

sponsor of the month

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

