

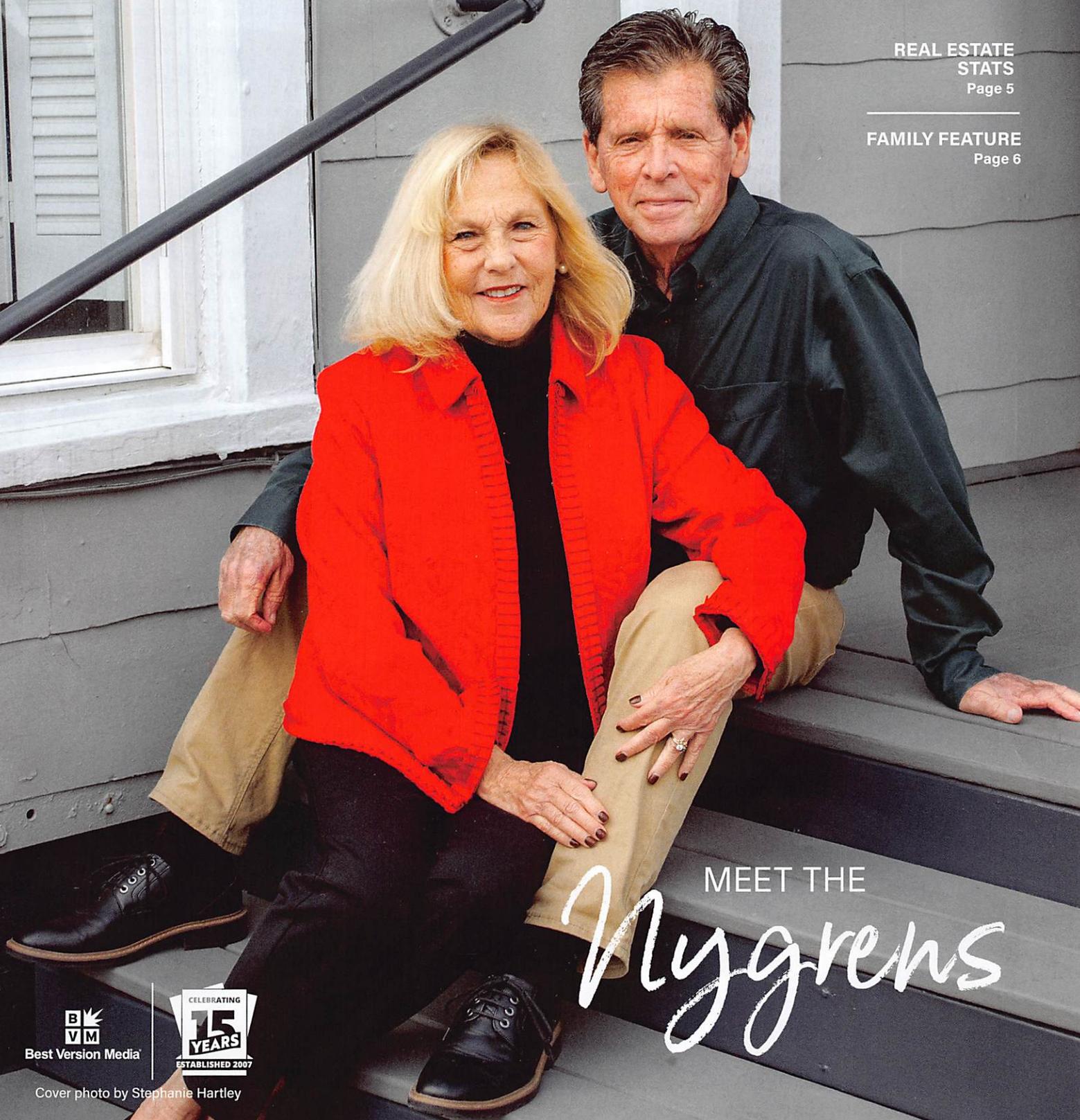
Tipp City

NEIGHBORS

JANUARY 2022

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MEET THE

Nyggrens



Cover photo by Stephanie Hartley



RESIDENT FEATURE

MEET THE

Nygréns

BY HEIDI SCRIBNER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANIE HARTLEY





“Go where there is no path and make one.”

- Mike Nygren

Some people TALK about wanting to make an impact. Other people actually make one. And then there are the Nygrens.

All over Tipp City, Mike and Sherri Nygren’s mark can be seen. Residents for over fifty years, and married for fifty-two, the couple has raised a family, several clubs and organizations, a therapy dog, and much more in this special town. “Tipp City has been an amazing place to live for fifty years,” Mike says. “It has maintained a ‘small town atmosphere’ in the midst of growth and change. The businesses, city government, schools, churches and non-profits continually work together to get stuff done.”

And many of these have been personally touched by the Nygrens. Mike currently works as a motivational speaker and leadership coach. Both have previously taught; Sherri as a kindergarten teacher in Huber Heights, and Mike as an Industrial Arts teacher for Milton Union, where he also coached track. Mike has been a youth pastor for Ginghamburg Methodist Church, ministering to over 500 teens in a twenty year period. Sherri fosters therapy dogs, with their current dog, Scout, in training.

Tipp City Run for the Mums, the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, the Tipp Children’s Theater, the Clubhouse, the Tipp Roller Mill paint project,



Troy’s Idea Factory, Reading Buddies, Mathletes and Dreamers Gymnastics. You guessed it. All are the work of the Nygrens.

How did a couple who is this successful and involved begin? After growing up in Brooklyn and graduating from Parsippany HS, New Jersey, Mike enrolled at Eastern Kentucky University. Sherri grew up and graduated in

Centerville, and also found herself at Eastern Kentucky University. “I was a junior (1967) at ECU when Sherri arrived,” Mike recalls. “My fraternity was helping move students in. We met on her first day and married in 1969.” After two years of teaching in Chestertown, Maryland, the couple moved to Tipp City to raise a family, and has been here ever since.

“Tipp was a great place to raise our children,” Sherri adds. “We lived in town so they could walk to school. Youth sports were a big part of their life. Adam played football and wrestled, while Andrea was a cheerleader.”

Andrea now lives in Powell, Ohio and Adam lives in Van Wert. Their three grandchildren are off to college; Tyler at Life College, Hayden at The Ohio



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State University, and Savannah at Bowling Green State University. This means the couple may not be frequenting high school sports events as much as they have in the past, but that doesn't mean they are doing any less.

"My number one focus is raising Scout the 'therapy dog' and visiting schools, events and wherever a dog might be needed," Sherri says. "I also enjoy Mah-Jong, Bunco, going to the YMCA, and taking tap dance lessons."

"I enjoy teaching/consulting, 100-mile bike rides, swimming, going to the YMCA, and painting and wood carving," Mike adds. "And together we are renovating our 'County Victorian' home, which was built in 1860 by a Civil War soldier who returned home and started Spring Hill Nurseries. We have restored fourteen rooms so far. Someday we will be finished!"



Together, the couple travels, having been to thirty countries and forty states, goes to Ohio State Buckeyes football games,

and takes family destination vacations. And, of course, takes advantage of all their beautiful hometown has to offer. "Our favorite places are Sam and Ethel's, Harrisons, Charleston Falls and our secluded backyard in downtown Tipp," Mike mentions. "We also like school plays, and community festivals."

When asked about their final thoughts, the couple smiles. Mike says, "This is our 50th anniversary of living in Tipp. One of the advantages of being old and living in the same community is that you get to see former students grow to be teachers and coaches

and business owners in the community. We get to see Heather Salazar and her leadership with Pink Ribbon Girls, Ali Arbogast Martin, creating Reading For Change in Troy, which is similar to what she did in high school, and Keith Long, a member of our youth group in the 1970s, is now the owner of Sam and Ethel's. And I can't count the years, but when we order from Hong Kong Kitchen, the only words we have ever heard for decades are '10 minutes please.' You gotta love Tipp City!"

It is pretty clear the feeling is mutual. ■

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