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**KELLY
SCHAFFER**
Home is a four
letter word

The Dogs Behind the Deals

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A collage of two images. The left image shows a modern mudroom with light-colored cabinets, a dark blue wall, and a white car parked in front. The right image shows a garden storage area with a black slat wall, hanging wire baskets, and various tools and supplies.

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SCHAFFER **10**
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If you are interested in nominating people for certain stories, please email us at: email goes here@n2co.com

An advertisement for JB Wagner Septic. At the top, a woman with long blonde hair and glasses is sitting on the ground in a forest, surrounded by four dogs (two large Weimaraners, one beagle, and one small white dog). The background is a green field with scattered clover leaves. The text "574-339-9557" and "JBWAGNERSEPTIC.COM" is in red at the top. To the right is the "JB WAGNER SEPTIC" logo with a five-star rating. The text "Inspections and Repairs", "Drain Cleaning & Rootering", "Hydro-Jetting", "Inlet & Outlet Baffles", "Risers & Safety Devices", "Tank & Line Cameras", "Distribution Boxes & Valves", and "Unmatched SEPTIC EXCELLENCE" are listed. Below this is a "BETTER SERVICE, BETTER PRICES, FOR BETTER SEPTICS" tagline. Two cartoon leprechauns are at the bottom.

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An advertisement for A and N mortgage. At the top, the logo "A and N mortgage" is shown. Below it, the text "SPRING AHEAD WITH TOP PARTNERSHIPS" is displayed. A circular portrait of a smiling man, Brad Beyer, is shown. To the right, a large, modern two-story house with a grey exterior and a stone foundation is shown. The text "THIS IS AN ADVERTISEMENT. This is not a commitment to lend. Only credit worthy applicants will receive credit approval. A and N Mortgage Services, Inc. 1945 N. Eastern Ave., Chicago, IL 60622 p. 773.305.0400 f. 773.305.0401 NMLS No. 19291. For licensing information and Texas consumers to file a complaint, go to: www.anmtg.com/licensing/ (National-wide Mortgage Licensing System) www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. NMLS No. 2031080." is at the bottom.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE



The Dogs Behind the Deals



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If you've ever worked in real estate—or really any service business—you know something to be true:

The days are long.

The emotions are big.

And sometimes, the only thing that makes it all better...is a wagging tail waiting at the door.

This month's *Michiana Real Producers* issue is a little different—and a lot more personal.

Instead of headshots and production stats, you'll find muddy paws, goofy grins, tennis balls, snuggles, and stories that remind us who we really are outside the office.

Because behind every showing, closing, late-night email, and early-morning appointment... there's often a dog curled up on the couch, riding shotgun in the car, or keeping watch at the window.

This Dog Edition is a celebration of the companions who ground us, comfort us, and love us unconditionally.

You'll meet Abby Jinger and Copper Jones, who keep Marybeth laughing daily. Rudder, Emeric's steady and intuitive sidekick. Polly, Ruth's rare and soulful Xolo. Dash, the tiny but mighty cuddle expert. Emma, whose quiet resilience mirrors her rescue story. Gus, Bernie, Benny, Bode, Dashell, Saylor, Pippi... and so many more.

Each one different.

Each one unforgettable.

Each one family.

Some of these dogs helped their humans through illness.

Some brought healing after loss.

Some show up at the office like honorary team members.

And some simply remind us—every single day—to slow down, play a little more, and love a little bigger.

What I love most about this issue is that it shows a side of our community we don't always get to see.

Not the awards.

Not the transactions.

Not the titles.

Just heart.

Because at the end of the day, success isn't just about what we build in business—it's about who's waiting for us when we get home.

Thank you to everyone who shared your stories and trusted us with these glimpses into your lives. This issue is pure joy, and I hope it makes you smile as much as it did us while putting it together.

Give your dog an extra treat tonight from all of us.

They've earned it.

With gratitude,

Jeff Bliler
Publisher
Michiana Real Producers

KELLY SCHAFFER

BY JESS WELLAR
PHOTOS BY MEGAN WILLIAMSON PHOTOGRAPHY

"Every single person matters to me and what matters to them is important — period," Kelly Schaffer begins. "Clients aren't 'picky,' they're individuals ... And in a world that tries to generalize everyone, I believe fiercely in honoring what makes each person unique."

That belief doesn't stop with people. For Kelly, it extends to the four-legged family members who are rarely far from her side. An eight-year real estate professional currently with Michigan Top Producers Real Estate Group, Kelly is preparing to step into her next chapter as Managing Broker with the launch of Indiana Top Producers in early 2026.

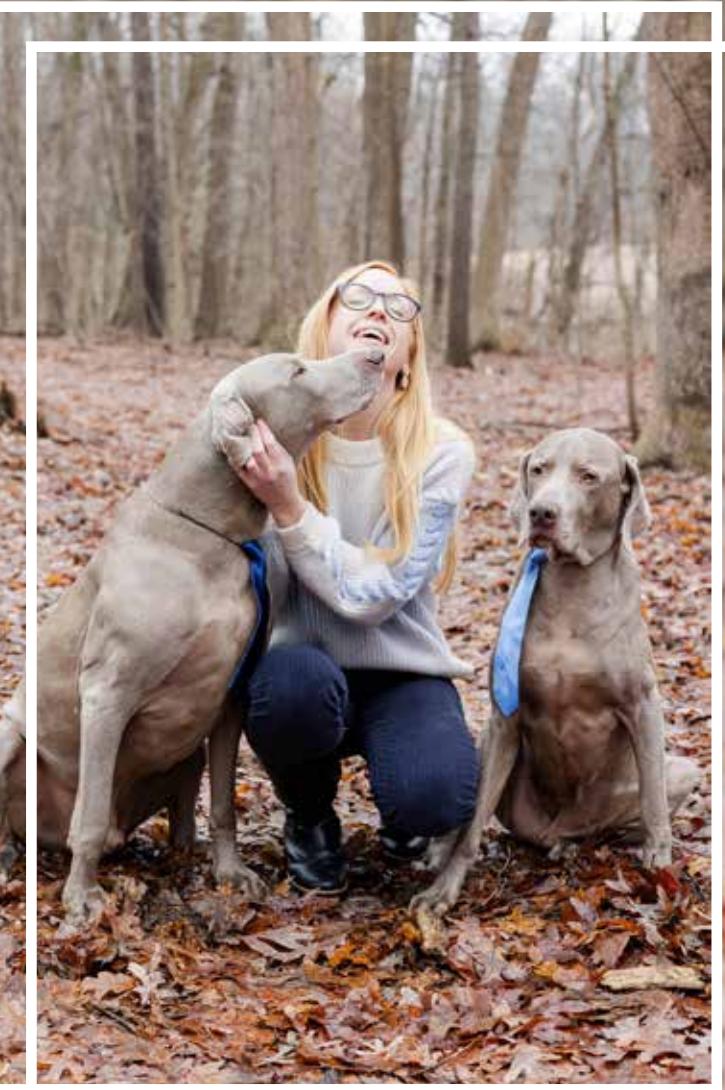
Rooted in People

Kelly was born and raised in Elkhart, Indiana, graduating from Concord High School before attending Indiana University in Bloomington, a foundation that still shows up in how she listens and connects today.

"I've always gravitated toward people-oriented roles," Kelly explains. "Whether it was business sales, bartending, or management, I've always been great with people."

That human-centered instinct carried through her early professional years

Home Is A Four-Legged Word



and followed her into real estate in 2018. What began as a practical move while purchasing investment properties to flip and rent with a former partner quickly revealed itself as something deeper.

Having grown up in the same home for 18 years, Kelly has always felt a deep connection to the concept of home itself.

“Once I became an agent, I realized immediately that this work was my calling,” she reflects. “I have done so many sales in my life, but I never really believed in the product until I found myself in real estate.”

A Natural Fit

Kelly didn’t ease into real estate, she jumped in headfirst; and she makes it clear this will be the required criteria for a potential fit at her new office as well.

“This is a full-time occupation with full-time accountability and full-time expectations,” she elaborates. “Consumers should not suffer because an agent isn’t doing their job.”

That all-in mindset has shaped her approach since Day One. While she has received plenty of sales awards within former brokerages, Kelly is quick to redirect the conversation.

“I don’t chase titles,” she points out. “I focus on my work and my clients. I’m also a big believer in quality over quantity. If I can create a smooth, supportive, genuinely positive experience for someone buying the largest asset they’ll ever own — that is true success.”

That philosophy is now guiding her next chapter. Indiana Top Producers launched recently in the South Bend area and Kelly has worked towards earning her managing broker license.

Just Being Herself

Kelly’s business stands out not because she follows a formula, but because she refuses to.

“I will never stop being Kelly Diane Schaffer,” she emphasizes. “I don’t



put on a fake professional face to impress people — I show up exactly as I am, through the good, the hard, the traumatic, and the real parts of life. And people feel that. They trust it.”

That authenticity shows up in every part of her process, which she describes as extremely proactive and hands-on: “We prepare for everything we can control, so we’re ready for the things we can’t,” Kelly explains. “Real estate is full of surprises, so my goal is to make sure my clients aren’t blindsided.”

From walkthrough videos and detailed floor plans to binders of information and open houses at every price point, Kelly believes each listing deserves full attention and all of her clients are treated with equal respect.

“When touring homes, my clients focus on function and lifestyle, while I

evaluate systems, maintenance needs, and potential costs," she adds.

For new agents, her advice echoes her own playbook of consistency.

"Stick to being yourself," Kelly suggests. "The first two years are a grind, but if you're not showing up as yourself, people won't remember you as their real estate agent."

Home, Healing, and The Horizon

Outside of work, Kelly's life is anything but quiet and she embraces the lively chaos. She lives on six acres in the Niles/Granger area with her "pack": two Weimaraners and two beagles — Packer, Ollie, Pearl, and Blueberry — and two cats, Candy and JellyBean. Her dogs have certainly become a recognizable part of her brand, and a reflection of what matters most to her.

"My dogs aren't just family, they're also my official assistants," she says. "They

attend open houses, go on showings, and even come to closings wearing their signature ties. They're quite famous locally!"

When she's not working, Kelly leans into her favorite creative outlet, photography, especially capturing animals, children and touching moments. She also finds joy in pole dancing, a hobby she's practiced for four years, loves tending to her garden, and has recently been trying her hand at archery.

The past year has also shaped her in profound ways. Last February, Kelly experienced the tragic loss of her partner, Don, who died by suicide. It's an experience she describes as impossible to fully process, and one that has reshaped her entire perspective.

"It made me deeply aware of how isolating conversations around mental

health can be," she shares. "I welcome the space to have those conversations and want people to know they're not alone — even when they feel alone."

Looking ahead, Kelly is eager to manage Indiana Top Producers as it gets off the ground, to grow her own business, and plans to continue exploring ambitious ideas — from turning her acreage into a professional photography studio and creative space, to expanding her brand in unexpected ways.

"I am working towards the possibility of launching a corporate dog apparel line, Corporate Paws For A Cause," she concludes with a grin. "Because my dogs are my assistants, it feels like the perfect next step. I even have some designs already in mind!"

"Dogs make everything better. In a world that can be so difficult, why not have a dog around all the time?"



Marybeth Hoopengarner &

Abby Jinger + Copper Jones

Marybeth Hoopengarner of Cressy Everett Real Estate shares her home—and her heart—with two Jack Russell Terriers who couldn't be more different, yet couldn't be more perfect together. Abby Jinger and Copper Jones are five-year-old littermates whose personalities balance each other beautifully, creating a daily rhythm filled with laughter, loyalty, and a touch of mischief.

Abby, named after Marybeth's daughter Abigail, is the confident leader of the household. With a bold personality and a strict internal clock—especially when it comes to dinnertime—she keeps everyone on schedule. Copper, inspired by The Fox and the Hound and named

for the warm tones of his tri-color coat, is her sweet counterpart. Gentle and devoted, Copper happily follows Abby's lead, bringing calm to her spark.

Both dogs love showing off their tricks, especially dancing and rolling over, but Copper steals the spotlight when food is involved—spinning in excited circles all the way to his bowl. Their quirks don't stop there. Abby acts as an alarm clock, while Copper often sleeps on his back, smiling with his teeth exposed, and occasionally letting out a howl that sounds suspiciously like a Beagle.

No matter where Marybeth goes—her office, the kitchen, or even the



Jessica Wagner &

Dash

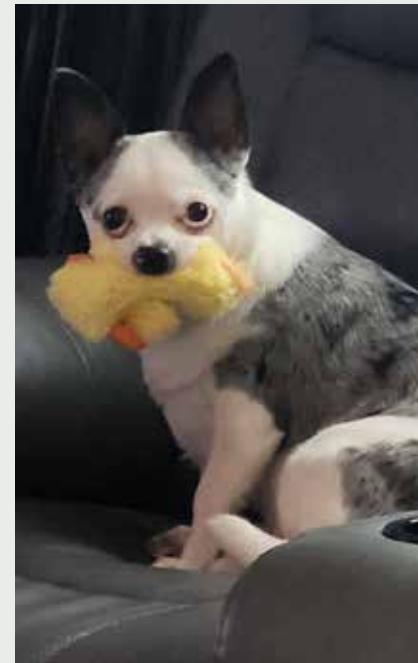
Jessica Wagner of JB Wagner Septic describes Dash as the happiest, fluffiest, most loving little force of joy imaginable—and anyone who meets him would be hard-pressed to disagree. This four-year-old Chihuahua has a personality far larger than his size, greeting every arrival with enthusiasm and every departure with heartfelt goodbyes.

Dash earned his name in true Jessica fashion—after she “dashed” to put down a deposit on him despite being told she couldn't get another Chihuahua. The result? A dog who thrives on affection, demands welcome-home cuddles, and immediately falls asleep on your lap if given the chance—snoring like a freight train the entire time.

Dash has a few signature habits, including flipping onto his back anytime he wants belly rubs, clutching his beloved “bay ducky,” and singing along with his family in soulful “awwwwos.” His tongue permanently hangs out the left side of his mouth, giving him a constant smile that perfectly matches his personality.

Though he's a self-proclaimed guard dog, Dash is also a world-class cuddler who insists on sleeping close, holding hands with his paw, and showering his people with kisses. He dislikes car rides but excels at companionship.

From sleeping in piles of shoes to dramatically snoring through naps, Dash brings humor, warmth, and



unconditional love into Jessica's life—proving that joy often comes in the smallest packages.

Ruth Hutt & Polly

Ruth Hutt of Cressy & Everett shares her life with Polly, a truly extraordinary companion. A 15-year-old Xoloitzcuintli—also known as a Mexican Hairless—Polly is part of a breed so rare that fewer than one percent of the world's dogs belong to it. But her uniqueness goes far beyond appearances.

Nearly hairless and deeply intuitive, Polly has what Ruth jokingly calls ESP. She seems to know Ruth's moods before a word is spoken, responding with quiet understanding and presence. Their bond is rooted in an unspoken connection—communication that doesn't require sound, only awareness.

Polly was named by a dear friend, and over the years, she's lived up to the thoughtfulness behind it. Though gentle and affectionate, she also has a playful side. When someone jokingly “shoots” her, Polly will dramatically play dead, proving she still enjoys entertaining even in her senior years.

Snuggling is their favorite shared activity, a simple but powerful ritual that speaks to the depth of their relationship. Polly's calming presence has made her a constant source of comfort, especially during moments when words feel unnecessary.



For those unfamiliar with the Xolo breed, Polly often becomes a point of curiosity and conversation. But for Ruth, Polly is simply family—a rare soul whose loyalty, intuition, and quiet companionship have made her irreplaceable.

Emeric Szalay & Right Rudder

For Emeric Szalay of Collins & Co. Realtors, Inc., Right Rudder isn't just a dog—she's an intuitive presence who understands without words. A six-year-old Mini Goldendoodle with a name inspired by Emeric's passion for aviation, Rudder has an uncanny ability to sense emotions and provide quiet support exactly when it's needed.

Though she doesn't perform flashy tricks, Rudder has her own endearing habits. She loves laying on her back, playing with a ball, and shadowing her people wherever they go. As a service animal for Emeric's wife, Rudder plays an essential role in their household—but Emeric is quick to say she helps him just as much.



how playful she gets, her attentiveness never fades.

For Emeric, Rudder represents trust, constancy, and emotional grounding. She's not just part of the family—she's part of who they are, proving that sometimes the most meaningful bonds are built quietly, through loyalty and shared understanding.

Valarie Lester & Emma

Valarie Lester of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Northern Indiana Real Estate says she loves everything about Emma—and it shows. A 12-year-old Whippet mix with a calm, gentle presence, Emma is the kind of dog who instantly puts people at ease.

Named after Emma Watson—and sharing her red hair—Emma was rescued later in life and once struggled with trusting men. Through patience and love, she transformed into a confident, affectionate companion who now thrives in every environment, especially Valarie's office. Emma's calm demeanor makes her the perfect professional sidekick, often walking leash-free and quietly observing the world around her.

Emma knows an impressive list of commands—sit, stay, lay down, shake, and even kiss—but her greatest gift is emotional intelligence. Though more independent in her senior years, she greets Valarie with gentle tail wags, soft chirps, and a favorite stuffed animal.

Their favorite activities include spending time at the office and relaxing on dog-friendly patios, where Emma's peaceful energy is always welcome.

More than a pet, Emma represents resilience and transformation. Her journey from cautious rescue to beloved companion mirrors the power of trust, making her an irreplaceable part of Valarie's life.



Jennifer Kerrn & Gus

Jennifer Kerrn of Keller Williams Realty Group proudly claims the title of "Grandma" to Gus, a one-and-a-half-year-old Mini Dachshund who frequently visits her home. While Gus technically belongs to her family, Jennifer happily enjoys the best of both worlds—plenty of playtime, followed by sending him home when he gets mischievous.

Gus is curious, clever, and endlessly entertained by the outdoors, especially when leaves are involved. Chasing them brings him pure joy. When indoors, he prefers cozy comforts—particularly

sleeping under the covers, where he can nap peacefully.

Affectionate by nature, Gus loves giving kisses and soaking up attention. His visits are filled with backyard play, treat time, and moments of laughter that only a spirited dachshund can inspire.

Though he isn't Jennifer's full-time dog, Gus has claimed a permanent place in her heart. His time at Grandma's house is filled with love, indulgence, and the kind of warmth that defines family—whether by blood or by paw.



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Pamela Colen & **Bernie**

For Pamela Colen of McKinnies Realty, Bernie is more than a pet—he's a constant source of comfort, humor, and unwavering companionship. This four-year-old French Bulldog has a personality as expressive as his face, making every day a little brighter simply by being near.

Bernie came into Pamela's life during a particularly difficult time, shortly after she was diagnosed with stage-four cancer. From the very beginning, he seemed to understand exactly what she needed. French Bulldogs are known for their devotion, and Bernie embodies that trait fully, rarely leaving Pamela's side and always sensing when she's having a tough day.

His quirky habits are part of his charm. Bernie makes endlessly funny

facial expressions, zooms in circles, and leaps onto furniture with unexpected enthusiasm. Though playful, he's also deeply intuitive, responding to Pamela's emotions with quiet presence or extra cuddles.

Bernie shows love by staying close—curling up beside her, following her from room to room, and offering comfort without being asked. Their favorite activities include walking together, playing, and, most of all, cuddling.

Pamela says French Bulldogs are wonderfully needy, and Bernie is no exception. His devotion and emotional awareness have made him an irreplaceable companion—one who has provided strength, laughter, and love when it mattered most.



Steph Bush & **Benny**

Steph Bush of Meridian Title shares her life with Benny, a four-year-old Pom-ski whose presence brought renewed joy to her family after the loss of a beloved pet. From the moment Benny arrived, he filled their home with energy, affection, and a sense of healing.

Benny is unmistakably unique, sporting two different colored eyes that seem to reflect his lively personality. Though he sheds nonstop—365 days a year—Steph wouldn't have him any other way. As his favorite person, she receives the majority of his attention, loyalty, and snuggles.

Protective by nature, Benny shows love by staying close, cuddling often, and barking at other dogs to make sure his family is safe. He enjoys quieter moments too, especially sitting outside watching squirrels with intense focus.

One of Benny's most endearing relationships is with the family cat. The two are inseparable, proving that friendship can form in the most unexpected ways.

For Steph, Benny represents comfort and renewal—a joyful reminder that love finds its way back in when you need it most.



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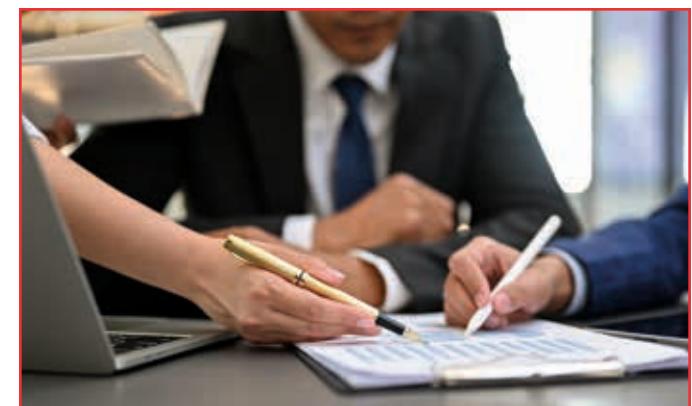
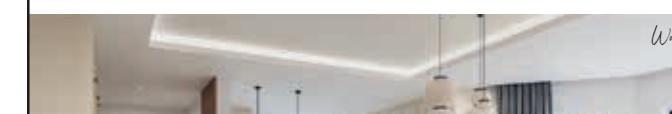


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Ann Dolgos & **Bode**

Ann Dolgos of Weichert Realtors, Jim Dunfee & Associates found her perfect companion in Bode, a six-year-old English Cream Golden Retriever with a heart as big as his paws. Rescued from difficult circumstances in Florida, Bode came with his name—and quickly made himself at home.

Bode is known for his gentle nature, especially with Ann's granddaughter, whom he patiently adores. Despite his impressive strength and size, he believes wholeheartedly that he is a lap dog. His mornings begin with snuggles, and his days are often spent underfoot, offering quiet companionship.

A devoted tennis ball enthusiast, Bode rarely goes anywhere without one—even sleeping with it close by. He's never met a stranger and frequently joins Ann at showings and events, where he happily greets everyone he meets.

Walks, car rides, and endless games of fetch are among his favorite activities. Always stylish, Bode is known for wearing a scarf, adding a touch of charm to his already lovable presence.

For Ann, Bode is more than a dog—he's a resilient soul whose kindness and loyalty reflect the power of second chances.



Valerie Lowell &

Dashell

Valerie Lowell of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Northern Indiana shares her days with Dashell, a nine-year-old Mini Dachshund whose energy and affection make him an indispensable companion.

Dashell's name comes from the poem The Dash, a reminder that it's the life lived between two dates that matters most. That philosophy fits him perfectly. Full of kisses, enthusiasm, and intuition, Dashell brings joy to every moment.

One of his signature habits begins at dinnertime—he races to hide his ball, later presenting it as a bargaining chip for attention. When it's time to rest, Dashell loves nothing more than being tucked under the covers, snuggled close.

Dashell shows love through gentle “boop” kisses on the nose and unwavering presence during hard days.

Valerie calls him her unlicensed assistant, faithfully accompanying her on walks and offering steady companionship.



If you play ball with Dashell, you'll quickly earn his loyalty. For Valerie, his affection, awareness, and constant love make every day brighter.



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Loretta Henry & **Saylor**

Loretta Henry of McKinnies Realty describes Saylor as a true teddy bear—a three-year-old Goldendoodle whose love helped heal her family during an incredibly difficult season.

Saylor entered their lives after the loss of two parents and while caring for another with advanced dementia. During that time, her presence brought comfort, stability, and emotional healing when it was needed most.

Named with a nautical theme in mind, Saylor has a naturally gentle demeanor and an incredible love for people. She

greets everyone by proudly carrying a toy, eager to share her joy. Easy to train and deeply affectionate, she adapts her love uniquely—cuddling with Loretta while roughhousing playfully with her husband.

Saylor enjoys walks, traveling, marina visits, boat days, and even playing in the snow. Wherever the family goes, she fits seamlessly into the experience.

For Loretta, Saylor isn't just a dog—she's a reminder of resilience, comfort, and the quiet strength that comes from unconditional love.



Alana Boothe & **Pippi**

Alana Boothe of Coldwell Banker Realty shares her heart and her home with Pippi, a four-year-old petite Bernedoodle whose snuggles have the power to erase even the toughest real estate days.

Named after Pippi Longstocking, Pippi's personality matches her playful name. With striking blue eyes and a joyful spirit, she has a knack for lifting moods instantly. One of her most adorable talents is playing "keepy-uppy" with balloons—batting them through the air with focused determination.

Pippi shows love through physical closeness, often pressing her forehead against Alana's or curling up beside her for long snuggle sessions. Fetch and balloon games are favorite pastimes, but being near her person is what matters most.

Pippi has even become a social media star, offering "Pippi's Home Selling Tips," a lighthearted series that clients adore. For Alana, Pippi is equal parts comfort, comic relief, and inspiration—proof that sometimes the best business partner has four paws.



Linda Demel & **Gunner**

Linda Demel of Inspired Homes shares her life with Gunner, a five-year-old Goldendoodle whose greatest talent is loving people—enthusiastically and without limits. Named after a character from Cheaper by the Dozen, Gunner's personality is just as big as his name suggests.

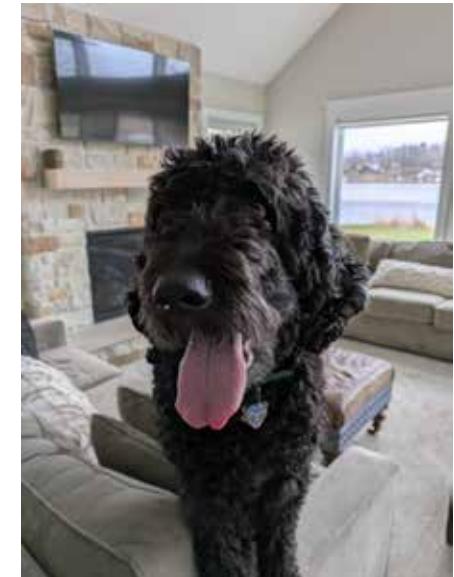
Gunner is social by nature and greets everyone—friends, strangers, and other pets alike—with equal excitement. His affection knows no boundaries, including personal space. At nearly 80 pounds, Gunner believes wholeheartedly that he is a lap dog and makes it his mission to prove it daily.

One of his favorite pastimes is boating, where he's happiest soaking in the sights

and sounds of the water. Ironically, while he loves boat rides, Gunner strongly dislikes car rides—a quirk that only adds to his charm.

Despite his size and strength, Gunner is gentle and sweet, though he occasionally forgets just how big he is. His enthusiastic greetings can sometimes knock people off balance, but his joyful spirit is always met with laughter.

Gunner shows love through constant closeness—leaning in, laying across laps, and staying near his family whenever possible. For Linda, Gunner is a reminder that love doesn't have to be subtle to be sincere. His presence fills every space with warmth, humor, and an undeniable sense of belonging.



Kelly Patterson & **Redington + Boone**

Kelly Patterson of Next Door Photos Michiana is the proud owner of two very special dogs—Redington, an eight-year-old Beagle, and Boone, an eight-week-old Vizsla puppy. Together, they create a dynamic blend of experience and youthful curiosity.

Redington's name comes from a fly-fishing brand, while Boone's reflects the Boone & Crockett Club, known for big-game conservation and scoring. Both names nod to Kelly's love of the outdoors, a passion these dogs happily share.

Redington has an extraordinary sense of smell and can even flip treats off his nose with impressive precision. Boone, still

discovering the world, follows his older companion with wide-eyed enthusiasm. Both dogs are incredibly gentle and loving with Kelly's children, making them perfect family companions.

Affectionate by nature, Redington and Boone greet their family eagerly at the door and insist on being close during downtime. Fetch is a favorite activity—whether on land or splashing through the lake.

Each night, both dogs climb into Kelly's son's bed, helping him fall asleep with their comforting presence. For Kelly, Redington and Boone are more than pets—they're steady, loving members of



the family who bring warmth, security, and endless joy.

Courtney Barber &

Rowan + Ryah

Courtney Barber of McKinnies Realty shares her life with two powerful yet affectionate Rottweilers—Rowan and Ryah. At four and two years old, and nearly 100 pounds each, these gentle giants are as loving as they are impressive.

Despite their size, Rowan and Ryah are devoted cuddle companions. Courtney says their favorite thing in the world is greeting her when she comes home, offering joyful enthusiasm, snuggles, and endless kisses.

Each dog has a personality all their own. Rowan loves to “sing,” filling the house with vocal performances, while Ryah has mastered shaking with both

paws for treats. Their quirks keep life entertaining and full of laughter.

Rowan and Ryah show their affection through closeness, often sticking near Courtney and soaking up attention. They love Jeep rides and exploring parks together, always eager for the next adventure.

Though strong and confident, they are also famously gentle—and occasionally clumsy. Rowan’s love of tight spaces once resulted in her getting stuck under the deck, a moment now fondly remembered.

For Courtney, Rowan and Ryah are proof that the biggest hearts often come in the biggest bodies.



Chelsea Revella &

Stella + Billy

Chelsea Revella of McKinnies Realty has two beloved companions—Stella, a nine-year-old Goldendoodle, and Billy, a three-year-old Sheepadoodle—each bringing something uniquely special into her life.

Stella is often described as “basically human.” Sweet, intuitive, and deeply connected to her people, she reacts to the world with empathy and discernment. Billy, on the other hand, brings high-energy joy and playful chaos—giving Chelsea the experience of being a “boy mom” despite having all daughters.

Stella is famously protective, barking at animals or suspicious characters on television, while Billy approaches life with curiosity and enthusiasm. Together, they balance each other perfectly.

Both dogs demand affection unapologetically, requesting pets, cuddles, and treats in abundance. One of their favorite adventures includes attending Detroit Lions games, where they surprisingly thrived in the busy city atmosphere.



For Chelsea, Stella and Billy are more than dogs—they’re family, comfort, laughter, and companionship all wrapped into two furry souls.



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Amy Mishler & **Franklin + Sebastian**

Amy Mishler of SUNRISE Realty believes that Franklin and Sebastian came into her life exactly when they were needed most. These rescue dogs—a Goldendoodle and a Yorkie Poo—helped bring healing not only to Amy but also to her granddaughter during a challenging family transition.

Named after Franklin the Turtle and Sebastian Bach, the dogs are playful, affectionate, and incredibly intuitive. They know several tricks, including speaking, rolling over, and twirling, but their true gift lies in emotional support.

Franklin and Sebastian provided comfort, consistency, and peace, helping Amy's granddaughter feel safe and loved. They quickly became trusted companions during moments that required extra care and stability.

Their favorite activities include long walks, car rides, and spending quiet time together. Through their gentle presence, they helped rescue a young heart—and in doing so, became cherished members of the family.



Ryan Johnson & **Luna Bella**

Ryan Johnson of JC Environmental, Inc. shares life with Luna Bella, a ten-month-old Weimaraner whose presence is as striking as her silver-gray coat. Named “Beautiful Moon,” Luna lives up to her name with intelligence, athleticism, and a big personality.

Luna is sassy, opinionated, and deeply loyal. Her habits include stealing socks, opening doors, locking people in rooms, and completing puzzle toys in under two minutes. She's also incredibly fast, recording a mile time of 7:54—an impressive feat.

Luna greets Ryan with helicopter-tail enthusiasm, full-body wiggles,

and playful “woo-woo” conversations. She loves fetch, running, dog park adventures, and serving as Ryan's co-pilot during mold inspections.

For Ryan, Luna Bella is energy, loyalty, and heart wrapped into one remarkable dog—always leading him exactly where she wants him to go.



Jeff Norment & **Sully**

Jeff Norment of Berkshire Hathaway describes Sully as a big baby trapped in the body of a very pretty dog. A three-year-old mix of Chocolate Lab and Golden Retriever, Sully combines good looks with a goofy personality that keeps life entertaining.

At first glance, Sully may seem like a fierce protector—he aggressively barks at visitors—but that act fades quickly into affectionate nuzzles and demands for attention. Once he decides you're safe, he's all in, curling up beside you like an oversized lap dog who somehow forgets his own size.

Sully has a flair for the dramatic. His belly-rub routine includes a partial roll before fully committing, ensuring maximum comfort and admiration. When left alone, he channels his energy into shredding cardboard, proudly leaving behind his handiwork like a personal art installation.

He shows love by staying close—leaning into legs, nudging for affection, and quietly settling next to Jeff whenever possible. Car rides and games of fetch are favorites, though returning the ball remains optional in Sully's rulebook.



For Jeff, Sully is equal parts entertainment and companionship—a loyal, affectionate presence who brings laughter, warmth, and just a bit of chaos into everyday life.

Trish Stopczynski & **Crue**

Trish Stopczynski of Innovative Spaces and Innovative Concrete Coatings shares her home with Crue, a nearly seven-year-old Mini Goldendoodle affectionately known as Cruebacca. Fluffy, calm, and deeply loyal, Crue has an old-soul personality that makes him a natural companion.

Crue's habits are both amusing and endearing. He hoards toys, plays ice-cube soccer across the kitchen floor, and participates in dramatic treat rituals that require full attention. Each morning begins with loud, exaggerated stretches, setting the tone for the day.

His expressions are remarkably human, often communicating exactly how he feels without a sound. Crue shows love through constant snuggles, kisses, and

an unwavering need to be close to his people.

Neighborhood walks, family time, and playful chasing sessions top his list of favorite activities. When new toys arrive, Crue celebrates by rolling on them enthusiastically.

For Trish and her family, Crue is comfort, consistency, and joy wrapped in fur—an irreplaceable presence whose loyalty never wavers.



Bruce McCourt &

Finnigan

Bruce McCourt of McCourt & Associates, Ameriprise Financial Services, shares his life with Finnigan, a six-year-old Mini Goldendoodle whose cheerful spirit brightens every room.

Named with Irish pride and a nod to Notre Dame, Finnigan is loyal, playful, and endlessly upbeat. He's rarely seen without his favorite blue spiky ball, which he carries everywhere as if it were an extension of himself.

Finnigan is wonderfully self-entertaining but equally devoted to his people. He follows family members

throughout the house and offers comfort during tutoring sessions with students, instinctively sensing when calm support is needed.

Walks and cross-country skiing are favorite activities, showcasing Finnigan's enthusiasm for movement and togetherness. At home, he sleeps perched on the back of the couch like a cat, always watching over his surroundings.

For Bruce, Finnigan is a constant source of happiness—steady, affectionate, and always ready to share joy.



Susan Ullery & Princess Charlotte of Augusta ("Charlie")

Susan Ullery of RE/MAX 100 shares her heart with Princess Charlotte of Augusta—better known as Charlie—a nearly three-year-old Cavipoo with a regal name and a playful soul.

Charlie loves to cuddle above all else. Whether at home or on the road, she insists on being close, offering warmth and companionship. Named after royalty, Charlie's personality demanded elegance—but Queen Camilla simply didn't fit.

Charlie has a mischievous streak. She hides tiny balls deep inside shoes, then cries until someone rescues them, turning everyday moments into charming adventures. Her coon-dog-style howl often surprises those who expect a dainty bark.

Traveling and playing ball are favorite pastimes, and wherever Susan goes, Charlie is happy to follow. Sweet, funny, and endlessly affectionate, Charlie brings constant joy into Susan's life.



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Darla Brock & **Abby**

Darla Brock of SUNRISE Realty describes Abby as a true companion in every sense of the word. A ten-year-old Cocker Spaniel, Abby thrives on togetherness and is happiest when she's by Darla's side.

Abby believes every visitor arrives bearing treats and never misses the opportunity to greet them with hopeful anticipation. Her gentle nature and loving presence make her universally adored.

Boat rides are Abby's favorite activity. Though she's a lake dog who loves sunbathing, swimming is optional—relaxing in the warmth suits her just fine.

Abby shows love through loyalty, staying close and offering steady companionship wherever Darla goes. For Darla, Abby is more than a pet—she's a constant, comforting presence who makes every day better simply by being there.



Karen Klima & **Luna**

Karen Klima of Aardvark Home Inspectors shares her office—and her heart—with Luna, a two-year-old French Bulldog whose sweet disposition has earned her the title of office favorite.

Luna's name, jokingly short for "Looney Tune," fits her playful charm perfectly. She's often found walking confidently across desks, supervising the workday with curiosity and calm.

Luna has a soothing presence, offering comfort through affection. She shows

love by pawing at people to be lifted onto laps or desks, ensuring she's always part of the action.

Cuddling and pup-cup runs to Scooter's Coffee are favorite activities, and Luna takes her role seriously. Though forgiving in nature, she's known to hold grudges if left behind during vacations.

For Karen, Luna is a reminder that joy can be found in the simplest moments—especially when shared with a loyal, four-legged companion.





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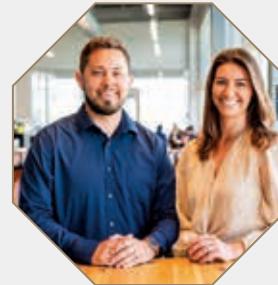
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Evona Niewiadomska &

Dasher

Evona Niewiadomska, Marketing and Content Coordinator for *Michiana Real Producers*, will be the first to tell you that while Dasher may be four years old, he will forever be her puppy.

Evona welcomed Dasher into her life the week of Christmas four years ago—a fitting arrival for a dog whose rescue name was already Dasher. Keeping the name felt like destiny, and he quickly earned the affectionate nickname “my little reindeer puppy.” With perfect timing and a bit of imagination, Dasher just wrapped up his *biggest season* yet flying around the world with Santa...wink wink.

Much like his mom, Dasher is smart, spirited, and confidently selective about when he chooses to listen. He's independent, curious, and full of personality—always doing things his way, especially if he's decided he's not

in the mood. That charm is part of what makes him unmistakably Dasher.

When he's not overseeing important holiday logistics, Dasher loves nothing more than running full speed and swimming at Ocean Beach Dog Beach in San Diego or making the rounds at the dog park. Water, wide-open space, and freedom to roam are his version of paradise.

His favorite word is “cookie,” a fact he proves daily by snapping to attention the moment it's spoken. He also has a serious soft spot for meat kebabs, which may or may not have elevated him to expert-level treat detection.

For Evona, Dasher is more than just her constant sidekick—he's a reminder to embrace joy, stay curious, and keep a little playfulness in everything you do. Puppy or not, Dasher's loyalty, humor,





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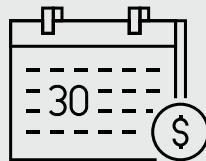
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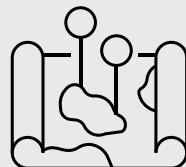
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