT expands and redefines its place in central Arkansas, Insalaco is quick to emphasize the collaborative, deeply-rooted sense of community at the heart of ACT productions and programs.

"I don't like to talk about my history," he says. "I'd rather talk about other people's history, because that's what this was about. It wasn't ever about me."

One person's story who Insalaco feels encapsulates the spirit of ACT is technical director Sara Cooke, a former teacher at North Pulaski High School who has spent the last 15 years recruiting fellow retired teachers to paint the sets for ACT shows.

"You can't put that into dollars, you just can't," Insalaco says. "These are 30 professional people, who have mentored thousands of students over their 30-year careers, who now are coming together, eating pizza and designing and creating sets for the shows."

"It's a community of professionals. That's the only way I know how to explain it. I hope that never, ever goes away."

LEARN MORE AT [ARGENTACONTEMPORARYTHEATRE.ORG](https://argentacontemporarytheatre.org).





LITTLE ROCK'S

MOST BEAUTIFUL HOMES

Modern mansions, cozy cul-de-sacs, secluded hideaways — this is how you do Little Rock in style. Welcome to *Soirée's* 2024 spotlight on the city's most stunning homes.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON MASTERS

15 PARADISE LANE

Neighborhood: West Little Rock • **Year built:** 2001

Bedrooms: 3 • **Bathrooms:** 2 full + 2 half

Square feet: 4,921 • **Builder:** Melinda Markus

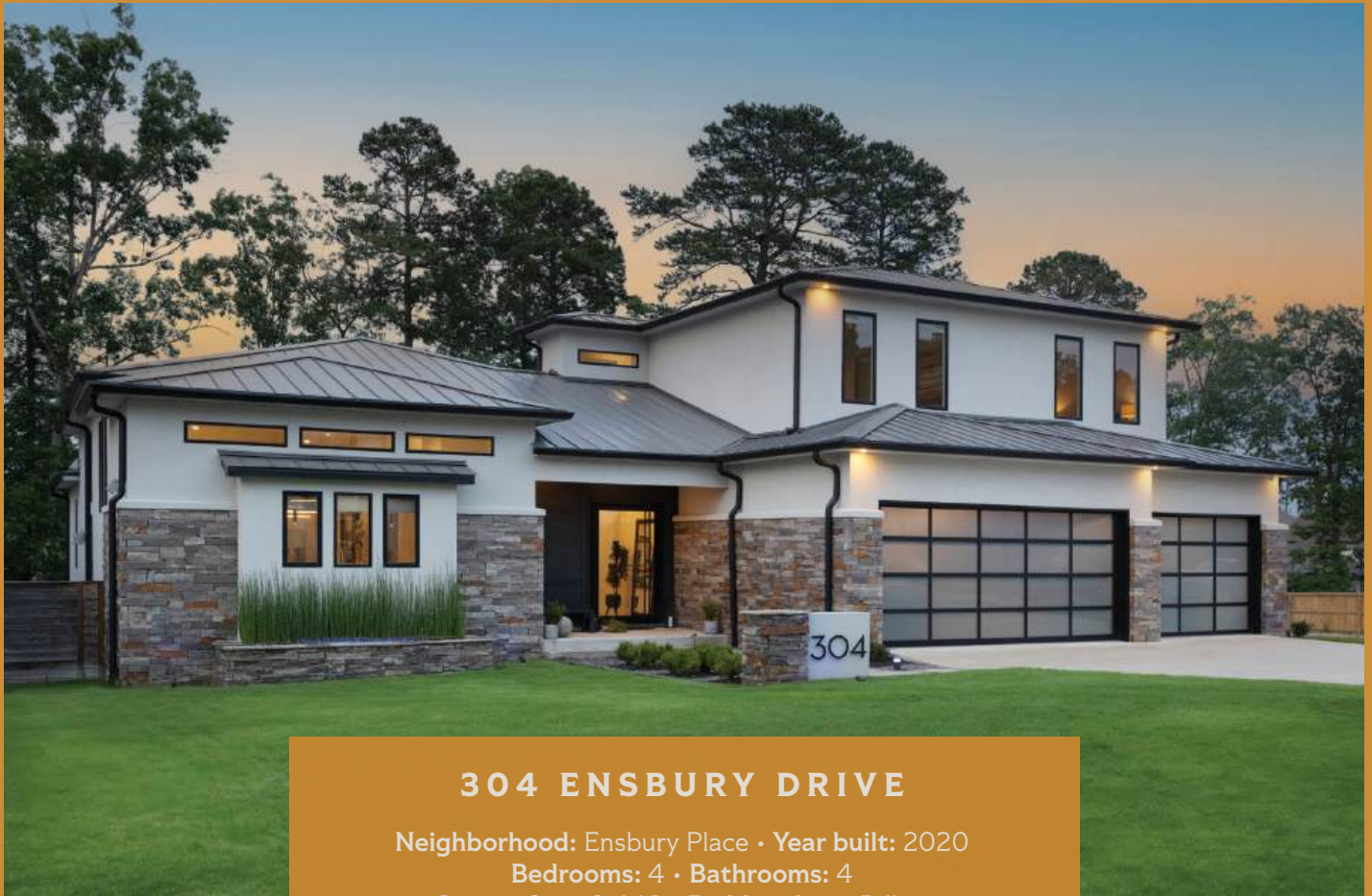
"We love that we are on 15 gated, private acres, but in the city limits and close to everything. Plus, you can't beat the sunsets across the back pond."

1722 E. CAPITOL AVE.

Neighborhood: East Village • **Year built:** 2022
Bedrooms: 4 • **Bathrooms:** 4.5 • **Square feet:** 5,000
Builder: Ken Hayes Construction

"We were honored to have the special opportunity to showcase our commitment to the revitalization of East Village Little Rock and be one of the first families to build a new home and live in this special neighborhood. We are enjoying it and love that our home is cozy enough for us, yet spacious enough to entertain family and friends."





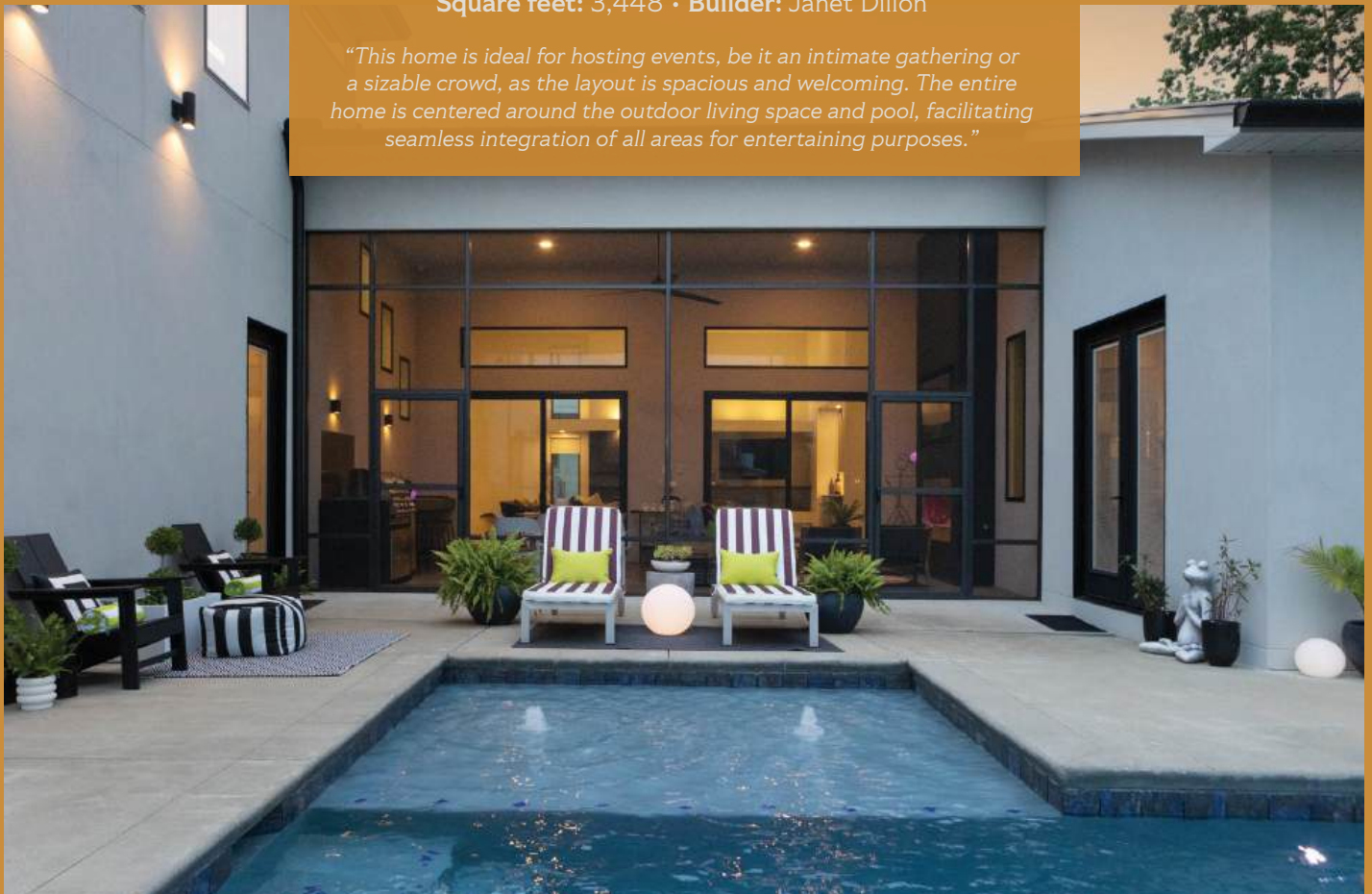
304 ENSBURY DRIVE

Neighborhood: Ensbury Place • Year built: 2020

Bedrooms: 4 • Bathrooms: 4

Square feet: 3,448 • Builder: Janet Dillon

"This home is ideal for hosting events, be it an intimate gathering or a sizable crowd, as the layout is spacious and welcoming. The entire home is centered around the outdoor living space and pool, facilitating seamless integration of all areas for entertaining purposes."





1624 N. TAYLOR ST.

Neighborhood: The Heights • **Year built:** 2023
Bedrooms: 4 • **Bathrooms:** 4 • **Builder:** Jason Garner

"Our one-block proximity to Forest Park School and the ability to walk our children every morning is too good to be true. While the home is new, we worked hard on scale and classic materials that fit with the charm of the neighborhood. We especially like how our home's open floor plan promotes an engaged family atmosphere."



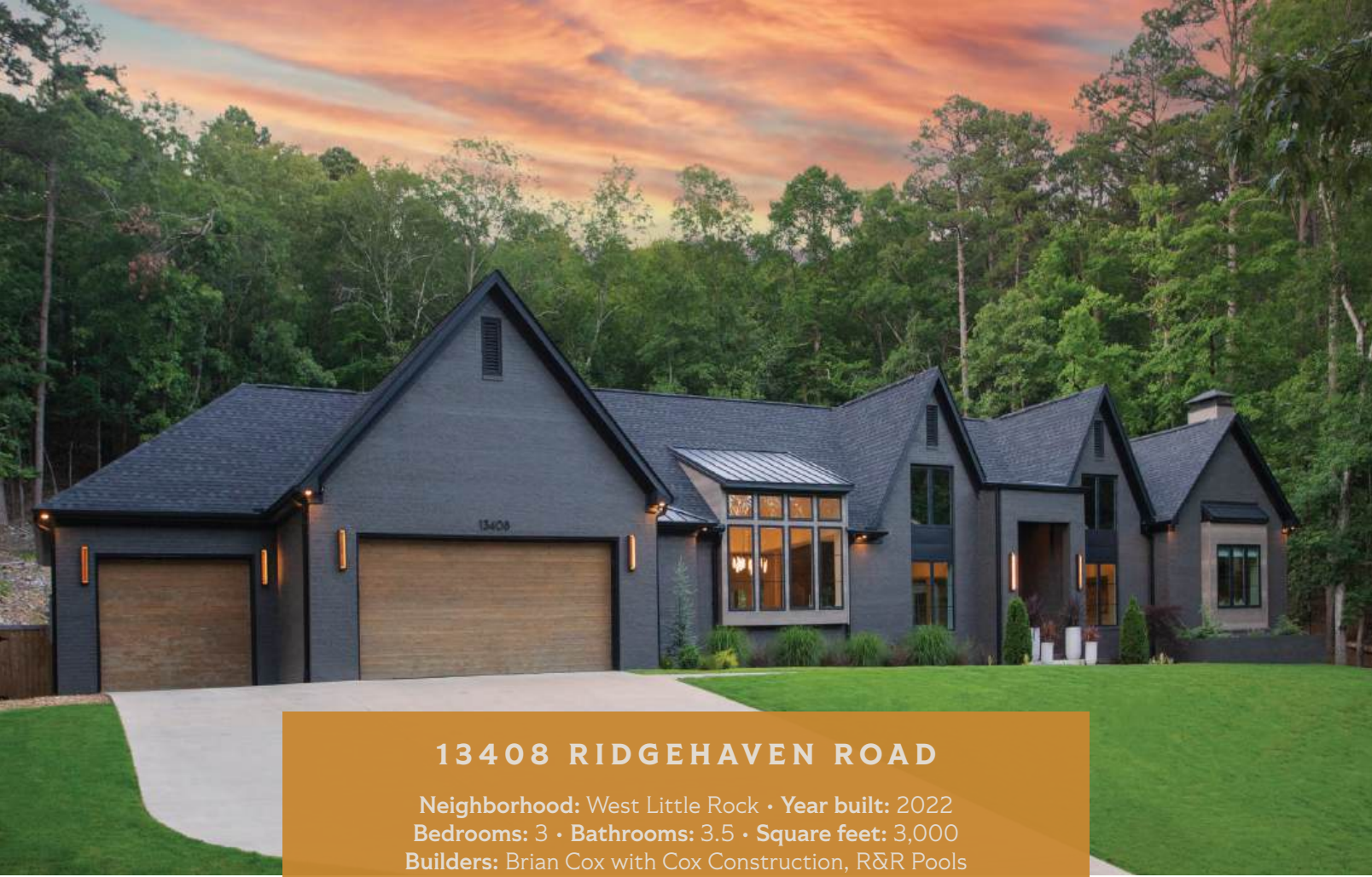


2514 N. FILLMORE ST.

Neighborhood: The Heights • **Year built:** 2023
Bedrooms: 4 • **Bathrooms:** 5 • **Square feet:** 4,400
Builder: Keith Wingfield with River Rock Builders

"We wanted to be good stewards of the planet. Therefore, we made this home a high-performance, net-zero house. We applied many of the 'passive house principles.'"

READ MORE ABOUT THIS GREEN HOME ON P.34.



13408 RIDGEHAVEN ROAD

Neighborhood: West Little Rock • **Year built:** 2022
Bedrooms: 3 • **Bathrooms:** 3.5 • **Square feet:** 3,000
Builders: Brian Cox with Cox Construction, R&R Pools

"Our home is our haven. We designed our house around an abundance of windows that fill every room with natural light, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. The open floor plan provides a seamless flow between spaces, perfect for our family. The pool is the centerpiece of our home, where we enjoy hosting our friends and family year round, making every day special and memorable."





208 SOLOGNE COURT

Neighborhood: Sologne Circle • **Year built:** 2005
Bedrooms: 5 • **Bathrooms:** 5 • **Square feet:** 5,970

"We love the backyard and pool."



514 E. 18TH ST.

Neighborhood: SoMa • **Year built:** 2023
Bedrooms: 5 • **Bathrooms:** 4 • **Square feet:** 3,000

"We love hanging out in our cozy living space that overlooks the street at night and watching birds on the second floor deck. We also really enjoy the large, heated and cooled garages."





9101 PINNACLES COVE

Neighborhood: West Little Rock • **Year built:** 2023

Bedrooms: 4 • **Bathrooms:** 5 • **Square feet:** 5,713

Builders: Taggart Design Group, Diamond Pools

"I like that I can see the sky anywhere, at all times, when I am inside the house — a feeling that outdoors and indoors blend together."





LITTLE ROCK soirée



LITTLE ROCK'S BEST REAL ESTATE AGENTS 2024

For more than a decade, this *Soirée* special section has begun with you. Each year we poll readers, clients and real estate peers to discover the best agents in Little Rock based on customer service-related criteria.

Below is our 2024 list of the city's 74 best real estate agents, all verified and currently active. Congrats to this year's best of the best!

On the following pages, you'll meet some of these agents through paid promotional content. Whether they choose to advertise in the magazine has no bearing on this list.

JENNIFER ADKINS
ADKINS & ASSOCIATES
REAL ESTATE

REBECCA ALLRED
CAPITAL SOTHEBY'S
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

MOLLIE BIRCH
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

PHILLIP BRIDGES
THE PROPERTY GROUP

AMY GLOVER BRYANT
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES

JONIE BURKS
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

MARVA CALDWELL
COLDWELL BANKER
RPM GROUP

LANGSTON CARR
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

JOJO CARTER
ENGEL & VÖLKERS
REAL ESTATE

JILL CHILDERS
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

SHAWN CLARK
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

TREY CLIFTON
ARKANSAS LAND & REALTY

TAMI COOPER
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

TANYA CRAFT
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

MARY CRISMON
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

LA KESHA CROW
COLDWELL BANKER
RPM GROUP

DONNA DAILEY
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

LYNN DICKEY
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

DIANA DOMINGUEZ
SIGNATURE PROPERTIES

ANNA KAYE DOVER
COLDWELL BANKER
RPM GROUP

HOLLY DRIVER
SIGNATURE PROPERTIES

RAY ELLEN
PIXEL PROPERTIES

WHITNEY ELMORE
COLDWELL BANKER
RPM GROUP

MATTHEW FERRELL
PIXEL PROPERTIES

APRIL FINDLAY
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

KARL FREEMAN
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

JOANNA FUREIGH
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

JERALD GARDNER
COLDWELL BANKER
RPM GROUP

AMBER GIBBONS
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

CONLEY GOLDEN
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

MYRANDA GRULKE
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

BRANDY HARP
JON UNDERHILL
REAL ESTATE

CARA HAZLEWOOD
THE PROPERTY GROUP

TARA HELGESTAD
LOTUS REALTY

KRISTEN HINSON
THE PROPERTY GROUP

JAMIE HOFFMAN
RIVER ROCK REALTY

HANNAH HOWE
THE PROPERTY GROUP

MARGARET BELL HUGHES
THE PROPERTY GROUP

JEAN HURST
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES

ERICA IBSEN
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

RENNIE JENKINS
JON UNDERHILL
REAL ESTATE

KELLY JOHNSON
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

CASEY JONES
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

KARA KELLERMAN
COLDWELL BANKER
RPM GROUP

KRISTEN KENNON
IREALTY ARKANSAS

MARGARET KING
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

CATHERINE LANGLEY
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

DENISE LUFT
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

MARADYTH MCKENZIE
CAPITAL SOTHEBY'S
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

BRAD MILES
CRYE-LEIKE REALTORS

MICHELLE MILLER
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

VALERIE MORAN
CRYE-LEIKE REALTORS

KAREN MOULTON
CAPITAL SOTHEBY'S
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

ASHLEY PARKER
SIGNATURE PROPERTIES

NATE PERRY
THE PROPERTY GROUP

ALLISON PICKELL
COLDWELL BANKER
RPM GROUP

SUSAN REYNOLDS
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

CHRISTY ROBINSON
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

MATTY ROSS
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

AMANDA SHUE
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

ABBIE STALNAKER
THE PROPERTY GROUP

RYAN STEPHENS
ENGEL & VÖLKERS
REAL ESTATE

STEELE STRAUSS
JON UNDERHILL
REAL ESTATE

SELEN STRICKLAND
ENGEL & VÖLKERS
REAL ESTATE

DEBBIE TEAGUE
THE JANET JONES COMPANY

MITSY THARP
SIGNATURE PROPERTIES

STEPHANIE THARP
JON UNDERHILL REAL ESTATE

CINDY COOPER TRAMMEL
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES

KENNY VAN PATTEN
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES

KEISHA WALKER
DAWN REALTY & ASSOCIATES

ANDREW WEBRE
RE501 REALTOR PARTNERS

JOWAUN WRIGHT
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY

CATHERINE YOUNG
JON UNDERHILL
REAL ESTATE

EMILY YOUNG
THE CHARLOTTE
JOHN COMPANY



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| BEST REAL ESTATE AGENTS



Jennifer Adkins

*Executive Broker, Owner,
Adkins & Associates Real Estate*

Jennifer Adkins is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and has 20 years of banking experience. This native Arkansan has deep roots in Little Rock with extensive market knowledge. She began her real estate career in 2012.

Adkins has sold over \$200 million in career volume.

Her background in banking allows her the unique ability and skill set needed to facilitate the financial pieces of each transaction. This allows her to guide even the most complicated transactions to close smoothly. Her combined education, talent and extensive market knowledge have catapulted her career in real estate. This has afforded her the opportunity to open Adkins & Associates Real Estate with her co-owners Sharon Adkins and Dennis Adkins.

SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES: Pulaski County

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS: Graduate Realtor Institute; Double Diamond Producer 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023; Top selling agent 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

"The most important things to me are work ethic, treating everyone with respect and, above all, telling the truth."



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BEST REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Ray Ellen

Pixel Properties

"I am passionate about helping people find home, and when you love what you do, you can make what is difficult look easy." Walking the family timberland in south Arkansas with his dad and grandfather, Ray Ellen discovered his love for real estate. He began his real estate career in 2006 in northwest Arkansas as a marketing professional, marketing more than \$49 million in property that year. He became a licensed Realtor in 2007, selling his first listing in less than a day. Now, as founder & lead of the Pixel Properties team, his goal is to create an incredible customer experience for buyers and sellers. "We have spent years working with thousands of clients to create a really fun selling & buying experience so that our clients love the way we work for them," Ellen says. "Not only are we advertising our listings, we are developing content around communities we serve, using analytics and data to distribute them."

The "flashy-front end" is only half the story. The real differentiator is behind the scenes, perfecting what Ellen calls "the craft" of real estate. "I took notes on every transaction," he says. "What made this one fantastic and what made this one a fantastic failure? That laid the foundation for the systems we have put in place to make the process of buying and selling as smooth as possible for our clients and agents."

Since moving with his family back to central Arkansas in 2013, Ellen has consistently ranked among the top agents in sales volume. He has received national recognition in the industry, speaking at conferences and appearing in shows and publications for mastering the art and science of real estate.

SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:

Communities in the heart of Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:

Gold Realtor Award of Distinction 2014; Platinum Realtor Award of Distinction 2015; Diamond Realtor Award of Distinction 2016, 2018, 2021; Double Diamond Realtor Award of Distinction 2017, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023; University of Arkansas alum



Pixel Properties brokered by Real Broker

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ray@pixelproperties.com



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Donna Dailey

The Janet Jones Company

Donna Dailey is a highly valued real estate advisor to her clients. She understands that buying or selling a home is a big decision. She supports her clients throughout the process with a drive to succeed and reminders about what's important based on her clients' values. To achieve her clients' goals, she maintains a focus on sound, winning strategies that she's acquired from years of completing successful transactions, and also from behind-the-scenes work that only a top broker would do. By making the process seamless and by building lasting relationships with her clients, Dailey exceeds her clients' expectations. Her approach builds trust so that together she and her clients can close the deal as quickly as possible. Dailey would like to thank *Soirée* for this honor and her clients for their continued trust, confidence and respect.

SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES: Central Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS: *Soirée* Women to Watch; *Soirée* Best Real Estate Agents; Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Best of the Best; Certified Real Estate Specialist; Little Rock Realtors Association Diamond Level; Arkansas Realtors Association; National Association of Realtors; Little Rock Realtors Association; Arkansas Business Top Residential Real Estate Agents; At Home in Arkansas Real Estate Agents to Love; Arkansas Life Top Agents, Arkansas Times Best Real Estate Agent Finalist



The Janet Jones
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The Gold Standard of Central Arkansas Real Estate

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Tara Helgestad

Lotus Realty

Tara Helgestad prioritizes communication, availability and truly listening to clients so that she can be the best advocate and ally possible. By building strong relationships, she connects people and situations, and it's the key to her success. Every client is unique with their own goals and needs, and that is what she enjoys most about what she does.

Helgestad views real estate purchases and sales as an investment in a client's future. She aspires to build lasting connections with the goal of more business and collaboration, and that is why she spends time interacting with fellow agents, industry professionals and her clients.

While working with investors expanding or selling their portfolios, she also focused on her own investment in real estate. Helgestad owns Lotus Realty, which concentrates largely on investment properties. She utilizes first-hand knowledge and resources for investor buyers and sellers while also working with individuals and families who are looking to buy or sell their dream homes, second homes or first homes.

Making connections, building relationships and investing in real estate are what set Helgestad apart.

SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES: Central Arkansas investments, first-time buyers, relocation and step-up buyers

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS: Broker; Little Rock Realtors Association; Real Producers Magazine; AY Magazine Best Realtors 2022; LRRA Diamond Level Award 2020, 2021, 2023; LRRA Double Diamond Award 2022



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lotusrealtyarkansas.com



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BEST REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Marva Caldwell

Coldwell Banker RPM Group

Marva Caldwell has been a full-time real estate professional since 1998 and has had the privilege to witness and adapt to the remarkable evolutions within the field. Caldwell's approach is rooted in a simple yet profound principle: to listen intently and understand what truly matters to clients from the onset of their estate journey. She is dedicated to ensuring that each of her clients is well-informed about the home-buying or selling process from start to finish and even beyond.

Caldwell prides herself on her ability to cater to a diverse spectrum of clients, ensuring a tailored experience that suits their individual needs. It is particularly an honor for her to assist military personnel, whose service to our country is deeply appreciated.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
West Little Rock, Chenal Valley, west Pulaski, Benton, Bryant, North Little Rock, Maumelle, Sherwood and Cabot

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Luxury Property Specialist; Seller Representative Specialist; Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist; Arkansas Business Top Residential Real Estate Agents 2019; Arkansas Business Reader's Choice Best of Biz 2014; Soirée Best Real Estate Agents



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Trey Clifton

Arkansas Land & Realty

Trey Clifton's dedication to an unparalleled client experience is what sets his business apart. "I pride myself on a genuine and transparent approach," he says. "I find that clients value honesty, knowledge and a proven track record over pushy sales tactics or gimmicks. You won't find me dancing on TikTok, but you will find me in the field advocating for my clients and their best interests."

With sales surpassing \$90 million in just more than two years, Clifton has quickly emerged as an award-winning force within the central Arkansas real estate market.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
New construction, first-time homebuyers, historic homes

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Little Rock Realtors Association Diamond Award 2022; Double Diamond Award 2023; Ranked No. 2 in sales volume in central Arkansas with more than \$60 million in sales 2023



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La Kesha Crow

Coldwell Banker RPM Group

La Kesha Crow has helped her clients reach their goals since 2003. The Little Rock native has worked with both sellers trying to find the perfect buyer and buyers trying to find the perfect home. Crow graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a bachelor's in business administration majoring in computer information systems. She utilizes her tech-savvy background to quickly respond and widen options for her clients while also meeting the needs of clients who seek a more traditional approach. This real estate mogul closes 50 to 65 transactions per year. She has served as vice president of the University District Development Corporation board and secretary of the Little Rock Realtors Association.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Military markets, relocation, new homes, land, investors, first-time homebuyers in Pulaski and Saline counties

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Broker; CRS; CARTUS; USAA; NAR; Voted Arkansas Life Top Agents 2017; Soirée Best Real Estate Agents 2014-2024; earned Little Rock Realtors Association platinum status 2016, 2018, 2023, 2024; Diamond Status 2019-2022; Arkansas Realist Sales Person of the Year 2023

Makeup - Eye Candy by Amari
Hair - Paula Brown
Photograph - Lacey Duncan Photography



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Facebook: Crowing About Homes

Diana Dominguez

Signature Properties

Diana Dominguez was born and raised in Monterrey, Mexico. Now based in The Natural State, she is a dedicated real estate agent who specializes in military relocation moves. Diana assists an average of 80 military families annually with relocations to and from the Little Rock Air Force Base. She actively participates in national panels on military relocation as well as advocating for veterans' housing needs. In 2018, Diana welcomed Michelle McBride, a military spouse, to her team. Michelle brings her own unique perspective and experience, further enhancing the team's commitment to providing exceptional service to veterans and their families.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Military families in central Arkansas near the Little Rock Air Force Base

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Little Rock Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; North Pulaski Board of Realtors Awards of Distinction Diamond Level 2015-2017; Double Diamond Award of Distinction 2018, 2019, 2023; Triple Diamond Award of Distinction 2020-2022; Graduate Realtor Institute 2020



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BEST REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Anna Kaye Dover

Coldwell Banker RPM Group

Anna Kaye Dover is a dedicated and results-driven realtor with more than 20 years of experience in the industry. By staying current with market trends and leveraging innovative marketing strategies, she ensures properties get maximum exposure and the best possible outcomes. Her commitment to providing top-level customer service and her solid track record of exceeding clients' expectations have earned her a reputation for being trustworthy and reliable. Dover strives to make the buying and selling process as smooth as possible for her clients, guiding them every step of the way with professionalism and integrity.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Central Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Soirée Best Real Estate Agents; At Home in Arkansas Real Estate Agents to Love; Arkansas Life Top Agents; AY Best Real Estate Agents; Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Best of the Best; Certified Residential Specialist; Pricing Strategy Advisor; Little Rock Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; National Association of Realtors



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Holly Driver

Signature Properties

Holly Driver began her real estate career in 2006. Before going into real estate, Holly taught school in the North Little Rock School District for nine years. In 2013, Holly started The Holly Driver Team to better serve her clients. In 2022, she helped launch Signature Properties with the goal of creating an agency with excellent customer service and a community focus. Holly provides personalized service to high-profile individuals, first-time homebuyers and everyone in between with detailed attention to each of her client's needs. Since the launch of her team in 2013, Holly has sold over \$185 million in volume.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Central Arkansas area

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Little Rock Realtors Association: Double Diamond 2014-2022 and Diamond 2012-2013, 2023; Habitat for Humanity board member 2014-2016; Arkansas Business Top Residential Real Estate Agents 2018, 2019; At Home in Arkansas Real Estate Agents to Love 2021, 2023, 2024



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Whitney Elmore

Coldwell Banker RPM Group

Whitney Elmore is a full-time real estate professional. She loves what she does and believes it shows in every home she sells. Whitney always strives to give people more than they expect from their real estate agent. She takes the time to get to know the wants and needs of her clients. As a second generation Realtor, she was born to sell real estate. Since her career began, she has consistently earned top honors in the profession and is a multimillion-dollar producer. She is truly appreciative of all her clients, family and friends for their support, referrals and business. Whitney considers this honor a distinct privilege.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Residential sales in Little Rock, Maumelle, Bryant, Benton and surrounding areas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Annual recipient of Little Rock Realtors Awards of Distinction; National Realtors Association member; Arkansas Realtors Association member; Little Rock Realtors Association member; Cartus-Certified Referral Agent; B.A. University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; M.A. University of Arkansas at Little Rock



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Matthew Ferrell

Pixel Properties

"My goal is to help people truly find home." Matthew Ferrell started his real estate career in 2021 by joining the Pixel Properties team and jumped straight into helping clients by selling his first home within three months. No matter the success he's had, Ferrell's main goal has always been to "make buying or selling a house an unforgettable experience," and he feels like he always succeeds at that. In 2023, he became a lead agent partner for his team and now helps train new agents. At the end of the day, he loves all real estate offers.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Communities in the heart of Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Double Diamond Realtor Award of Distinction 2021-2023



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Joanna Fureigh

The Janet Jones Company

Whether buying or selling, Joanna Fureigh works diligently to curate a seamless and enjoyable experience for her clients, serving each with compassion, enthusiasm and kindness. A Little Rock native, Fureigh is passionate about our city and brings experience in professional fundraising, customer service and sales to her career in real estate. Fureigh is an active member of the Junior League of Little Rock, a member of the Mount St. Mary Academy Alumnae Association, and an alum of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and at Little Rock. She is a proud supporter of the Humane Society of Pulaski County.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Central Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Little Rock Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; National Association of Realtors; Junior League of Little Rock



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Jerald Gardner

Coldwell Banker RPM Group

Jerald Gardner is an accomplished realtor with nearly four years in real estate and more than 25 years in business sales. Residing in central Arkansas for three decades, his deep local knowledge significantly benefits his clients. Transitioning to real estate was driven by Gardner's robust work ethic and a profound passion for the field. He excels in negotiations, leveraging his extensive sales experience to guide clients effectively. Beyond his professional life, Gardner is a dedicated husband, father of two and friend, known for his commitment in all aspects of life. He is deeply committed to ensuring client satisfaction in every real estate transaction.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Residential real estate in greater Little Rock area and Jefferson County

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Little Rock Realtors Association Silver and Platinum Awards of Distinction; Jefferson County Association of Realtors Platinum and Diamond Awards; 2021 Rookie of the Year with Coldwell Banker RPM, Midtown Office; National Association of Realtors; National Association of Real Estate Brokers; Little Rock Realtors Association board member; Arkansas Association of Realtist executive board member; Real Estate Negotiation Expert; Accredited Buyer's Representative and Executive Broker



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Conley Golden

The Janet Jones Company

With just 10 full years in the industry, Conley Golden sold almost 45 million of real estate in 2023 and was ranked the ninth top agent in Arkansas. She attributes her success to hard work and staying on top of what is happening in the market. Golden was the second top producer for The Janet Jones Company last year and looks forward to what 2024 will hold. "Working for The Janet Jones Company lets me know about the best houses coming on the market," she says, "and therefore lets my clients know quickly of a perfect housing opportunity emerging for them before seeing it on online!"



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Central Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Vice President of the Little Rock Realtors Association; Little Rock Realtors Association; Little Rock Realtors Association Awards of Distinction Double Diamond Level; Top 5 Agent at The Janet Jones Company; AY's Best Realtors; Soirée Best Real Estate Agents; At Home In Arkansas Real Estate Agents To Love; National Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association



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Jean Hurst

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices - Arkansas Realty

Jean Hurst is a committed full-time real estate professional who places her clients' needs at the forefront. Her passion for real estate is driven by her commitment to delivering a delightful and unforgettable experience for both sellers and buyers. Hurst is a firm believer that true enjoyment of one's work is the cornerstone of success.

Hurst serves a wide array of clients, first-time homebuyers, sellers and buyers of luxury properties, seasoned investors or those undergoing a lifestyle transition. Hurst would like to share her sincere appreciation to her clients, friends and family for their continued support, business and referrals. Her exceptional performance has consistently garnered her this honor.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Central Arkansas residential

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Luxury Collection Specialist; Graduate Realtor Institute; Accredited Buyer's Representative; electronic marketing professional; Certified Residential Specialist; Relocation Specialist; Little Rock Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; National Association of Realtors; BHHS Presidents Circle 2023; Top 5% BHHS Network 2023; No. 1 Agent for CBRPM; Out Front Five Top Producer CBRPM; Top 10 CBRPM; Top level Awards of Excellence and Awards of Distinction 2008-2023; Arkansas Business Reader's Choice Best of Biz finalist 2016-2019; AY Magazine Best Realtors; Soirée Best Real Estate Agents since 2011



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Rennie Jenkins

Jon Underhill Real Estate

Rennie Jenkins was born and raised in central Arkansas and has an extensive knowledge of the Little Rock area. From a family of construction and property professionals, she began her real estate journey by purchasing and renovating investment properties.

Jenkins aims to provide a seamless and stress-free real estate experience. Her attention to detail and knowledge of the home buying and selling process offers clients an exceptional experience.

She is grateful to her clients, family and friends for their consistent support, referrals and business. Jenkins considers it a privilege to work alongside the remarkable team at Jon Underhill Real Estate.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Residential real estate sales in central Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
National Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; Little Rock Realtors Association; B.A. and M.A. University of Arkansas at Little Rock; At Home in Arkansas Real Estate Agents to Love; Soirée Best Real Estate Agents



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Margaret King

The Janet Jones Company

Margaret King comes from a family of realtors, and the home is the heart of her life's work. She loves every aspect of helping her clients design a lifestyle that fulfills their dreams. With over 10 years at The Janet Jones Company, she gets a real sense of purpose and excitement playing matchmaker for her clients and their homes. She attributes her success to a tenacity for relationship building and strong negotiation skills. King says it is an honor to be trusted and recommended to others by her clients and thanks them for their continued support and business.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Central Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Soirée Women to Watch; At Home in Arkansas Real Estate Agents to Love; AY Best Realtors; Little Rock Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; National Association of Realtors



7915 Cantrell Road, Little Rock
O: 501.224.3201 / C: 501.650.2820
janetjones.com

Catherine Langley

The Janet Jones Company

Catherine is a lifelong Arkansan and a native of Little Rock. She is a clear communicator who values vital customer service and attention to detail. It is her honor to have the opportunity to be a trusted advisor during her customers' home related decisions. A repeat Diamond Level Award winner with the Little Rock Realtors Association and a top producer at The Janet Jones Company, Catherine's clients and colleagues describe her as "energetic and focused on positive results." She is honored and thankful to be recognized by Soirée as a Best Real Estate Agent. Staying informed of the changing market, building lasting relationships and strong negotiating skills are the keys to her success.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Central Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Little Rock Realtors Association Diamond Level; AY Best Realtors; Soirée Best Real Estate Agents; Soirée Women to Watch; At Home in Arkansas Real Estate Agents to Love; Little Rock Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; National Association of Realtors; Realtors Awards of Distinction committee; CARTI Festival of Trees auction committee; Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Vestry; Saint Mark's Food Pantry volunteer; Daughters of the King, Grace Chapter



7915 Cantrell Road, Little Rock
O: 501.224.3201 / C: 501.230.3287
janetjones.com

Denise Luft

The Janet Jones Company

Denise Luft has returned to The Janet Jones Company as a sales associate after taking time off while her family grew. She enjoys all that Little Rock has to offer for families and singles alike, especially the local arts scene. She prides herself on open communication, ethical interactions and promoting The Janet Jones Company Gold Standard, both with her clients and local agents. Luft is a volunteer for Therapy Dogs International and is on the board for Goodwill Arkansas. In the past, she has served on the board of Camp Aldersgate and the ALS Association, both of which are dear to her.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Central Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Little Rock Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; National Association of Realtors; Therapy Dogs International volunteer; Goodwill Arkansas board member



7915 Cantrell Road, Little Rock
O: 501.224.3201 / C: 501.837.5056
janetjones.com



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2024
RECOMMENDS

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Brad Miles

Crye-Leike Realtors

As the executive broker of the No. 1 real estate company in the state, Brad Miles has been a top producing Crye-Leike agent for more than 15 years. He treats all of his clients like family and takes real estate very seriously. "Helping people with their real estate needs is my passion," Miles says. "From first-time buyers looking for the home in which to begin their homeownership journey to empty nesters looking to downsize and find the home to retire in, helping people find that 'just right' property is such a thrill!" With a proven track record of successful transactions, Miles counts it a privilege to represent his clients. He resides in the Little Rock area with his wife and three children.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Central Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Soirée Best Real Estate Agents 2023; Certified Relocation Specialist; Executive broker; National Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; North Pulaski Board of Realtors



3400 JFK Blvd., North Little Rock
O: 501.975.2100 / C: 501.680.4647
bradmiles.crye-leike.com

Michelle Miller

The Charlotte John Company

With 25 years of sales and marketing experience, Michelle Miller knows how to effectively market and sell your home. As a Little Rock native and former publisher of *The Greater Little Rock Visitors Guide*, she knows Little Rock. After a successful career in media, having worked for both the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* and the *Arkansas Times*, she parlayed her skills into real estate in 2013. As a consistent multimillion-dollar producer, her knowledge of the market, responsiveness to clients' needs and seasoned negotiation skills have helped a wide range of clients from first-time homebuyers to those wanting to downsize, to investors wanting to explore income producing opportunities.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Little Rock, North Little Rock, Maumelle and surrounding areas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
B.A. in journalism, Arkansas State University; Little Rock Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; National Realtors Association; LRRR Awards of Distinction Platinum-Level producer 2021-2023, Diamond-Level producer 2020, Gold-Level 2015-2019



5813 Kavanaugh Blvd., Little Rock
O: 501.664.5646 / C: 501.837.5549
charlottejohn.com

Valerie Moran

Crye-Leike Kanis Road Branch

Valerie Moran is honored and humbled to have once again been chosen for *Little Rock Soirée's* Best Real Estate Agents list. She has had the privilege of being in this career for the last 24 years and can't imagine herself doing anything else.

Moran is always committed to doing what is best for her clients, enjoys walking them through their home sale or purchase and making the transaction as stress free for them as possible. She believes the relationships that are formed are priceless and is grateful every single day to continue doing what she loves.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Residential, specializing in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Maumelle, Benton and Bryant areas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Million Dollar Club lifetime member; Awards for Excellence recipient; Certified Premier Property Specialist; Little Rock Realtors Association (board of directors 2009-2010); National Association of Realtors; Arkansas Business Top Residential Real Estate Agents



11600 Kanis Road, Little Rock
O: 501.954.9100 / C: 501.680.6410
vmoran@crye-leike.com

Ashley Parker

Signature Properties

As a trusted real estate advisor, Ashley Parker recognizes the complexity and personal nature of buying or selling a home, with significant financial and emotional stakes. This perspective drives her to excel, understanding all aspects of the market and transaction variables. Parker ensures her clients feel supported, serving as their trusted advisor. Sellers seek effective marketing and negotiation for the highest price and best terms. Buyers desire a patient yet assertive partner, securing the ideal home at the best value. Parker fulfills these needs as consultant, negotiator and project manager, ensuring clients maximize their opportunities and investments.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Residential sales in Little Rock, Maumelle, Bryant, Benton and surrounding areas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Annual recipient of Little Rock Realtors Awards of Distinction; National Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; Little Rock Realtors Association, BSBA University of Arkansas Fayetteville



415 N. McKinley St., Ste. 525, Little Rock
O: 501.786.1566 / C: 501.680.7921
signaturearkansas.com



soirée
RECOMMENDS

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Allison Pickell

Coldwell Banker RPM Group

Driven by a profound passion for assisting clients and armed with an exceptional track record of success, Pickell's pursuit of excellence is evident in every transaction she undertakes. This top producing agent goes above and beyond to assist her clients in preparing their homes for the market. Her determination to surpass expectations and deliver exceptional results sets her apart. Building lasting relationships is a priority for Pickell. Her extensive knowledge enables her to provide invaluable insights to both buyers and sellers. She is passionate about making her clients' dreams a reality and achieving real estate success together.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:

Little Rock - The Heights, Hillcrest, Foxcroft, Riverdale, Downtown and Midtown

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:

Little Rock Realtors Association President 2020; Luxury Property Specialist; Certified Residential Specialist; Graduate, Realtor Institute; Accredited Buyer's Representative; Graduate Realtors Leadership Academy 2014; Coldwell Banker Realtor Phillips Morse 2013 Rookie of the Year; Soirée Best Real Estate Agents 2014-2023; RPAC Contributor; Coldwell Banker International President's Elite; Little Rock Realtors Association 2020 Realtor of the Year; Coldwell Banker RPM Group 2024 Top 4 Agent

1501 N. University Ave., Ste. 800, Little Rock
O: 501.664.1775 / C: 501.920.2392
allisonpickellrealtor.com

Susan Reynolds

The Janet Jones Company

Susan Reynolds loves being part of a family-owned, boutique real estate firm. She believes "helping people make decisions about one of their largest investments takes experience and commitment; it is an honor and a privilege to work with people at such important times in their lives." Consistently ranked one of the top agents in Little Rock, Reynolds has been helping people with their real estate business for more than 20 years. In the office, she loves mentoring agents and her role in strategic planning, but her heart is with her clients and the time she spends with them. She is committed to The Janet Jones Company's Gold Standard of Real Estate. "I feel so grateful to be part of such an incredible team of professionals, all working toward the success of our special clients."



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:

Central Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:

Soirée Best Real Estate Agents; Soirée Women To Watch; AY's Best Realtors; Arkansas Business Top 100 Real Estate Agents; At Home In Arkansas Real Estate Agents To Love Certified Residential Specialist; Top 5 Agent at The Janet Jones Company; Graduate of the Realtor Institute; Little Rock Chamber of Commerce Board Member; National Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; Little Rock Realtors Association; Little Rock Realtors Association Awards of Distinction Double Diamond Level



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O: 501.224.3201 / C: 501.912.3201
susan@janetjones.com

Christy Robinson

Keller Williams Realty

Christy Robinson started in the real estate industry 17 years ago, at 18 years old. Since then she has worked her way from the bottom up in the capacity of office management, property management and marketing to now being an owner/investor with multiple rental properties, renovation projects and new construction experience. Christy has seen many corners of the industry, and her experience and knowledge of the market is what she brings to her clients to help them achieve their real estate goals. Her expansive network enables many doors to open on all sides of the equation. She prides herself in excellent service, making it a point to be involved throughout all stages of the process.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:

Little Rock and all of central Arkansas; Residential sales, relocation, new construction, real estate investors, military relocation, professional and first-time homebuyers

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:

2020-2023 Realtor Awards of Distinction Diamond; RealTrends America's Best Top 1.5% Agents in the U.S. 2023; Quality Business Awards - The Best Real Estate Agent in Little Rock, Arkansas 2024; Co-Star 2020-2021 Excellence in Customer Service Award



12814 Cantrell Road, Little Rock
O: 501.907.5959 / C: 501.274.5555
therealestement.com

Steele Strauss

Jon Underhill Real Estate

Steele Strauss was born in London, England and raised in Little Rock on Hill Road in Hillcrest surrounded by historic homes. She attended Episcopal Collegiate High School and graduated from College of Charleston, which is where she found her love for real estate. She began her real estate career in Little Rock in 2019.

Other than real estate, Strauss enjoys traveling (especially to her favorite place, Kiawah Island in South Carolina), fashion, and spending time with friends and family. She believes that her connections from being a Little Rock native with close ties to the community have enhanced her real estate capabilities.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:

First-time and experienced home buyers and sellers. Primarily Hillcrest and Heights neighborhoods.

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:

Envoy Ambassador for the Winthrop Rockefeller Cancer Research Center; Habitat for Humanity Young Professional Committee chair; Hillcrest Residents Association board member; ranked No. 2 real estate agent on social media in Little Rock by PropertySpark



2200 Hidden Valley Dr., Ste. 100, Little Rock
O: 501.868.3444 / C: 501.517.4243
jonunderhill.com



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2024
RECOMMENDS

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Debbie Teague

The Janet Jones Company
"Selling Beautiful Homes"

Debbie Teague is one of the top real estate agents in Little Rock and Arkansas. For over 20 years, she has used her powerful negotiation skills to stay ahead of the curve in a dynamic, ever-changing industry. Debbie is passionate about helping people find the right home or getting one sold. She loves selling beautiful homes and works with new buyers, growing families, and empty-nesters, selling homes in all price ranges. She attributes her professional success to a solid combination of tenacity and relationship building, with most of her business coming from personal referrals. She would like to thank all her clients and friends for their trust, support, referrals, and business. "There is nothing more rewarding than helping people," says Debbie.

SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Central Arkansas



DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Certified Residential Specialist; National Association of Certified Residential Specialists; Arkansas Chapter of Certified Residential Specialists; National Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; Little Rock Realtors Association; Little Rock Realtors Association Awards of Distinction Double Diamond Level; Top 5 Agent at The Janet Jones Company; AY's Best Realtors; Soirée Best Real Estate Agents; Soirée Women To Watch; At Home In Arkansas Real Estate Agents To Love; Arkansas Business Top 100 Agents; America's Best Real Estate Agent; Leading Real Estate Companies of the World Premier Club Agent and Conference Speaker; Arkansas Times Best Real Estate Agent; Arkansas Democrat Gazette Best of the Best

7915 Cambrell Road, Little Rock
O: 501.224.3201 / C: 501.658.1784
debbie@janetjones.com
debbieteague.com



Mitsy Tharp

Signature Properties

With over 15 years of experience in sales and marketing prior to getting into real estate, Mitsy Tharp's enthusiastic and hard-working attitude has helped propel her real estate career. Although she was born in Okinawa, Japan, Tharp has made Arkansas her home for over 40 years. Knowing that the buying and selling of a home isn't simply a business transaction, her commitment to understanding a client's needs and dreams has helped her develop lifelong relationships.

Tharp says that launching Signature Properties with her business partner, Holly Driver, is an extension of their desire to provide stellar customer service through attracting talent with a focus on absolute client satisfaction.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Residential, relocation, first-time homebuyers, luxury homes, serving all of central Arkansas.

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Little Rock Realtors® Association: Platinum Level, LRRRA Board of directors; LRRRA Diamond Award



415 N. McKinley S-525, Little Rock
C: 501.944.7147
greathomesinlittlerock.com

Stephanie Tharp

Jon Underhill Real Estate

Stephanie Tharp has been selling real estate for 16 years in the Little Rock area, and her philosophy has always been the same: "It's all about my clients." Her attention to detail throughout the home-buying or selling process gives her clients the best possible outcome.

Tharp knows how stressful buying and selling a home can be, and her goal is to greatly reduce that stress by being extremely knowledgeable, patient and comforting. Her strong work ethic and commitment to her clients have helped her to consistently be one of Little Rock's top producers.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Greater Little Rock area

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Certified Residential Specialist, National Association of Realtors, Arkansas Realtors Association, Little Rock Realtors Association Awards of Distinction Diamond Level 2019-2023

2200 Hidden Valley Drive, Ste. 100, Little Rock
O: 501.868.3444 / C: 501.690.4300
jonunderhill.com



Cindy Cooper Trammel

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices - Arkansas Realty

Cindy Cooper Trammel, a dedicated sales associate at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices - Arkansas Realty, is committed to serving her clients with excellence and honesty. Her passion for real estate, combined with her Southern elegance and servant's heart, has made a significant impact on her clients' home buying and selling experiences.

Prior to entering the real estate business, Trammel worked in health care as a contracting manager. She utilizes those skills through her attention to detail and navigating the complexities of selling for her clients. Trammel's commitment to service and excellence sets her apart as one of central Arkansas' best real estate agents.



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:
Central Arkansas (including: Clark, Faulkner, Garland, Grant, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Perry, Pulaski and Saline counties); First-time homebuyers, luxury homes, investment homes, land, relocation, condos and military markets

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:
Accredited Buyer's Representative; Graduate Realtor Institute; Military Relocation Professional; C2EX Endorsement; Arkansas Real Producers Rising Star 2023; South Central Arkansas Realtors Association Gold Award 2023, Bronze Award 2022; B.A. University of Arkansas Little Rock



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O: 501.253.2000 / C: 501.580.3183
cindytrammel.bhhsarkansas.com



LITTLE ROCK
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RECOMMENDS

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Kenny Van Patten

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices - Arkansas Realty

Kenny Van Patten is the executive broker for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices - Arkansas Realty and has been selling real estate full time since 2014 and values helping her clients increase their wealth through real estate. Kenny believes that communication, attention to detail and follow-through with her clients is important. She and her husband also own and manage both furnished and unfurnished rental homes in central Arkansas. Kenny loves working not only with first-time homebuyers, but also helping new construction home builders and luxury buyers and sellers with all their real estate needs.



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HATHAWAY**
HOMESERVICES
ARKANSAS
REALTY

SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:

Residential real estate in Little Rock, Maumelle, Benton, Bryant, north Little Rock and surrounding areas.

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices - Arkansas Realty executive broker; Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Presidents Circle 2023; Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist; The Institute for Luxury Home Marketing member; Graduate Realtor Institute 2017; Little Rock Realtors Association Diamond Level Awards of Distinction 2017, 2020-2023; CBRPM Top 5 Producer 2017; CBRPM Top 6 Producer 2022; 2015 Coldwell Banker RPM Rookie of the Year; Little Rock Realtors Association and Arkansas Realtors Association member

415 N. McKinley St., Ste. 190-C, Little Rock
O: 501.255.2000 / C: 501.951.1755
kenny@kennyvnpatten.com

Emily Young

The Charlotte John Company

Emily Young's approach as an associate broker is to understand her clients' priorities, wants and needs as she guides them through the real estate process. "I am always hands-on and fully invested in each transaction to assure the most satisfying result for my clients. Whether it's buying or selling, it is so important that my clients know I will be with them every step of the way." Her strong work ethic and commitment to excellence ensure that her clients' buying and selling processes will be smooth transactions. "I am grateful for the continued support and referrals from my family, friends and clients."



SPECIALIZATION/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES:

Residential real estate in central Arkansas

DESIGNATIONS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS:

B.S. in finance and accounting from the University of Central Arkansas; Little Rock Realtors Association; Arkansas Realtors Association; National Association of Realtors; LRRA Awards of Excellence Platinum Level 2017, 2018, 2019; LRRA Awards of Excellence Diamond Level 2016, 2020, 2022, 2023; LRRA Awards of Excellence Double Diamond Level 2021; LRRA Awards of Excellence Gold Level 2015; The Charlotte John Company Top 8 Agents; Soirée Best Real Estate Agents 2015-2019, 2021, 2022, 2023



5813 Kavanaugh Blvd., Little Rock
O: 501.664.5646 / C: 501.952.4316
charlottejohn.com



Founded in 2001, Garcia and Son is a family-owned and operated business that has been offering unmatched customer service in Arkansas for over 20 years. They offer reasonable prices and are recommended by insurance companies because they help their customers through the insurance process from start to finish. Travis Spoon has served as the company's only estimator and salesperson for the past 15 years. He is the face of the company and the first person people meet. Madison and Allison work in the office and love to help anyone who calls. Even their roofers are family members!

Garcia and Son is the largest residential roofing company in Central Arkansas, based on their yearly sales. While they primarily do residential roofing, they have also worked on apartments, churches, the Arkansas 4-H Center, Dickey-Stephens Park, Sherwood Police Department, and the Alexander Police Department. Garcia and Son has been voted by the Arkansas Democrat Gazette as Best of the Best Roofing Company for seven consecutive years (2015-2022).

(501) 455-1857 | GARCIAANDSONROOFING.COM | GARCIAANDSON@GMAIL.COM

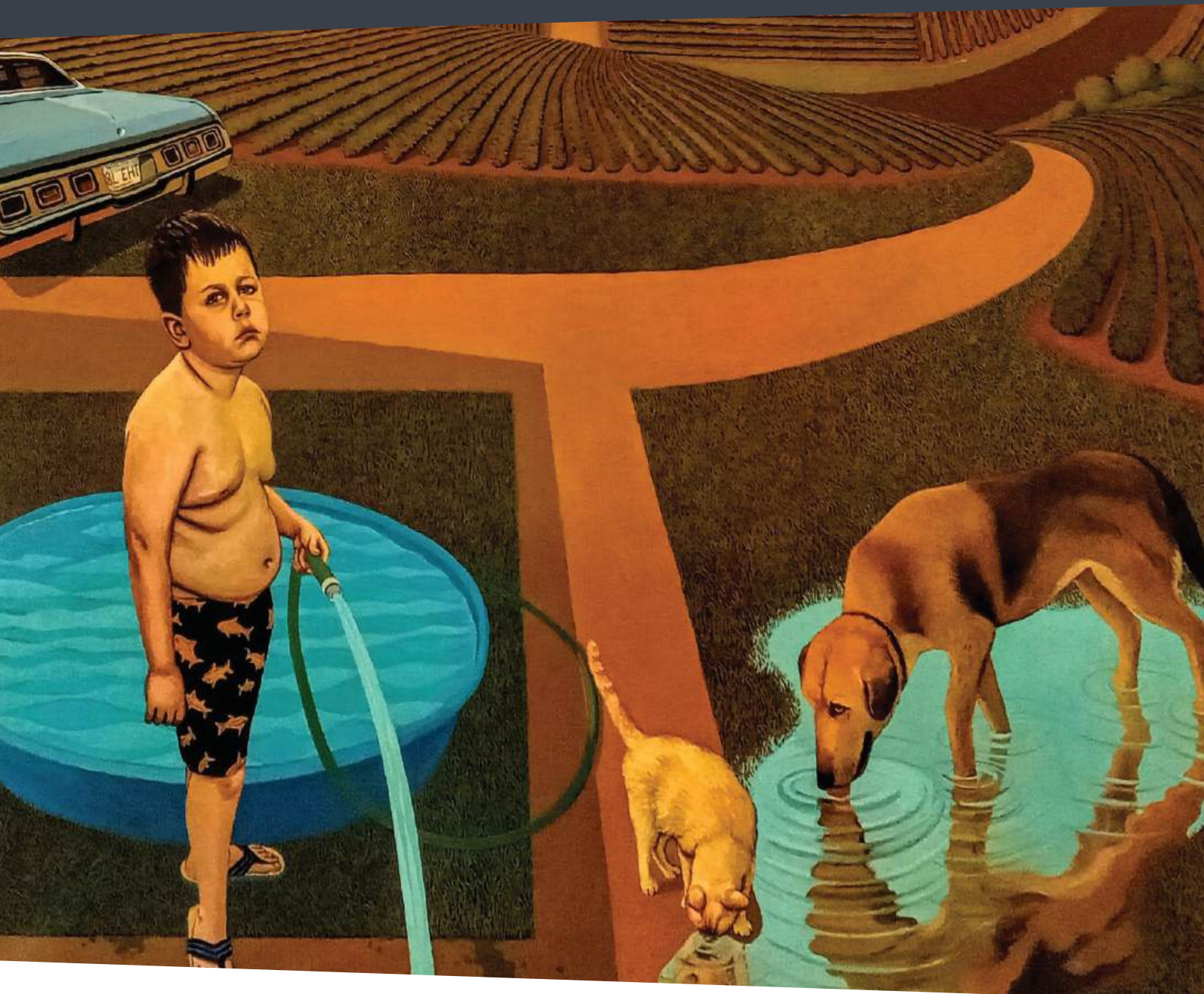


Angie's list

nextdoor

DELTA TRIENNIAL

ON VIEW JUNE 28 TO AUGUST 25



Delta Triennial is presented by Anne and Merritt Dyke.

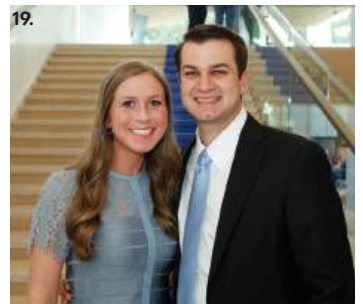
Additional support is provided by Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP and the Andre Simon Memorial Trust Fund in memory of everyone who has died of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Moses (oil on wood panel) by John Roberts was selected by three jurors for this year's *Delta Triennial*.

CHROMA NIGHT

The Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts was transformed into a blue kaleidoscope of activity to celebrate its milestone year. The Chroma Night fundraising bash featured music by DJ Lucy Wrubel, delicious bites from Park Grill, custom decor and floral arrangements by Tipton & Hurst and craft cocktails for guests to toast to a whole year of art and community.

1. Harriet and Warren Stephens
2. Ben and Walter Hussman
3. Chuck Erwin, Dr. Victoria Ramirez, Terri Erwin
4. John and Mary Olive Stephens
5. Merritt and Anne Dyke
6. Ann and Grady McCoy
7. Jasmine Richardson, Clinton Richardson
8. Larry Middleton, Cara Brookins
9. Linda and Dr. Gordon Newbern
10. Noel and Joan Strauss, David and Mary Ritchey
11. Lance and Stacey Hines, Mayor Frank Scott
12. Van and Elizabeth Tilbury, Ruthie and Edward Lovell
13. Kimberly Willis, Khayyam Eddings
14. Stan and Kate Dimitrova
15. Gigi and Chuck Magill
16. Sam and Lori Wenger
17. Pamela Smith, Addie Morris
18. Dr. Dean and Mary Kumpuris, Malina Tabor
19. Christina and Ryan Essary



REVIVAL: AN EVENING OF ART & FASHION

A particularly stylish evening took place at Jill White Designs in May to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Revival brought together philanthropists and creatives for a Met Gala-themed evening with delectable bites, refreshing beverages and tunes by DJ Jellybean. All proceeds from the inaugural event went to the Arkansas chapter of the nonprofit to further its research, advocacy and support programs.

1. Sarah Oden, Cat Sims, Kimberly Cyr
2. Andi Chappell, Korto Momolu, Rochelle Johnson
3. Javon Wallace, Jenanne Filet, Neemo Hankir
4. Sydney Rasch, Meredith Corning
5. Colton and Mary Kate Whitmire
6. Jason Masters, Belle Ward, Delena Lattimore, Celeste Lopez-Keranen, Sarah Grace Gates



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CARTI SALUTE!

This second annual event took place in the beautiful gardens of the CARTI Cancer Center in Little Rock. Guests enjoyed an evening of progressive wine and food pairings with wines from across the world and small plates prepared by local celebrity chefs. Proceeds from the evening went to CARTI's Patient Care Program, which provides services such as housing, transportation and counseling.

1. Adam and Courtney Head
2. Dr. Taylor and Laura Moore
3. Drs. Grace and Vijay Raja
4. Judge Larry and Shelia Vaught
5. Carrie Spencer, Toronsa Simpson
6. Traci Braunsch, Ellen Kreth
7. Terry Vick and Nicole Matsoukas
8. Lauren and Marshall Dickey, Stan and Kate Dimitrova
9. Cindy and Dr. Scott Stern



PHOTOS BY BLACK HOUSE STUDIOS.





**LITTLE ROCK'S
BEST REAL
ESTATE AGENTS
2024**

FRONT ROW - LEFT TO RIGHT
Kristen Hinson
Margaret Bell Hughes
Abbie Stalnaker

BACK ROW - LEFT TO RIGHT
Nate Perry
Phillip Bridges
Hannah Howe
Cara Hazlewood

pg the property group

CUPCAKES FOR GOODNESS SAKE

An afternoon of sweets, fun and fundraising awaited guests at Argenta Plaza for the ninth annual Cupcakes for Goodness Sake. The CareLink baking event showcased cupcakes from a variety of local amateur and professional bakers for crowds to enjoy. Njeri's Pastries took home the professional trophy for her vegan and tree nut-free carrot cookie butter cupcakes, while Rob Hammon took home the amateur trophy for his kiwi-topped, strawberry-frosted butter jolene cupcake. Attendees raised nearly \$82,000 for senior services in central Arkansas.

1. Njeri Smith, Braylin Ousley
2. Michelle Gilbert, Randi Metcalf
3. Flo and Johnny Barker
4. Jess and Jon Stanhulak



CONGRATULATIONS 2023-2024 ACHiever Program Graduates

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OVATION!

The Arkansas Repertory Theatre once again held its black-tie Ovation! Gala on its legendary premises. Leslie and Dr. Rhys Branman and Stephanie and Myron Jackson chaired the event, which kicked off the theater's 2024 SummerStage season with the theme "Defying Gravity." Guests enjoyed an evening of cocktails, a multi-course dinner by Heritage Catering, a luxury auction and live performances. The evening also honored Broadway director Steve H. Broadnax III and Shuffles & Ballet II Owner Jana L. Beard.



1. Dr. Rhys and Leslie Branman
2. Myron and Stephanie Jackson
3. Guy Couch, Kathy Holt
4. Marvin and Patrice Williams
5. Kelly and Nikki Lovell
6. Mary and Jim Wohlleb
7. Nichole Wilson, Steven Duke
8. Rush and Debbie Deacon
9. Tammie Davis, Nancy Binton

RED JACKET LUNCHEON

This annual City Year Little Rock event was held at the Robinson Center where education-focused leaders gathered to celebrate the nonprofit's mission in a panel discussion with AmeriCorps members serving in local schools. The Susan Purvis Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to Melinda Modica, principal at J.A. Fair K-8 Preparatory School. Proceeds from the luncheon went toward helping students in central Arkansas reach their full potential through learning, exploration and growth.



1. Alexis Freeman, LaShonda Norris, Jeremy Hill
2. Claudia Iverson, Mike Ramirez, Deysi Santos
3. Graham Cobb, Jennifer Cobb, Chris Travis
4. Chris and Molly McNulty
5. Will Bond, Bob Edwards, Micah Strother, Grant Tennille
6. Rebecca Tennille, Sandra McGrew, Christina Littlejohn, Katherine Carroll

JA HALL OF FAME GALA

Supporters gathered for the inaugural Junior Achievement of Arkansas Hall of Fame Gala at the Statehouse Convention Center. Jenny and Andrew Faulkner co-chaired the event honoring Walmart President and CEO Doug McMillon and Arvest Bank, as well as JA Student of the Year Fatima Majid of Pulaski Academy. Funds from the event will cover costs for nearly 20% of the students JA will reach during the school year.

1. Jenny and Andrew Faulkner
2. Allen Engstrom, Kelly Suen, Tim Greinert
3. Megan Arroyos-Grosse and Timothy Grosse
4. Trevor Villines, Tonya and Chris Villines
5. Bethany Brown, Derek Pierce, Mallory Rogers, Heather Maxwell
6. Aaron Crowe, Bella Crowe, Amber Crowe
7. Boyce Johnson and Leslie Rutledge, Dr. Michele Linch
8. Senator Kim Hammer, Harper Hammer
9. John Parke, Angela Kremers, Jennifer and Matt Buie



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MWarden@ShelterInsurance.com



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EMPTY BOWLS

The Arkansas Foodbank's signature event was hosted at The Venue at Oakdale. Guests were transported to the Golden Age of Hollywood with specialty cocktails, jazz music and delectable dishes at a seated dinner by Petit & Keet and Cypress Social. Longtime supporter Philip Tappan was honored at the 22nd annual event for his dedication to the Foodbank's mission. Roughly \$284,360 was raised at the event, the equivalent of 1.4 million meals for hungry Arkansans.

1. Dr. Charles and Brenda Glasier
2. Bruce Schratz, Cindy Blyth, Bryan Burton
3. Buster and Jaqueda Pickering
4. Crenisha Wright, ShaRhonda Love
5. Lisa and Sam Baxter



Congratulations!

We're proud of you for being nominated and selected to be part of Soirée's 2024 list of Top Mortgage Agents.

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Olivia Davis NMLS# 1410380, Joy Dailey NMLS # 1959621,
Shannon Howland NMLS# 1275312, Mike Wallace NMLS #: 1792097



“WOODRUFF PRINT SHOP”

by Bonnie Alberts, 2021, photographic illustration.

See Alberts's work on display at Blackberry Market through July 17, locally at Painted Tree, online at she-studios.com, on Facebook as She Studios and on Instagram at [@shestudiosart](https://www.instagram.com/shestudiosart).



we **AR** Trauma Experts

Alex Doucet has been around horses most of her life, and she was well trained in how to handle them safely. In spite of this experience, a horse kicked her in the side during a freak accident on March 6, rupturing her spleen. She began to bleed internally and was rushed to UAMS.

When she arrived at the hospital, she was quickly evaluated and within 15 minutes was in the operating room with Trauma Surgeon **Dr. Nolan Bruce**, who removed her spleen.

Thanks to the trauma team's swift action, she recovered quickly and was back working with her beloved horses and equestrian students in just a few short weeks.

"The incredible trauma team at UAMS saved my life. I will never be able to thank them enough for their care and compassion." - Alexandra Doucet, Little Rock

Alexandra Doucet
and Rodney

UAMS Health