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Rossmount Spring



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Meet the Weisensels

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*Celebrating
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Meet the Weisensels

By Kathy Stelmach | Photos By Audra Simmering - Photos By Audra

Jeff and Kathy's story is one of dedication, service, and family. Celebrating 43 years of marriage this year, their journey together began at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago, Illinois. Both representing the state of Wisconsin for their project work, Kathy focused on early childhood education, while Jeff's expertise was in conservation and environmental projects. A dinner invitation to the Haymarket restaurant sparked a lifelong connection, leading to a marriage filled with shared experiences, family milestones, and community service. Of all their cherished memories, nothing surpasses the joy of witnessing the birth of their three daughters, Ashley, Kelsey, and Lindsey.

Born and raised in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Jeff pursued a career in civil engineering, earning a Bachelor of Science degree followed by a Master of Science in Project Management from UW-Platteville. Kathy, from Luck, Wisconsin, attended UW-Stout earning a Bachelor of Science degree in early childhood education. His career with Turner Construction took the family across the country—from West Virginia to Ohio, Illinois, and finally, Minnesota with Kathy teaching Kindergarten. Each move coincided with significant career advancements and the birth of their daughters, marking milestones in both professional and personal spheres. Today, Jeff continues his work as a senior project manager in retail development and construction, helping to shape commercial spaces in the Twin Cities and beyond. Kathy spent years first volunteering and now as a substitute K-3 teacher in ISD 196.

Kathy and Jeff's three daughters have carried on their parents' values of education, service, and leadership. Ashley, married to Scott Sturm, is a clinical pharmacist at the Mayo Clinic, balancing her professional responsibilities with raising their



children—Sophie, Olivia, and Bennett. Kelsey, married to Brandon Nelsen, pursued a career in healthcare as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, also working at the Mayo Clinic while raising Kylie and Brayden. Lindsey, married to Dave Paczkowski, found her calling as a physical therapist and, along with her husband, runs an independent PT business in Alabama while raising Elise and Noah.

Sports and extracurricular activities have always played a significant role in the family. The three daughters participated in a variety of sports, including soccer, gymnastics, basketball, softball, and track. Their high school years were equally active, with involvement in marching band, color guard, and numerous other organizations. Now, the family is experiencing a full-circle moment as Jeff and Kathy find themselves once again in the stands, cheering on their grandchildren in their athletic pursuits.

Beyond professional and academic achievements, the family has a strong commitment to volunteerism and community involvement. Jeff enjoys challenging himself with complex puzzles, reading for lifelong learning, and smoking BBQ on his Traeger and Green Egg grills. His previous volunteer efforts include working with Hearts and Hammers and the Red Cross. Both Jeff and Kathy have been involved with 4-H for over four decades, with Jeff serving as the Dakota County 4-H Federation Finance Director for ten years before transitioning into public service. Their daughters also embraced service early on, earning their Girl Scout Gold Awards and participating in leadership programs such as the 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus in Washington, D.C., and the National 4-H Club Congress in Atlanta.

The couple's home in Country Hills, where they have lived since 1995, has been a foundation for their family's growth. Drawn to the area for its strong school district and thriving community, they have witnessed their neighborhood evolve over the years. Today, their cul-de-sac reflects a blend of long-standing and newer families, reinforcing the strong sense of community that initially attracted them to the area. Jeff and Kathy actively participate in neighborhood events, including book clubs, holiday gatherings, and the annual Night to Unite event. They also believe in simple acts of kindness, such as checking in on neighbors or lending a helping hand with snow removal during Minnesota's harsh winters.

Family trips have created lasting memories, with Walt Disney World and SeaWorld in Florida ranking among their most magical experiences. However, their travels have also included visits to Mount Rushmore, Glacier National Park, Estes Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, and Banff in Canada. As



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their children grew, they transitioned from family road trips to global adventures, exploring the Caribbean, Hawaii, Alaska, Scandinavia, and Europe through Viking river and ocean cruises to Italy and Greece.

Jeff's passion for public service ultimately led him to run for Mayor of Rosemount after 14 years of serving on the City Council and Port Authority. Inspired by his commitment to sustainable growth and community development, he stepped into leadership when the previous mayor transitioned to a county commissioner role. As mayor, Jeff dedicates 60 to 70 hours per month to city-related responsibilities, balancing his professional career with his elected role. His work involves attending meetings, engaging with residents, and participating in regional councils to ensure the continued growth and prosperity of Rosemount. One of the most rewarding aspects of his tenure has been working with the Youth Commission, mentoring young residents, and fostering their leadership potential.

"I truly appreciate meeting and talking with residents about our community and hearing their pride and concerns," says Jeff.

Challenges are inevitable in any leadership role, and Jeff has worked diligently to enhance communication between the city and its residents regarding development projects. Through

improved notifications, an interactive development map, and educational outreach, he has sought to bridge the gap between city planning and community awareness.

Rosemount's approach to balancing short-term goals with long-term vision is rooted in data-driven decision-making. As a growing community, the city prioritizes the immediate need for diverse housing options while ensuring these developments align with future plans for economic growth and enhanced amenities. While the surge in housing construction may appear excessive in the short term, it is a necessary step toward meeting the city's projected needs. By fostering a variety of life-cycle housing, Rosemount creates opportunities for residents to transition seamlessly through different stages of life—whether starting in an apartment, purchasing a first home, or eventually settling into a townhome or senior living community. This strategic planning supports sustainable growth while maintaining the city's commitment to a high quality of life.

One of Rosemount's proudest achievements in recent years has been the successful completion of several major projects that contribute to public safety and economic development. Despite the city's modest size, its staff has skillfully managed large-scale initiatives such as the Police and Public Works campus, the Life Time facility, and the Meta data center project. These developments not only enhance services for residents but also increase the city's tax capacity, ultimately balancing the tax burden for citizens. The leadership team's dedication to effective project management ensures that Rosemount continues to thrive while maintaining its "Spirit of Pride and Progress." "Residents here feel a strong sense of pride in our hometown feel, welcoming neighborhoods and quaint downtown," says Jeff proudly. "Our volunteers spend countless hours donating their time and talents."

Amidst their busy lives, Jeff and Kathy find comfort in their beloved twelve-year-old mini doodle, Daisy. A mix of mini golden doodle and mini labradoodle, Daisy is a house dog at heart but exhibits her golden retriever instincts when squirrels, rabbits, or deer venture into the yard.

From their early days in 4-H to raising a family rooted in education, service, and community, Jeff and Kathy's journey is a testament to the power of dedication and leadership. Their story continues to unfold as they embrace their roles as grandparents, community members, and active participants in shaping the future of Rosemount. Whether through their professional achievements, volunteer efforts, or the simple joys of cheering on their grandchildren, Jeff and Kathy's impact on their community and family will be felt for generations to come.

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