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By Michael Pruitt

THE VILLAGE COMPANY, CHS

A New Business with Familiar Faces

“Living the dream! I get to hang out with my best friend & build amazing things!” If you’ve had the pleasure of meeting Pat Lisi or McGee Stein, this statement is one of the most common proclamations you’ll hear them say from day-to-day. These guys have been building houses, living their best lives, & fulfilling the dreams of Old Village homeowners for over 20 years. But, prior to launching their own company in 2021 **THE VILLAGE COMPANY, CHS**, this duo made it their business to build unparalleled trust while establishing themselves as top notch builders.... we need to take a minute to rewind & reflect on their humble (sometimes prideful!) beginnings.

McGee started out his career by framing houses out on Kiawah in the late 1990’s & early 2000’s. In 2003 McGee started restoring houses downtown in the South of Broad area, focusing primarily on high-end historic homes. Historic homes are typically more complex (think of peeling back layers of an onion), requiring more experience, & usually take more patience to get the job done correctly. McGee was recognized as being a high performer, skilled craftsman, & had a hard work ethic which helped in building a solid local reputation.

Pat’s career advanced at an extremely high pace for a young man as well. Pat exclaimed, “I was getting recognized as a young guy in the industry operating at a high level, primarily because I was working under the guidance of my father, Sam Lisi, who owns / operates Village Restoration & Custom Homes.” In other words, Pat was sponging up invaluable knowledge, tricks of the trade, & tribal wisdom about the build process that may take other builders years-&-years to attain. As Pat puts it, “I was operating at a high level but with a lot of guidance,” as he & his father would work & spend countless hours together from week-to-week. In discussing this dynamic with Pat, the respect & admiration he has for his father (& mother, Judy) permeate through his voice & emotions. Pat is the 4th generation to build homes in his family, so the sense of legacy & respect he has for his family are awe-inspiring.

As young men who were having wild success & building great reputations around town, Pat & McGee caught wind of one another through mutual folks in the industry. McGee heard about this



“up-&-coming” guy named Patrick, & vice versa, Pat was hearing about this guy named McGee who was crushing it in the historic district downtown as a young gunslinger (Craftsman). If you’ve ever met a young man in his 20’s who feels on top of the world while crushing life, well... we tend to have this little trait that inescapably pronounces its glory for all to hear, called EGO (or pride)! You’ve seen it all before, who is better... Michael Jordan or LeBron James; Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo; Rafael Nadal or Roger Federer; **Patrick Lisi or McGee Stein???**

So, these guys JUST had to meet each other. They chatted on the phone & decided to have a post work week “meet-&-greet” at a local restaurant. That initial introduction led to a continued two-years’ worth of weekly Friday “happy hours” at the same restaurant where Pat & McGee would share work experiences, personal stories, tips & pointers, & began to develop what would become a lifelong friendship. Once they realized they didn’t need to compete for “top hot-shot builder,” they decided it would be more advantageous to work together & make some extra money on the side. On Friday’s after work they would hop in a truck, drive to Sullivan’s Island, Edisto or Kiawah for the weekend, bring sleeping bags, pack a cooler for meals, work through the night & knock out small



projects in under 36 - 48 hours. Then on Monday morning, they would part ways & return back to their respective day-jobs.

“Our beginning was just really cool, we were in the same place at the same time, with the same attitude. Our hobbies were like... ‘hey man I lined up a deck for \$6,000 this weekend, you want in’?!” So, these guys would work their tails off & have fun while doing it. One guy would get tired & take a power nap on the job, only to be woken up by the air compressor shooting nails off by the other guy a few minutes later.

Of course, it’s not all sunshine & butterflies with each job. McGee shared stories about working through the recession together side by side literally banging every nail. Spending that time doing every menial task on the project just to keep the business alive and pay the bills was humbling and a teaching moment. “It stopped being a job and a hobby and became a way of life.” Surviving this time together solidified their bond and put them on track to begin the next chapter in life. That bond based on loyalty, service, and commitment with some good times mixed in is excitingly unique.

Their lives have simply been on pace, step-for-step, ever since. I guess you could say they’re fans of N’SYNC. They both got married, had children, & got their builders licenses in 2007. Pat & McGee began building more complex projects involving kitchens, baths, add-on rooms, whole homes, & historic renovations throughout the next several years. In 2010, McGee & Pat both officially came into the ‘family business’ under Sam Lisi. Their team built & completed projects in over 100 homes in the Old Village over the next 12 years. Having Pat & McGee as part of the family business at this point, allowed Sam Lisi to focus on scaling up the business to reach more clients, without jeopardizing craftsmanship. The family business provided mentorship (Pat’s father) to the two young men, opportunities to hone their talents, & educated them further in becoming master builders.



As in the Olympics, there is honor in the tradition of passing the torch... Every 4 years, a new generation (or seasoned veterans) rise to the occasion to set out to be the best they can be. As of February 2021, Patrick Lisi & McGee Stein have done just that, in creating their new home and renovation business, **THE VILLAGE COMPANY, CHS**. They have mastered their craft under the wisdom & guidance of Sam Lisi, for years & years, but are now forging their own path forward in a partnership & friendship found once in a lifetime.

Maybe you’re still wondering who is the best... Michael Jordan or LeBron James; Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo; Rafael Nadal or Roger Federer; **Patrick Lisi or McGee Stein?** (They won’t say). Well, the truth is... who cares?! It really doesn’t matter if they’re on the same team!



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