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COVER STORY

Bobby Bentley & Madera Hollowell

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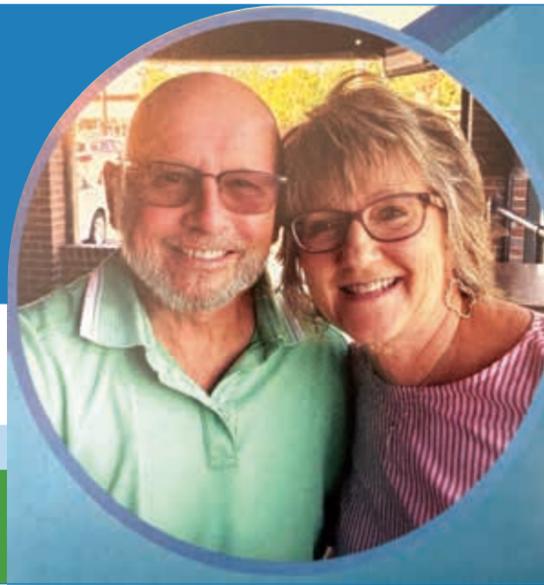
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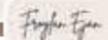
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BOBBY BENTLEY + MADERA HOLLOWELL

REIGNING REALTORS IN RIVER ISLAND

Bobby Bentley Leadership Rooted in Integrity and Local Legacy

With more than 13 years of real estate experience, Bobby Bentley serves as Vice President of Southeastern Residential and as a leading member of the River Island Sales Team. His approach is refreshingly straightforward: put the client first, always.

Bobby began his real estate career in 2013 after a successful background in advertising, sales, and management. While those roles sharpened his business acumen, he found himself drawn to a profession that allowed him to build deeper relationships and work in closer alignment with his values. Encouraged by respected local business leaders who recognized his natural strengths, Bobby made the transition—and never looked back.

A lifelong Augusta resident, Bobby's connection to the community runs deep. A graduate of Westside High School who attended Augusta College, he brings authentic local knowledge and long-standing relationships to every client interaction. That perspective is invaluable in a community like River Island, where lifestyle, long-term value, and neighborhood culture matter just as much as the home itself.



Cover Story: Madera Hollowell and Bobby Bentley

In his leadership role, Bobby emphasizes consistency, honesty, and doing what is right over chasing quick wins. He defines success not by numbers, but by the quality of service he delivers—giving 110%, following through, and taking the time to do things properly. A favorite saying from a mentor, “I’m not running a paper route,” serves as a reminder that excellence requires intention and care.

Beyond real estate, Bobby is deeply involved in the Augusta community. He is a member of St. Mary On The

Hill Catholic Church, where he serves as a Eucharistic Minister, and one of three founders of Border Bash—an annual event that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past 30 years for local children’s and family charities. He is also a longtime member and past President of the Augusta Bulldog Club and a member of the Georgia Bulldog Club in Athens.

Through both his professional work and civic involvement, Bobby Bentley continues to build lasting relationships

and strengthen the community he has always called home.

Madera Hollowell Trusted Guidance, Thoughtful Advocacy, and Heart for Home

Madera Hollowell brings more than 16 years of real estate experience to her role as Vice President of Southeastern Residential and River Island Site Agent. A member of the River Island Sales Team since 2017, Madera is widely respected for her calm, client-centered approach and unwavering professionalism.

Originally from McCormick, South Carolina, Madera is a graduate of Clemson University even though she grew up a die hard University of Georgia fan. Madera’s father graduated from UGA and her family has been a long-time season ticket holder. Her husband is also a UGA grad. After college, she began her career in banking in Aiken before spending 16 years with E-Z-GO Textron where she worked in various finance positions. Her path into real estate was unexpected—but life-changing. After earning her license, she was impacted by a corporate layoff, making real estate the next logical step. What began as a pivot quickly became a passion, and she is now entering her 17th year in the industry.

Madera has been recognized as Realtor of the Year for Southeastern Residential in both 2019 and 2020, along with numerous top-level honors including President’s Circle, Top 5 Southeastern Agent, and Leadership Council awards. While she values those achievements, her personal definition of success is simple: representing clients with honesty, respect, and professionalism—and earning their trust to the point that they are repeat clients and refer others. She thinks that referrals are the best compliment!

What truly sets Madera apart is her non-pushy, thoughtful approach. She believes clients should love their homes not just on closing day, but every day they pull into the driveway. She never



pressures decisions, instead focusing on education, clarity, and confidence throughout the process.

Outside of work, Madera enjoys a life rooted in balance and connection. She and her husband, John Hollowell, will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary this August. They share their home with two cats, Dabi and Coal, and a mutual love for UGA football. A devoted animal lover—affectionately dubbed “the Elly May of River Island” by Bobby—Madera is also active in St. Mark Methodist Church and looks forward to traveling more in the years ahead.

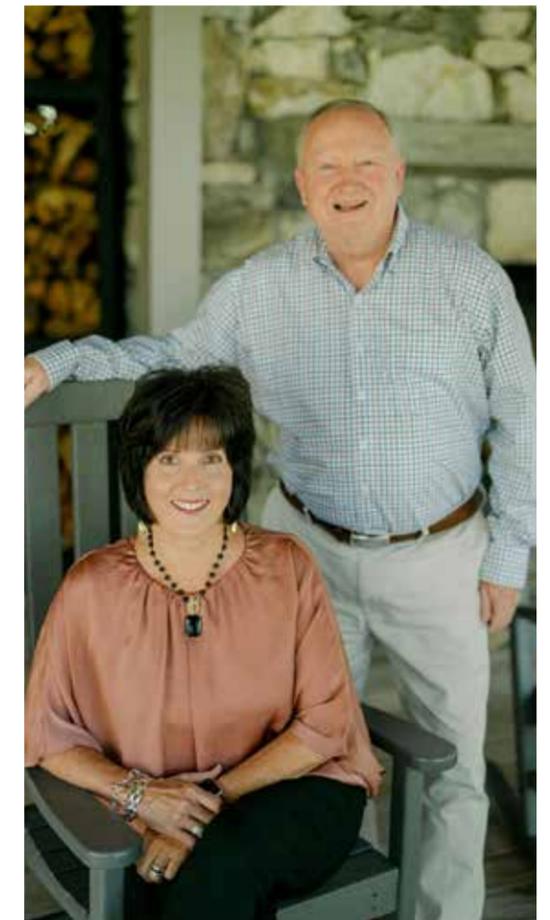
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and community in one of the most distinctive neighborhoods in the Augusta area.

Designed as a true conservation community, River Island offers some of the most beautiful real estate in Augusta, Georgia. Mature trees, preserved green spaces, and sweeping river views surround thoughtfully designed homes, creating a setting where nature is not an amenity, but a defining feature. Miles of shaded walking trails wind through the neighborhood and along the river, offering a peaceful escape that feels worlds away—yet remains just minutes from downtown Augusta and the conveniences of Evans and Columbia County.

Life at River Island is both active and effortless. Residents enjoy boating and fishing from community





boat docks, scenic strolls through the Grand Park overlooking the Savannah River, and time spent at the stunning central lodge with its terraced views and outdoor fireplace. Seasonal citywide events, informal nature walks, and small community gatherings bring neighbors together, creating a welcoming sense of place rooted in shared appreciation for the outdoors and connection.

It is within this exceptional setting that **Bobby Bentley** and **Madera Hollowell** serve as trusted stewards of the River Island lifestyle. Since 2017, Bobby and Madera have represented

River Island as the community's dedicated Sales Team through **Southeastern Residential**, guiding clients who are not just purchasing a home—but choosing a way of life. Their approach mirrors the very essence of River Island itself: thoughtful, intentional, and rooted in long-term value.

From the very first conversation, they take the time to listen, ask the right questions, and truly understand each client's vision, lifestyle, and goals. Whether assisting with the purchase of an existing home or guiding a custom build from the ground up, Bobby and Madera act as steady, knowledgeable

partners—anticipating challenges, offering clarity, and ensuring the process feels exciting rather than overwhelming.

Most importantly, they focus on relationships. Just as River Island was designed to foster connection and balance, Bobby and Madera believe success comes from trust, integrity, and doing things the right way. Their combined experience, calm guidance, and deep understanding of both the community and the market make them natural ambassadors for River Island's next chapter.

As the community looks ahead to its next phase, anticipated to open in fall 2026, Bobby and Madera are excited to continue welcoming new residents and sharing what makes River Island—and the River Island way of life—so special.



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A Client-First Approach to Real Estate in Greater Augusta

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ELIZABETH "LIZ" Skowronski

For Elizabeth "Liz" Skowronski, success in real estate isn't measured solely by numbers—though her numbers are impressive. Instead, she defines success by peace of mind, meaningful relationships, and the confidence of knowing she has truly done her best for the people she serves. That mindset has quickly set her apart in the Greater Augusta real estate market.

Based in Evans, Georgia, Liz is the Team Lead of **The Liz Skowronski Team** at Meybohm. Though she officially began her real estate career in 2023, her rapid rise speaks volumes. In 2025 alone, her team closed 25 transactions and surpassed \$10 million in sales volume. Those results earned Liz "Rookie of the Year" honors, along with the distinction of achieving the highest sales volume in the company's history for that award.

Liz leads a close-knit two-person team alongside Laura Warren, a partnership built on shared values and complementary strengths. Both women transitioned into real estate from demanding professional backgrounds—Liz from the medical field and Laura from media. Those previous careers instilled a strong work ethic, exceptional attention to detail, and a deep appreciation for clear, thoughtful communication.

"Coming from medicine, organization and precision were non-negotiable," Liz explains. "That Type-A mindset now



“THAT TYPE-A MINDSET NOW WORKS IN MY CLIENTS’ FAVOR. Real estate can be overwhelming, and I take pride in guiding people through every step with clarity and care.”

works in my clients' favor. Real estate can be overwhelming, and I take pride in guiding people through every step with clarity and care.”

Real estate was a natural evolution for Liz, shaped by life experience rather than chance. Frequent moves with her husband due to school and career changes gave her firsthand insight into the buying and selling process. Over time, she realized the knowledge she had gained wasn't just useful for her own family—it could be a powerful resource for others navigating major life transitions.

That perspective fuels her client-first philosophy. Liz believes effective communication, personal connection,

and meticulous follow-through are what truly set her business apart. Her goal isn't just to close deals; it's to build trust and long-term relationships.

"I want my clients to feel confident and cared for," she says. "If I can give them peace of mind during such a big decision, that's success to me."

Family is at the heart of everything Liz does. Originally from Washington, Georgia—a small town about an hour from Augusta—she attended the University of Georgia before continuing her education at the Medical College of Georgia, where she also met her husband. Today, they are raising two children, ages 11 and 10, who attend River Ridge Elementary in Columbia



the easiest question to answer,” she laughs. “It’s been such a great way to meet people, stay active, and step away from daily distractions.” You’ll often find her playing at Dink’d Pickleball in Martinez or at the CCRC when the weather cooperates.

Liz is an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). She loves history and has a great appreciation for the deep roots that run through Augusta’s rich heritage.

Liz and her family attend Warren Baptist Church, and faith plays a guiding role in how she approaches the future. While she doesn’t claim to know exactly what lies ahead, her hopes are simple and sincere: good health, joy, meaningful moments, and the continued opportunity to help others find a place to call home.

In a competitive industry, **Liz Skowronski** stands out not just for what she’s achieved in a short time, but for how she achieves it—with intention, integrity, and heart. As her career continues to grow, one thing remains constant: her commitment to putting people first, every step of the way.

County. Their family also includes Liam, a 12-year-old dog affectionately described as their “first child.”

Despite busy schedules, Liz and her family are homebodies at heart. They enjoy relaxing at their home in River Island, spending time outdoors, and taking walks together whenever the weather allows. Those moments of stillness are important to Liz, who finds

inspiration in a favorite quote from *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*: “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

That reminder to slow down resonates deeply—both personally and professionally.

When she does unplug, Liz has found a surprising passion: pickleball. “It’s



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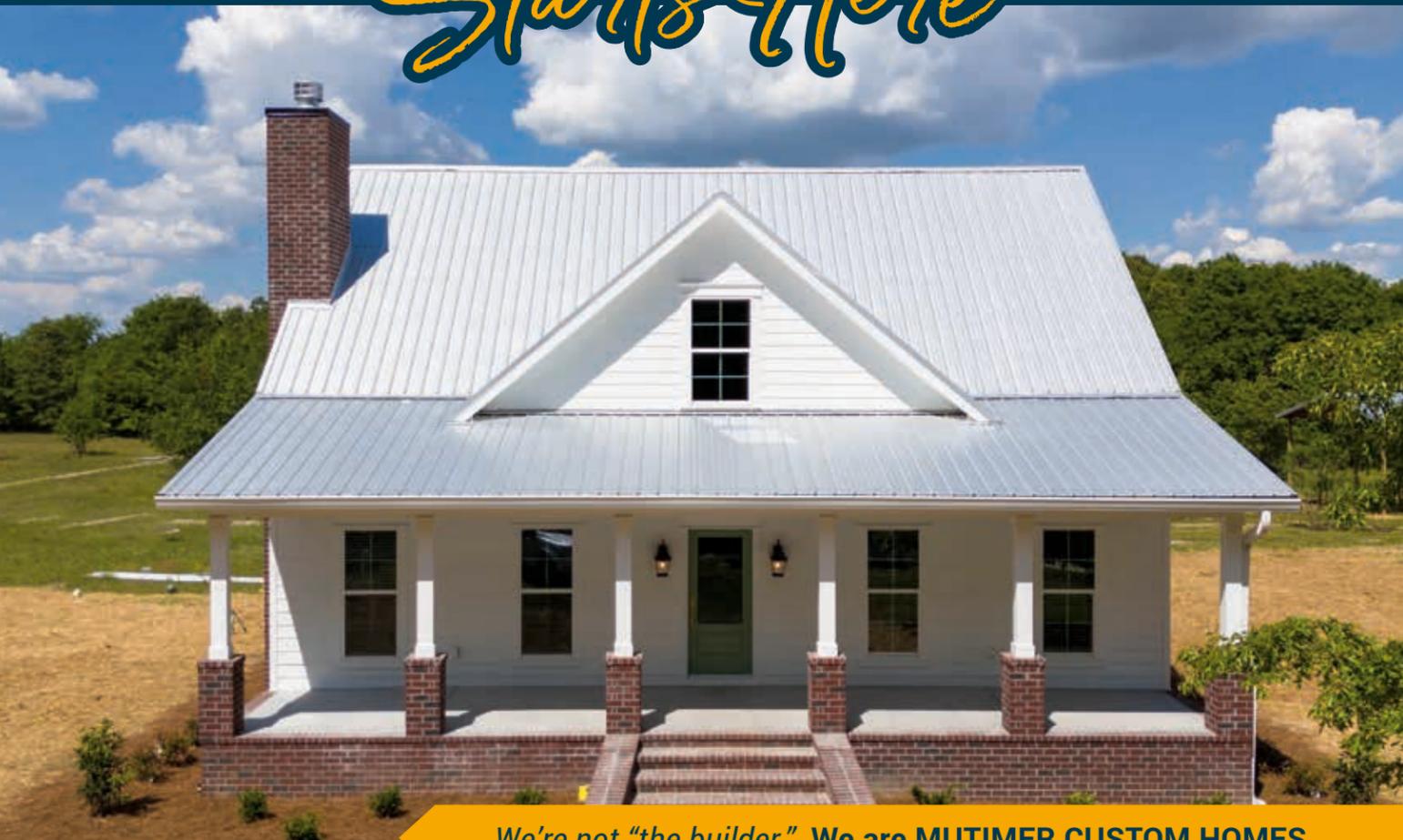
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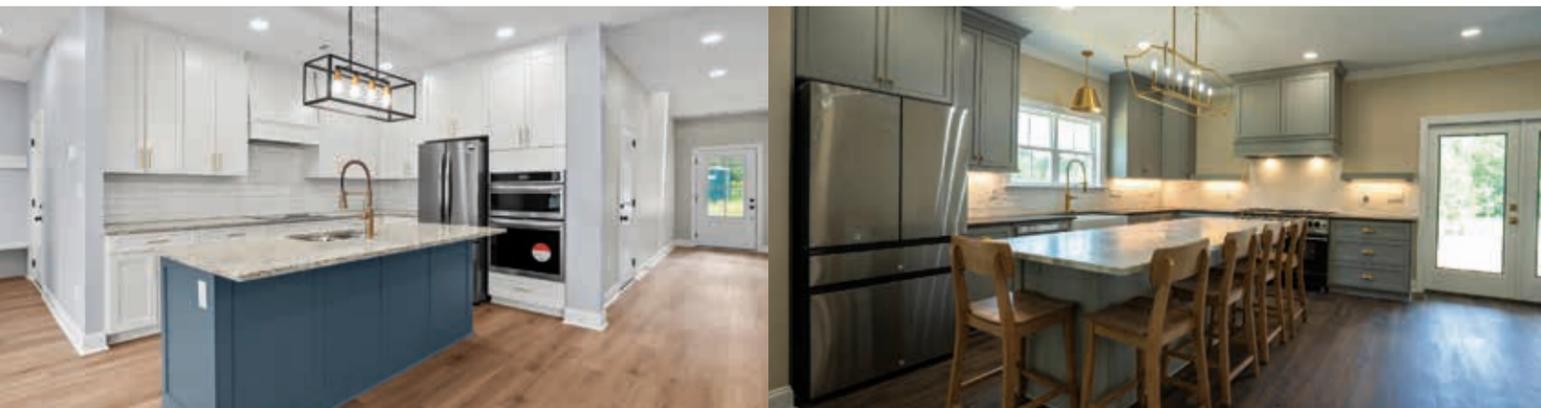


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Building More THAN Loans



How Davis Clark Guides Clients Home with Confidence

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDGAR VILLEDA,
STRONGSHOT STUDIO

Colony Bank's mortgage loan originator blends expertise, empathy, and education to simplify one of life's biggest decisions.

For many people, buying a home represents stability, security, and the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. But behind every closing table is a process that can feel overwhelming without the right guide. At Colony Bank, mortgage loan originator **Davis Clark** has built his career on making that journey clearer, calmer, and more personal.

Clark didn't begin his career on the front lines of lending. Instead, he spent five years working in mortgage operations—learning the intricacies of loan files, underwriting requirements, and program guidelines. That behind-the-scenes experience laid the groundwork for what would become his calling.

"I really enjoyed learning the ins and outs of originating a mortgage," Clark says. "Eventually, I had the opportunity to team up with a loan originator to learn that side of the business, and that naturally led me into the role myself."

What he discovered was more than a career path—it was a passion. The problem-solving element of mortgage lending, combined with the opportunity to help people navigate a life-changing milestone, drew him in. "I truly enjoy guiding people through a process that can feel overwhelming if you don't fully understand it," he explains.

Beyond the Rate: Building Real Relationships

In an industry often driven by numbers and interest rates, Clark believes successful mortgage lending requires something deeper: relatability and trust. "This business is not a one-and-done transaction," he says. "While rate is obviously important, focusing on rate alone can lead to a bumpy transaction if the loan originator isn't properly vetted."

Clark takes a relationship-first approach. He spends time understanding each client's family dynamics, financial goals, and long-term plans before ever discussing loan options. For him, every borrower's story is different—and so is every loan.

"My goal is for clients to walk away from their home purchase knowing they have a trusted resource," Clark says. "I want to be their first call for future mortgage needs." It's an approach that reframes the mortgage originator's role from salesperson to advisor—a distinction Clark considers essential in today's market.

Working Backward for Clarity

One of the ways Clark reduces stress for his clients is by starting with a simple but powerful question: *What monthly payment feels comfortable?* Rather than beginning with maximum loan approval amounts, Clark works backward from a realistic budget. "I build real numbers from there to determine an appropriate price range,"



he explains. "Online tools can be helpful, but without accurate data they often create unrealistic expectations."

The process begins with understanding what's driving the move—whether it's a relocation, a growing family, or a career change. From there, Clark walks clients through the application process in whatever format suits them best: online, in person, or over the phone. Once the application is complete, he carefully reviews credit reports, discussing both active and closed accounts and offering suggestions to strengthen scores when needed. Employment history and income qualification are reviewed in

detail before underwriting even begins, helping to eliminate surprises later in the process.

Finally, Clark outlines loan costs and payment projections based on the client's target price range. By focusing on clarity early, he helps ensure that the home search begins with realistic expectations and confidence. "Attention to detail at every step helps calm nerves," he says.

Turning Setbacks into Starting Points

Of course, not every application ends in immediate approval. Clark acknowledges that informing a client their loan has been denied is one of the most difficult aspects of the job.

"Homeownership is a dream for many people and their families," he says. "A denial is often just a speed bump—not the end of the road."

Rather than ending the conversation there, Clark walks clients through their credit report and outlines specific, actionable steps for improvement. Whether it's paying down certain debts, correcting reporting errors, or strengthening income documentation, he focuses on building a path forward. "I never want a client to feel like there are no options," he says. "Being able to level





with clients, show understanding, and provide a clear plan is critical.”

Demystifying the Market

In an age of instant headlines and social media sound bites, Clark sees misinformation as one of the mortgage industry’s greatest challenges. “With so much information readily available online, consumers often react quickly to headlines without context,” he explains. Part of his role, he says, is helping clients filter the noise. When questions arise about the Federal Reserve or rate changes, Clark takes time to explain not just the “what,” but the “why.” “For example, I always clarify that the Fed lowering rates does not directly mean mortgage rates drop,” he says. He shares daily and historical market reports, explaining how benchmarks like the 10-year Treasury influence mortgage pricing. By breaking down complex financial concepts into relatable explanations, Clark empowers clients to feel informed rather than intimidated.

A Team Effort

Managing multiple clients and tight deadlines requires more than individual effort. Clark credits his team at Colony Bank for helping ensure smooth transactions. “Organization and a strong team make all the difference,” he says with a laugh—adding that his wife, Megan, might disagree about his organizational skills. Behind every file is a dedicated processor, experienced

underwriters, and closers who keep the process moving forward. While Clark remains accessible to clients for calls and questions, his team ensures that the day-to-day details are handled efficiently. The result is a balanced system where communication and execution work hand in hand.

Advice for the Next Generation

For those considering a career as a mortgage loan originator, Clark offers practical wisdom: patience and relationships are everything. “Success doesn’t happen overnight,” he says. “You have to be able to roll with the punches. Nothing is final until the documents are signed.”

Unexpected issues will arise—some within your control, many not. The ability to adapt, problem-solve, and maintain composure under pressure separates good originators from great ones. Clark also emphasizes the importance of product knowledge. His background in operations provided him with a deep understanding of loan programs and underwriting guidelines—an advantage he continues to rely on today. “That foundation continues to set me apart,” he says.

Rooted in Family

Outside the office, Clark’s world revolves around family. One of four boys—

including a twin brother and two older siblings—he grew up in Albany, Georgia. All four brothers attended the University of Georgia, a point of pride he shares enthusiastically: “Go Dawgs!”

It was at UGA that he met his wife, Megan. The two have been together since 2011 and welcomed their son, Walker, in June 2023. “He’s been an answered prayer and keeps us on our toes,” Clark says.

Their household also includes two dogs with distinct personalities. Maple is Clark’s hunting companion, while Maggie has firmly claimed her place on the couch. In his spare time—sometimes more than just spare time—Clark enjoys bird hunting and playing golf with friends at West Lake.

More Than a Transaction

For Davis Clark, mortgage lending isn’t simply about closing loans—it’s about building trust, providing clarity, and helping families move confidently into the next chapter of their lives. In a market often clouded by complexity and headlines, his steady, relationship-driven approach stands out. By combining operational expertise with genuine care, Clark ensures that when clients finally receive their keys, they do so with understanding—not uncertainty. And for many, that makes all the difference.



**Davis Clark....
making progress,
not excuses.**

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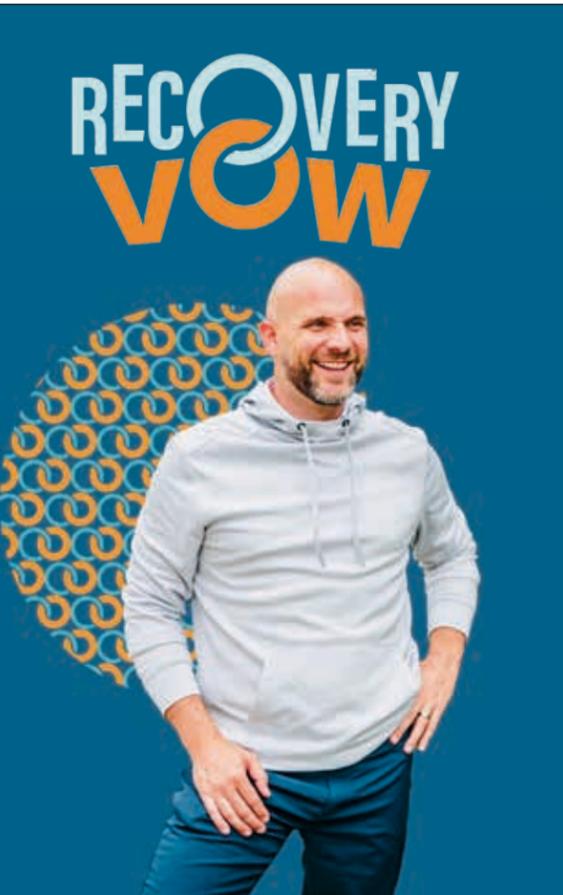
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