

September 2011

Schoolhouse

*An Exclusive Magazine for the Residents of Blackthorne Ridge,
Boulder Ridge, Chartwell Downs, Foxborough Estates, Hunter Trail,
Rivendell Estates, Sarkis Estates, and The Oaks*

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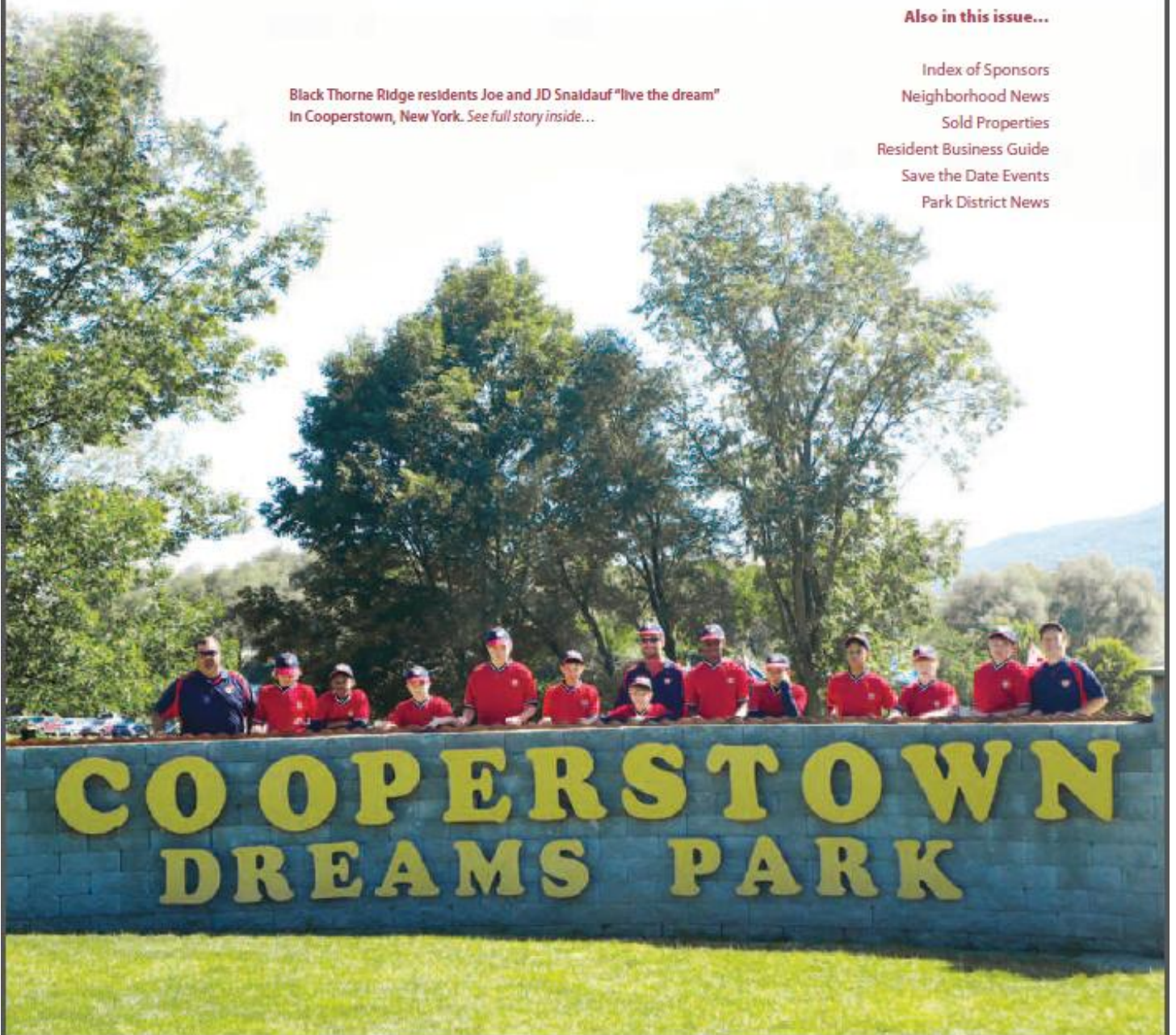
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BUSINESS beat

The Sargent Consulting Group, LLC

The Sargent Consulting Group, LLC

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Where did you grow up? How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

Brad grew up in the north suburbs, but moved quite a bit as a youth, living on the East Coast (in Connecticut) as well as Lake Forest, IL. Michelle grew up in the south suburb of Lemont. We met at Michelle's parents' restaurant in Lemont and lived in Lemont for a few years before moving to Plainfield in 1993. In 2001 we moved to New Lenox in the house we are in now.

Tell us about your family...

We have two adult daughters, Ashleigh, 26, and Jennifer, 27, and three younger children Jamie (11), RP (8) and Meredith (5). The three younger children are extremely active in sports and our church, The United Methodist Church of New Lenox. This year the littlest will begin kindergarten. All three attend school at the Spencer School campus.

Ashleigh, an Ohio State University graduate, has been quite the traveler in recent past; she lived in Paris three years ago to teach English, then South Korea two years ago and now is in Indianapolis teaching math. In January of 2011, Jennifer (our University of Illinois at Chicago graduate) moved to Seattle to manage sales at a mall there. We have a dog, a border collie named Scampers, who will be 18 this October.

What are your hobbies/interests? Volunteer work?

Our younger children are into almost every sport possible: Soccer, tackle football or cheer, wrestling, swimming, basketball, ballet, karate. Brad and Michelle are certified scuba divers (though we haven't gone in a while) and love to travel. As a family, we've been to Paris and Ireland, as well as many of the United States. Michelle traveled quite a bit to Europe and Brad and Michelle have also been to Tahiti on our honeymoon and to Belize with Jennifer and Ashleigh. Last summer, the family loaded up an RV and drove to



Yellowstone Park. We hope to see the Grand Canyon next summer. Brad, Michelle, Jennifer and Ashleigh (and her boyfriend) went sky-diving May 3.

We are active in our church (The United Methodist Church of New Lenox) and sit on various committees there. Both Brad and Michelle are active members of the men's and women's circles and volunteer time to participate in Vacation Bible School or host small groups as we are able.

Brad is involved in a number of professional accounting organizations and sits on the board of the Illinois CPA Society. We will close our offices later in the year for all our staff to participate as volunteers on the Illinois CPA Society's One Day of Giving. Our company sponsors the Lincolnway Wrestling Club and The New Lenox Youth Football Association.

Tell us about the events that led up to where you are now.

Brad graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in Accounting. Michelle graduated from Northwestern



SCG does not have multiple layers of staff that include staff, senior staff, manager, senior manager, director, senior director, etc. We have three layers of employees: management, senior consultants and consultants and all staff, including management work on cases. We have full benefits including medical, dental, life, STD, LTD and life insurance for our employees.

University and obtained an MBA from The University of Chicago – Booth Graduate School of Business.

Prior to starting The Sargent Consulting Group, LLC (“SCG”), Brad served as the national practice leader of Forensic Services at a boutique consulting firm with offices in Chicago, New York, Washington DC, Cleveland and Detroit. Realizing that he was traveling (or working at the office) an excessive amount of time and missing his family and too many once-in-a-lifetime children’s events, he vowed to make a change to find more balance and personal reward in his life and decided to work for himself. In February of 2009 he formed SCG, converting the basement bedroom into an office. After 21 years in financial services (16 years at CME Group and six at an international broker dealer/FCM in Chicago), Michelle joined him in December of that year.

What is your business, and why did you start your business? What is unique about your business?

SCG is an independent firm providing management advisory and litigation consulting services to attorneys, creditors, individuals, government agencies, management and turnaround advisors. We are forensic accountants who conduct financial investigations using a unique combination of accounting, investigative, operational and technical skills to deliver solutions to complicated financial problems. We do not claim to be more than we are and we do not work in all areas of accounting, like valuation or tax, and we do not have a team of 100 that can be deployed overseas the next day to work on a case. However, we work domestically and internationally to do what we do best with our talented staff. We are forensic accountants and we find fraud.

We have extensive experience in multiple sectors: automotive, family law (including divorces, trusts and estates, etc.), health care, securities, internal investigations, bankruptcy, creditor/lender relationships, education, real estate and construction as well as in labor and employment relationships, to name a few. We appeal to the middle tier market (i.e. Fortune 500), but we also work with individuals, small business owners and Fortune 100 companies.

Given your business expertise and the nature of what you do, what advice can you offer to the residents of your neighborhood?

When investing funds or interacting with someone financially, conduct due diligence. The old adage, “If it seems too good to be true, it is” may be old, but it is still true as well. When dealing with vendors, investment advisors or home contractors, use common sense: conduct independent research, utilize professional resources, industry records, private investigators, etc and don’t discount “your gut.”

continued...

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But, if you are the victim of a financial fraudster, there is hope. Regardless of how hard and well a fraudster thinks they are covering their tracks, forensic accountants can find the truth through investigation of financial records, email review, tax returns, bank records, asset tracing, interviews and thorough research.

What else we should know about you, your family, or your business?

We are a family-run business with two generations currently working at SCG and we always recognize that family comes first. Brad and Michelle firmly believe that everyone who works at SCG is essential in growing the company and treat each person equally, like family. SCG does not have designs to be 200 strong with multiple domestic and/or international offices. SCG's current goal is to grow to 10 people by the end of 2012 and limit growth to 20 or 25 people within five years. SCG was formed as a single-member firm and most likely will stay that way. This is not to say that staff cannot ascend into senior

management positions with increasing roles of authority. Brad and Michelle would love that to happen within the next year or two. But, they also want The Sargent Consulting Group to stay family-owned and operated with the belief that though someone does not have the "Sargent" surname, if someone works at SCG, they are part of the family.

Our 11-year-old son last year wrote for a fifth-grade project: "When I am eighteen, I will become the boss of my dad's company. When I join, my dad said he would show me how to run it. It will be a hard job, but I can do it. I am going to be the boss of many people! Me and my brother will both run it. His main office is in our basement. I will be excited, but I have to be serious. I will be a great boss! That is what I will do when I am eighteen."

We have a few years left, but we believe that when Jamie turns 18, he will run SCG. Richard, our 8-year-old, intends to run a division of SCG, called "Bat Finders" and though he is not certain what "Bat Finders" will do, he says it will be successful. Michelle and Brad think so, too.

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