



Bard and Jackie

Love

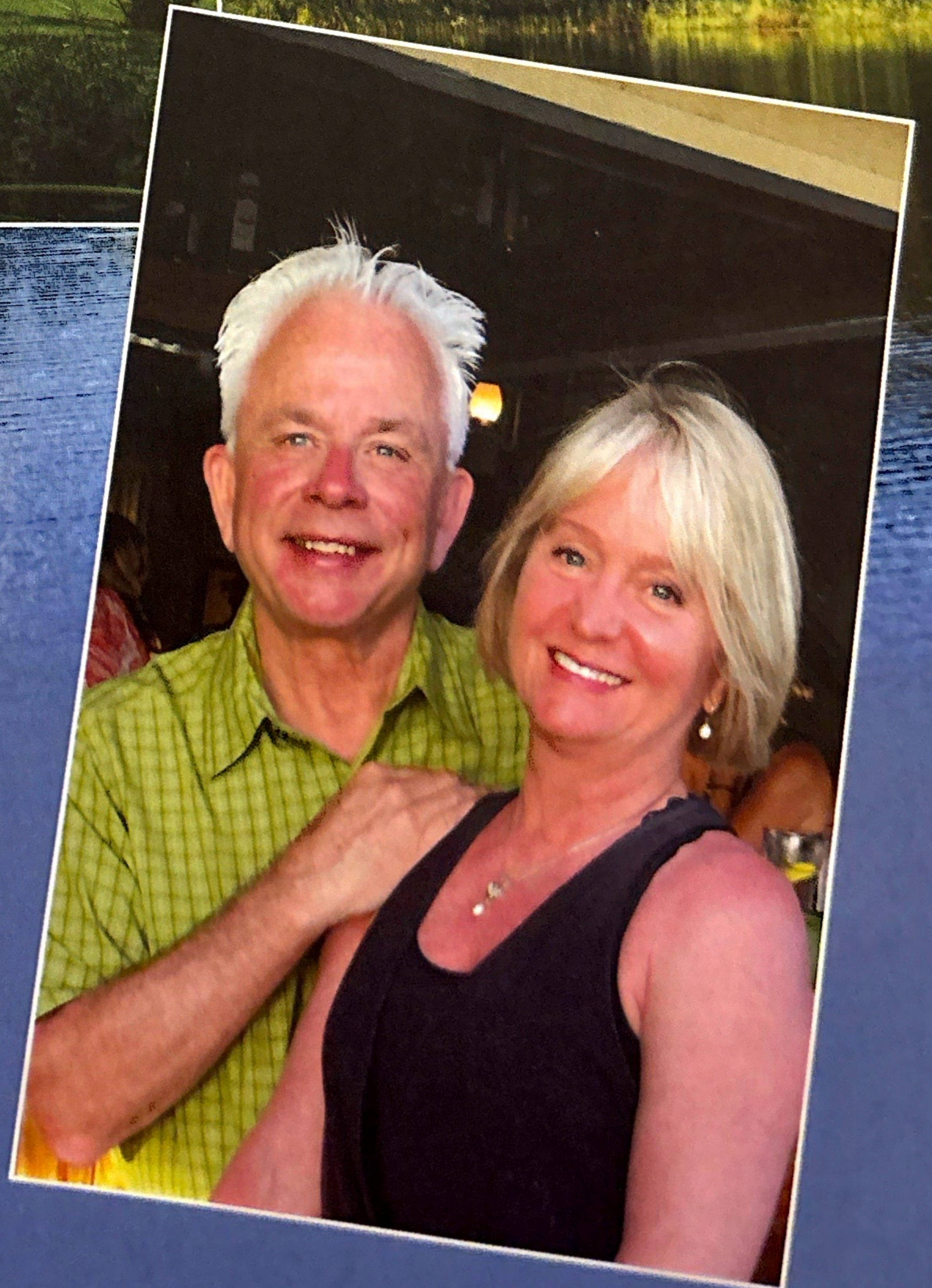
Eden Prairie's Sense of Community

BY BARTT PIERCE



Bard Knudsen and Jackie Collins are this month's feature family. Bard purchased his parents' Eden Prairie home on Bryant Lake in 1995. His parents built the home in 1963. Jackie and Bard have five adult children. Griffen Knudsen lives in Minnetonka and works in property management. Parker Knudsen lives in Minnetonka and owns a fishing guide business, ParkerKnudsenFishing.com. James Collins lives in New York City and currently works for Contour Asset Management. James and his longtime girlfriend Louise Levesque were recently engaged. Mason Collins lives in St. Paul and works for Vic's Crane and Heavy Haul. He is planning on going back to school to finish his engineering

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degree. Mason's wife, Zuzanna, is from Poland. She works for Concordia College. She now has dual citizenship and is described as, "A wonderful addition to our family!" Sean Collins lives near Memphis, Tennessee, where he is currently working for ArchKey/Parsons Electric.

Bard and Jackie both have successful, interesting careers. Bard started at Hennepin Technical College (Eden Prairie Campus). He studied business and accounting. He finished his education at Normandale Community College. Bard has been a ski coach at Eden Prairie High School as well as Carleton College. He worked at Colfax Communications, CBS Broadcasting, and Hubbard Broadcasting. In what Bard described as his, "best career move," he bought apartment buildings in the western suburbs. He is a hands-on manager, owner, and president of Langdon Lake Apartments in Mound. This position allows him the flexibility to travel and enjoy outdoor sports.

Jackie earned her undergraduate degree in accounting and passed the CPA exam. She is also certified in Production Inventory Management. Her first corporate job out of college

was with Gelco in Eden Prairie. She performed audit, tax, and project management work for Henry Birks Jewelers (Mpls), and she worked for Onan's (Fridley), which is now Cummins, as an internal auditor and later in international credit & collection, and finance. In 2003 Jackie opened an in-home daycare which she ran for 14 years. On a personal note, Jackie is a dear friend as our son attended her daycare. During this time Jackie went back to school and earned a master's degree in education from The College of St. Scholastica. She credits some of her daycare families for this career change as many of the parents of her "kids" were teachers. She currently substitute teaches and works for Not Me! (an assault prevention training) as a trainer and accountant. She also keeps busy working for a nonprofit called Energy Cents Coalition. She has recently taken a more active role in this company; she has served on the executive board for 15 years. After completing her commitment to Energy Cents Coalition, she is looking forward to subbing again in District 287 and returning to the ECC executive board of directors.

It may seem that with all of those activities, Bard and Jackie



aren't able to "get out there" and enjoy life. That is far from the truth. The pair met online at OurTime. They chatted for three hours the first time they met in person. They were instantly connected with their mutual love of snow and water activities. One of their favorite memories was on their honeymoon in Hawaii. They were on a catamaran/snorkeling tour and while cruising past a Naval Air post (Jackie's dad served in Naval Air in Hawaii and passed in 2019), Jackie asked her dad to give her a sign that he was still with her. At that time a song came on the radio that included the lyrics, "If I had only known then what I know now." She said she truly felt like her dad was with her at that moment. Jackie and Bard also laughed a great deal while on the tour as they were repeatedly covered with waves on the catamaran. It was cold back in Minnesota and the ocean water felt warm in comparison.

The couple enjoys road biking, water skiing, boating, and snow skiing. Bard grew up on Bryant Lake and Jackie was often on the water with her family on weekends and trips. Bryant Lake continues to be one of their favorite places to enjoy the outdoors. A few neighborhood highlights for Jackie and Bard are the 4th

of July boat parade and an annual Christmas walk with their neighbors. They host and attend numerous barbecues after a day on the water with friends and family. Jackie mentioned that this past year they had a bumper crop of butternut squash – they made several donations to the PROP Food Shelf in Eden Prairie [read about the PROP Shop in this edition of the magazine].

When Jackie and Bard aren't in Eden Prairie, you can find them in Redstone, Colorado. They consider this their home away from home. Bard proposed to Jackie on Aspen Mountain on a beautiful day. Jackie thought he was picking something off the ground but he was getting down on one knee to propose. I smiled when Bard commented that, "We chase snow." They love snow skiing and do the opposite of what most Minnesotans do during the winter and that is to look for more snow. Once the Colorado ski season ends in April, they enjoy traveling to Hawaii, Florida, New York, and Mexico.

Bard and Jackie commented that they love the sense of community that Eden Prairie provides. They cherish their time on Bryant Lake and give back to their community. If you see them out on the water, be sure to say hi.