



TELLICO VILLAGE

pulse.

Magazine

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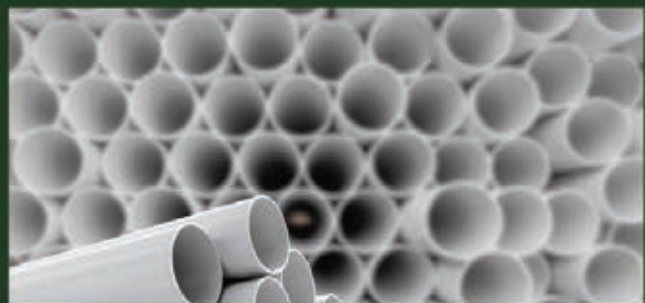
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TELLICO VILLAGE pulse. MAGAZINE

JULY 2025 ISSUE

When we launched Tellico Pulse, people naturally asked, “Why dedicate an entire magazine to Tellico Village?” With so many vibrant areas in East Tennessee, what makes this particular community so special?

Our answer is simple: Tellico Village isn’t just where people live—it’s where they thrive.

Nestled on the shores of Tellico Lake and surrounded by the natural beauty of East Tennessee, Tellico Village offers more than breathtaking views. It’s a place built around connection—where neighbors become friends, passions turn into clubs, and every day brings new opportunities to live life fully.

From championship golf and lakeside living to an unmatched spirit of volunteerism and hundreds of social groups, Tellico Village has cultivated something rare: a true sense of community. Residents come from all over the country with diverse experiences, yet share one common thread—the desire to be part of something meaningful.

Tellico Pulse was created to capture that spirit. To spotlight the people, events, and stories that make this place unique. Whether you’re new to the Village or have called it home for years, we hope this magazine helps you feel more connected, informed, and inspired.

Because Tellico Village isn’t just special—it’s extraordinary.

And it deserves to be celebrated.

Kathy Hartman
Kathy Hartman, General Manager

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Top: Classy Caterer owner Trisha Kelly, center, is pictured alongside two of her team members, Miriam Kloster, left, and Donna Sneed, who help service events throughout East Tennessee on a weekly basis.

Women *In* Business profile **CLASSY CATERER**

After spending 32 years in the executive world of financial services, Trisha Kelly could be living the quiet life of retirement right now.

Instead, the Farragut resident followed her “love for entertaining” into a second act career as owner of Classy Caterer.

“It really happened accidentally,” Kelly recalled. “In 2018, I was down to working part time, when a friend of mine who had a big party planned had her original caterer cancel.”

After sharing her plight, Kelly, who had hosted similar events of her own in the past, stepped in to help, and in doing so, began to consider a new career entirely.

“I didn’t want to retire, and just come home and sit down,” she said. “But, I didn’t know at the time that this would be God’s plan.”

“I began researching, and noticed what I could do from home was much better than what was currently being offered.”

After spending three months deep-diving into business models and pricing considerations, Kelly was ready to officially move forward.

“First, I joined the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce, then I found a local kitchen that was willing to share its space with me,” Kelly said.

From that starting point, she has overseen Classy Caterer’s

growth over the last seven years into a “mega” business serving 15 to 20 local and regional events weekly.

“Classy Caterer has been a wonderful member of the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce since 2020 ... and has been an energetic partner from the start,” said LCCC President Rodney Grugin.

“Trisha served as an ambassador for us and that contributed to the growth of her business and to the Chamber’s. We appreciate everything she has helped us with and everything that she has given back to the community.

“Trisha is a jewel.”

Currently, Kelly is a member of six Chambers of Commerce. She and her team — consisting of 15 staffers who work as needed — work throughout Knox, Loudon, Roane, Anderson and Blount counties on a regular basis, primarily with corporate clients.

“Trisha and Classy Caterer have done events ranging from 12 people to over 500 for us, from our Board of Directors annual meeting to the multi-chamber networking that has become an annual event since its launch in 2021,” said Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Julie Blaylock. “Classy Caterer has become a favorite among our business members because they can provide delicious hors d’oeuvres, fresh lunches or full dinners complete with carving stations and their now signature Mash-tini and Mac-tini bars.

“Her staff are professionals who serve with a smile and Trisha sets the hospitable tone.”

“Our company has grown exponentially, and I give God the

See CLASSY on Page 14

While an Alzheimer's or dementia diagnosis can be devastating, a unique non-profit, located in Tellico Village, is helping participants and their caregivers better navigate and even embrace the challenges.

Our PLACE Adult Day Center, which opened in March 2022 at 103 Cheeyo Way, in front of Food Lion, is a therapeutic adult day center program for individuals diagnosed with dementia-related diseases.

Every day, participants are treated to specialized and specifically tailored activities, including arts and crafts, pet therapy, exercise, passive and interactive music programs, remembrance therapies, gardening, and games, among others.

It is all designed to help keep participants as active and engaged as possible.

"It is so important that the last years be counted among the best years," said Our PLACE Executive Director Sarah Martin. "There is still so much value in who they are, and what they do, and I love that we can help give them a sense of purpose."

She said the arts and crafts program alone has created pieces "that families really love and vie for, because they are of such high quality. And our participants are just as excited to be making such sought-after mementos."

Our PLACE offers a two-pronged approach to caring for individuals with dementia.

"The work that we do here is not just to support the individual, but also to support the caregivers and families," noted Our PLACE Board chair Rob McCoy.

"Caregivers know when they drop off their loved ones, not only are they in a safe and nurturing environment, but also, our program is designed to provide much-needed respite for them, too," said Martin.

Additionally, Our PLACE runs four caregiver support groups that meet monthly in Loudon and Monroe counties.

Seeing a real need for the program spurred organizers to begin raising money in 2019. Land was donated by the ETSF and Tellico Community Foundation to build Our PLACE, which opened in 2022.

"We just celebrated our third anniversary, and although our financials remain tight, we are excited about the future," said McCoy, who notes two annual fund-raisers help provide much needed operating dollars: its Gala, held in May, and its Walk to Remember and Car Show, planned this year for Oct. 4 in Lenoir City Park.

"They have both become very well-attended and successful events for us," said McCoy, who retired from international business before moving to Tellico Village with his wife eight years ago.

"I have done some big things in my career, but I feel this is the most important work I've ever done," he said of the impact of Our PLACE. "It has been really rewarding."

He said the program itself "is remarkable," further noting "the generosity of the people in Tellico Village. Their volunteerism, sharing of talents, and ongoing financial support have been crucial for Our PLACE and the success we've had."

"With their continued support, we will be able to assist even more Villagers and residents in Loudon and Monroe counties who have a diagnosis of memory loss."

Our PLACE has also gathered the attention of the community, in that it was selected as "Non-Profit of the Year" for 2024 by the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce.

OUR PLACE

Helping participants, their caregivers better navigate the challenges



Jim B. and Jim E. enjoy working in the garden area of Our PLACE.

"I could not be prouder," said McCoy. "Our program is very well run, and I am confident we have the right people doing the right things here, every single day."

Our PLACE has three full-time and four part-time employees, a governing board, and a devoted cadre of volunteers who help out daily.

"We could not run Our PLACE without our volunteers," said McCoy. "We have at least forty who work with us on a weekly basis."

"They really have a heart for this," he added.

Martin, who has worked with seniors for more than a dozen years and has been part of Our PLACE since its beginning, echoes that sentiment.

"I really have a heart for this work," she said. "Although at times it can be emotional, it is very rewarding work. It is very easy to love the people who attend our program."

Our PLACE is open Monday through Friday, and has space for 20 individuals at a cost of \$80 per day.

Many options exist to help defray the expense, including scholarships, possible coverage through TennCare Choices, Long-term Insurance, and VA benefits.

"We don't want finances to be a barrier to anyone asking for care," said Martin.

Limited transportation services, provided by STAYinTV, offers additional assistance to families and participants at a nominal cost.

Kathryn, left, and Kathy W. enjoy Our PLACE pet therapy

Space is currently available for participants, who must be somewhat ambulatory, have managed incontinence and have the ability for basic self care, Martin said, noting “we are one of the best kept secrets” in the area.

Families have been profoundly blessed by Our PLACE, which is the only independent non-profit Adult Day Center in East Tennessee.

Karen Johnson described Our PLACE as “a Godsend to me and my family. My mom has been attending since Spring 2023. I am a family caregiver to my mother, my husband, and support to my sister-in-law.

“My brother was dying from pancreatic cancer in 2023, my sister-in-law was struggling with this new reality, and my husband was having medical complications related to his PTSD,” she recalls. “I was in over my head with no help. Then I was told about Our PLACE Adult Day Center for help with my Mom who suffers from dementia with no short term memory.

“These wonderful ladies who work there, and the amazing volunteers who care for my mother like she was their own mother, have made our lives so much better.

“Mom loves attending. She started out with just two days a week the first year. Now she attends three to four days a week. She is so much better on days that she attend both physically and mentally.

“She likes the socializing and the variety of activities that she gets to participate in. She tells me every day how even the men that attend seem to enjoy being there too.

“It has been invaluable to me to be able to leave her there knowing that she is well cared for while I am free to attend doctors appointments for myself or with my husband.

“I finally breathe easier and have a few hours of time to relax.”

Brenda Riordan shared her own experiences since enrolling her mother, whom the family calls “Gigi,” in July 2023.

“We were initially concerned about how she would feel about going to ‘Day Care,’ so we told her that her doctor recommended she go to ‘School’ to help with her cognitive decline,” said Riordan. “Since starting ‘school,’ Gigi has shown remarkable improvement in her quality of life.

“We were worried she wouldn’t be interested because she might see it as an activity for ‘old people.’ To our surprise, she actually enjoys it and has fun.”

The experience has impacted “Gigi’s” home life too.

“On ‘school days,’ she even makes her bed!” Exclaimed Riordan. “She now wears perfume and jewelry and picks out clothes she hadn’t cared about for years.

“[She] attends ‘school’ two days a week and comes home with crafts she proudly made, which we display on our walls. She loves sharing stories about trivia questions she answered, songs she sang, and movies she watched. She believes the chair exercises are making her stronger.”

Additionally, “the staff makes her feel like she’s the teacher’s pet!

“Our PLACE Adult Day Care has made a positive difference in Gigi’s life, and we are incredibly grateful for their care and support.”

For more information about Our PLACE, please visit www.our-placetn.org.



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CHEROKEE

Outdoor Resort

Cherokee Outdoor Resort provides everything needed to take full advantage of all Tellico Lake has to offer. From waterfront dining and live music to boat and private cabin rentals, the family-friendly resort aims to ensure an immersive and relaxed experience on the picturesque East Tennessee lake.

Located at 110 Sequoyah Resort Drive in Vonore, the lakeside destination serves as “the gateway” to Cherokee National Forest. Stormie Prior, marina and lodging manager, said this proximity to Great Smoky Mountain National Park brings visitors from across the country, including boaters cruising The Great Loop.

“We get boaters from all over,” she said, noting that the resort offers about 200 slips as well as boat rentals at its marina. “We really enjoy getting to know them, hearing their stories and establishing relationships.”

Many locals also frequent the resort’s onsite restaurant, The Mudpuppy. The seasonal restaurant, open from April to Halloween, specializes in “lake life, tasty bites and legendary nights” with an impressive array of menu items and regularly held live music events.

“We typically have live music every Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoon,” said Prior. “We also have a DJ on Thursdays or sometimes even Singo (music bingo).”

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MARINAS & DINING

One of the cleanest lakes in East Tennessee, Tellico Lake’s tranquil waters and scenic mountain views make it a popular destination for boaters across the area. And, with more than 4,500 acres of shore along Tellico Lake, Tellico Village is the perfect location to relish in the lake’s natural beauty with an abundance of water activities and outdoor entertainment for residents to enjoy.

Marinas

Tellico Village’s three marinas, located at the Yacht Club, Tanasi Basin and the Kahite neighborhood, provide residents with seamless access to Tellico Lake. These marinas offer residents a combined total of 630 boat slips to lease, along with more than 30 jet ski docking spaces. The Yacht Club Basin Marina also has four launch platforms for kayaks.

Additional marina options are available for those looking to venture out into the greater community, as well. Many of these offer pontoon and kayak rentals, fuel docks, snap shops and other boating essentials.

Cherokee Outdoor Resort and Marina

801 U.S. Highway 411, Vonore • 423-884-2270

Fort Loudon Marina

5200 City Park Drive, Lenoir City • 865-986-5536

Sun Life Marinas – Louisville Landing

2932 Louisville Boatdock Road, Louisville. • 865-635-9336

Tellico Marina

1000 Marina Harbor Drive, Vonore..... • 865-856-6806

Tennessee National Marina

8301 Tennessee National Drive, Loudon • 865-657-3617

WindRiver Marina

350 Lighthouse Point Drive, Lenoir City • 865-375-5404



Waterfront Dining

The Tellico Lake area boasts a myriad of waterfront dining options to fit every mood and taste. On top of mesmerizing water views, many of these restaurants also offer boat slips, making them easily accessible for those spending the day cruising on the lake.

Calhoun's At The • 4550 City Park Drive, Lenoir City
 • calhouns.com/locations/lenoir-city/

Lakeside Tavern • 10911 Concord Park Drive, Knoxville
 • lakeside-tavern.com

Dockside Grill at Tellico Marina
 1000 Marina Harbor Drive, Vonore
 • docksidegrilltn.com

The Mudpuppy • 721 U.S. Highway 411, Vonore
 • mudpuppyrestaurant.com

The Yacht Club • 100 Sequoyah Road, Loudon
 • tellicovillageyachtclub.com

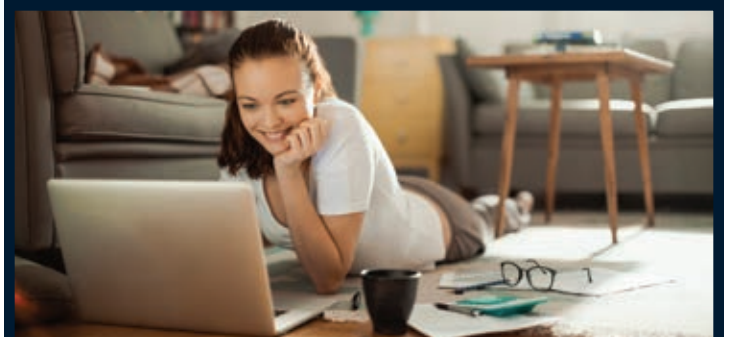
Cabins are also available for those looking for a more vacation-like escape. With three different floorplan options available, Prior said that the resort's cabins provide all the essentials needed for a peaceful retreat for guests of all ages.

"We're super family-friendly," she said, noting the cabins' kitchen spaces and scenic porches. "It's just a great place to come... We have really friendly staff and we love to see everybody come back by."

While the resort currently only has seven cabins available, Prior added that there are plans to expand over the next couple years.

"We want to turn it into a luxury RV resort with more cabins and glamping sites," she explained. "We'll also have a pool area to elevate this space a little bit and make it a real family-friendly establishment."

For more information about Cherokee Outdoor Resort, visit cherokeehighlandresort.com.



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SLOAN'S

Built on the shoulders of 6 generations

“I think this is going to be cliché, but I think our customer service is why people come to all my locations,”

~ TK Sloan



TK and Lynne Sloan, co-owners of Sloan's Village Home Center — one of four in the Sloan's LLC family line of stores

Sloan's LLC started in Monroe County as a grocery/general store. Built upon by six generations spanning 158 years, it has grown to be a four-store/three county chain providing vital products and services to Loudon County's most prominent community.

Sloan's Village Home Center, 200 Mialaquo Road between Vonore and Loudon at the State Route 72-State Route 444 intersection, is the No. 1 provider of building supplies, hardware and landscaping products in Tellico Village.

1867 onward

A lot of progress has been made in the variety and technology of their products when compared to the family's start in the grocery/general store business in 1867. That's when a Civil War veteran in the Union Army, William Henderson Sloan, began a store along the Tellico River in the Ballplay area of Monroe County (roughly centered between Madisonville, Vonore

and Tellico Plains).

Fast forwarding to the 2020s, Sloan's Village Home Center “is a full-service lawn and garden center, but it's also a full-service building supply center; we service a lot of high-end custom-home builders,” fifth generation chain co-owner TK Sloan said. “It's our market over there. We service their lumber and shingles and windows and doors and just about anything you could think of to build a house.

“And then, of course, we're a full-line hardware store along with that,” he added. “We do sell a lot of Benjamin Moore paint there.

“... A lot of the homeowners like the do-it-yourself and the services that we can walk them through: on how to repair a sink or repair some plumbing under a sink or how to hook up a dishwasher, things like that.”

In Tellico Village, “they really appreciate lawn and garden,” Sloan said. “We do a big business in fountains.”

When considering the seasons, the co-owner said his Tellico Village custom-

ers “really like the pretty stuff. We call it the ‘100 Days in the Spring.’ Our Lawn and Garden Center looks just like a spring wonderland over there starting about the first of March all the way through (late) June.”

With a roughly 10,000 square foot interior, Sloan's Village Home Center also has several thousand square feet of lumber and other outdoor products.

When talking about lumber sales among other building and landscaping needs requiring big truck transportation to customers, “I think we have a fleet of six trucks over there, with three CDL drivers and outside salesman,” TK said about the Village location. “It's a pretty big lumber operation.”

Learning curve

Sloan's Village Home Center opened the Tellico Village location in 2012, taking over and then expanding and remodeling an existing hardware/building supply business that focused mainly on contractor needs.

But to reach the level of success they now

See SLOAN'S on Page 14

'Connecting' needs with Tellico Lake Rotary Club

Tellico Lake Rotary Club has been serving the community in Monroe and Loudon counties since its inception in 2005. Based in Tellico Village, the club is "connecting to help children, connecting to support community, connecting to work together and connecting to have fun," according to their flyer.

Walt Marshall, TLRC president who has been in the club since 2016, listed some of their local acts of service:

- Giving two or three scholarships every year to high school graduating seniors who plan to attend college, vocational or trade schools
- Giving dictionaries every year to third graders in Monroe County and Greenback School in Loudon County
- *Involved with Monroe County Family Resource Center*
- *Partnering with Sleep In Heavenly Peace*
- *Helping with Monroe County Good Shepherd Center*
- *Supporting Our Place, an adult day care center*
- *Involved with Girls and Boys Club in Monroe County*

With Monroe County Family Resource Center, "we've raised money, and in the past we have gone to Walmart with (MCFRC) director (Sherri Raper) and bought clothes that she could give to the kids," Marshall said.

With SIHP, the club helps raise money to build and distribute the beds for children who are sleeping on the floor.

Marshall explained the Good Shepherd Center in Madisonville provides food and clothing to the needy in Monroe County. "They have a distribution (day) every month, so we're involved in that," he said.

Additionally, the club has been involved with Our Place for a few years. "We had a grant that we gave to buy certain fixtures



Sue and John Everson give dictionaries at Vonore Elementary School

and supplies" for the center, he added.

Yet, to Marshall, one of the most significant service projects in which the club takes part is the distribution of the dictionaries.

"That's something we've done every year" since before he was a member, Marshall said. "When you go there — and some of these places we go, like Tellico Plains — that dictionary is probably the first book that some of those kids get."

To come up with these projects, regular member meetings begin at noon the second, third, fourth and fifth Thursdays of each month at First Baptist Church of Tellico Village, 205 Chota

See ROTARY on Page 14

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Whistlestop

Historic bed-and-breakfast in Sweetwater

When Wendi and Casey Olson decided to relocate from Washington in 2021, they never dreamed that they would end up running a historic bed-and-breakfast in a small town in East Tennessee.

"We were just trying to leave Washington," explained Wendi. "We had no idea about Sweetwater or where we were going to go or anything."

However, something compelled the couple to look at houses in the area, including a whimsical, furnished estate that had long been used as a quilting retreat, known as The Brookside Farm.

"The house had just been put on the market about a week before we were flying down, but I didn't initially put it on my list of houses to look at because it was huge," said Wendi. "So, the second day that we were looking at houses, we pulled up here and I knew we were going to be in trouble."

The Olsons immediately fell in love with the property and, after meeting the previous owners, put in an offer on the office the very next day.

"We bought it partially furnished and didn't know what we were going to do with it," said Wendi. "And we've been here now for three years."

Whistlestop Manor

Built in 1859, the 12-room manor – now dubbed Whistlestop Manor – sits on five acres beside the train tracks on Sweetwater Creek, making it an ideal option for a bed-and-breakfast or wedding venue.

"We realized pretty fast that we had to make money off the property because it's really expensive to maintain," Wendi said of the manor's sprawling grounds. "The first year we got here, we thought we'd just do a bed-and-breakfast but nobody was really staying here."

So, Wendi, a lover of all things vintage, suggested a more innovative approach: murder mystery parties.

"Our house looks like a 'Clue house,' and we have the perfect setup for it," she said, noting various add-ons, creaky hallways and secret doors.

While Casey was a bit skeptical, the couple went ahead with Wendi's idea, selling out 12 murder mystery parties right off the bat.

"People were really excited about it, and now it's primarily what we do," said Wendi. "Almost every weekend, we have murder mystery parties where we decorate the whole house like the 1920s."

A costume room is also available to further authenticize the experience.

"We have everybody enter at the same time and walk down our long, historic hallway, and then we give you a new character and persona for the night," she said. "Then you go into our costume room and get ready... It's really a fun experience."

Wendi added that, although open parties are typically only offered the last weekend of every month, groups of twelve or more can book a private party on any other available date. The next open party is set for August 30.

Along with murder mysteries, Whistlestop Manor offers a slew of other public and private events, from cooking classes to paint-and-sips. The property also offers two different wedding packages for couples seeking an intimate, dreamy back-



drop for their big day.

Both packages provide tables, linens and chairs for up to 40 guests, a bridal suite, groom's quarters and even access to the manor's vintage furniture, decor and costume room. Charcuterie grazing tables and gourmet seated dinners, lovingly prepared by Wendi, are also available.

"I'm the chef at all the events," she said, noting many food items come from Whistlestop's own garden. "We only use organic vegetables and produce, and everything's homemade... I'm from the West Coast so the food is a little different than what people are used to but people love it. Our food keeps bringing people back."

In fact, many of the manor's guests are returning customers, Wendi said.

"I just don't think there's anything like us anywhere," she said. "I know that this place is special... It has good bones and a good history. And then with the willow tree and the train tracks, it truly just has the most beautiful feeling of Southern charm when you're here."

For more information about Whistlestop Manor, located at 134 Head of Creek Road, visit whistlestopmanor.com.

Musicians don't retire

Louis Armstrong, one of the most influential figures in jazz, once famously said: "Musicians don't retire; they stop when there's no more music in them" – and Tellico Village Singers Director Dennis Loy couldn't agree more.

"Musicians keep going," said Loy, who led an impressive conducting career in New York, performing at both Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall, before retiring to Tellico Village in 2016. "So I had every intention of finding a choir down here but I decided to first relax for a couple of years."

Fate, however, had other plans.

"Someone said something at a New Villagers meeting about starting a choir," he said, noting that a subsequent meeting was set up for those interested in the possibility — and that's where he met Jan Sampson.

A retired school teacher from Illinois, Sampson had always been incredibly vocal about her support for a Tellico Village choir since moving to the area in 2015.

"I and several other people were constantly at New Villagers talking about starting a community choir," she said. "I was very discouraged that there wasn't one here."

So, after hearing about Loy's prestigious background at that initial meeting, Sampson knew what needed to be done.

"When we heard that he was a choral director — and quite a renowned one — we all just pledged our undying help in any way possible, if he would consider leading us," she said.

The rest is history.

"I basically said that I would be more than happy to do this but I want to take care of all the music; not the administration part. I did that all my life and didn't want to do it anymore," Loy explained. "And Jan said, 'Don't worry about it. I got it.'"

She has served alongside Loy, the choir's president, as vice president ever since.

Starting off with about 35 singers in 2017, the Tellico Village Singers spent the next three years rehearsing and performing at First Baptist Church of Tellico Village before relocating to the Community Church at Tellico Village.

"We had about 60 people at this point and slowly outgrew First Baptist Church," said Loy. "My wife and I had been going to the Community Church at that time, so we went over and asked if they would be interested in having the choir there, and they just opened their arms to us."

Now a group of about 100, the Tellico Village Singers perform two concerts each year as part of the Community Church of Tellico Village Fine Arts Concert Series. Loy said the concert series brings in prominent musical organizations from across the world, including the Canadian Brass and Vienna Boys' Choir.

"We are very humbled to be a part of this choral series," he said, adding that the group typically centers these performances around an exciting theme like "Broadway" and "Billboard Top 40."

The group also performs two patriotic concerts each year immediately before Independence Day, in which they raise funds for various local charities, such as the Special Operations Warriors Foundation, Smoky Mountain Service Dogs and the Loudon County Habitat for Humanity.

"During our patriotic concerts, we really try to focus more on the community," said Sampson. "So we ask for donations for the organization we're sponsoring at the end of these concerts, and the community has been extremely generous."

This year's concerts, held July 1 and July 2, raised a total of \$12,000 for the Tellico Village Fire Department and the First Responders of Tellico Village and Kahite.

"We've had first responders at our house twice, and they're just amazing," added Loy. "We're so proud to be able to support them and our fire department this year."

Although the Tellico Village Singers have entered their "vacation period," Loy, Sampson and the choir's accompanist Barbara Schmitt are already ramping up for their next concerts in March.

"We take a break for July and August, and then hold auditions the first week of September for those individuals who would like to be a part of the spring concerts," said Sampson, noting that singers do not have to be from Tellico Village to participate. "We welcome people from all over the area who would like to be a part of our group."

Set for March 8 and March 10, the upcoming concerts will be themed "40 Years of Grammys."

For more information about the Tellico Village Singers, visit tellicovillagesingers.org.



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Sloan's
From page 10

enjoy, Sloan admitted there was a learning curve to master at the Loudon County location.

"What we were really bad at was the whole contractor side," said Sloan, co-owner with his wife, Lynne Sloan. "We had to learn a lot and get caught up on how to take care of contractors; they're a wholly different customer than what we were used to dealing with. A big contractor has a whole different set of needs and wants than the walk-in homeowner has.

"It was really a learning curve for us, but we have over-

come that," he added about his 27 employees, highlighted by the sixth-generation operations manager Tafton Sloan, TK and Lynne's son.

More family history

Looking back, TK, 50, said he's "been actively working in the store since I was about 12," which goes back to the Bill Sloan Supply days in Madisonville as run by his father, Bill "Billy" Sloan Jr.

Key Sloan, second generation owner, brought the family store to the Gudger community in Monroe County (near the Monroe-McMinn County line) in 1901 before Bill Sloan Sr. (third

generation) founded Bill Sloan Supply in Madisonville in the 1940s after he started a "rolling store" at the Gudger location.

Billy Sloan was the catalyst in terms of expanding product focus and locations outside of Monroe County, which included much more emphasis on hardware, building supplies and landscaping when the Madisonville location moved and became Sloan Center in the late 1990s. Next came expansion to Vonore and Etowah (McMinn County) in addition to Tellico Village.

"We actually just turned it into an LLC," TK said about the four locations.

Another key sixth generation employee is Megan Salaciak, operations manager of the Vonore location, who is TK and Lynne's daughter.

Final keys to success

As for the biggest factor in Sloan's LLC's success, "I think this is going to be cliché, but I think our customer service is why people come to all my locations," TK said.

One final lesson about building a business: "no matter how many times we buy a store and think it's just going to be an instant success, it never is," the co-owner said. "It always takes hard work."

Classy Caterer owner Trisha Kelly, third from right, is pictured with five of her 15 employees, from left: Chris Gildrie logistics and operations; Kate Townsend, executive chef; Brian Westfall, grill master; Donna Sneed, table designs; and Jordan McCoy, staffing manager.



Classy
From page 5

glory," Kelly said.

Classy Caterer has a renowned reputation for "delicious cheesecakes," along with a wide variety of breakfasts, lunches and dinners to fit any occasion.

"When I meet with potential clients, I will ask the following questions: the date, time, number of people, and what kind of meal or reception is planned, then I design a menu that fits any budget," Kelly explains.

That wide array of experience and attention to detail has won the company "Best of the Best" in City View magazine's catering division.

Kelly has two chefs on her rotation, and has specialized software that plates out each meal or serving.

"It is a lot different from restaurant work," she said. "Everything has to be timed,

and must be the freshest and best quality from the time it goes out the door.

"I have a lot of help, which is wonderful, because this job requires it."

Surprisingly, Kelly admits she can cook, but doesn't love it.

"I'm happy to clean up and do the dishes, but cooking has never really been my passion," she said.

She just knows what works and what doesn't.

Kelly has been an East Tennessee resident for 40 years.

"I have at my core a good Southern style of food and cooking," she said. "I don't do anything fancy, but if I can say it, I can cook it."

She currently lives in Farragut to be closer to her only child and his wife, Lenny and Mandy Hill.

Please visit www.classycaterer.com or call 865-406-5477 for more information.

Rotary
From page 11

Road, Loudon.

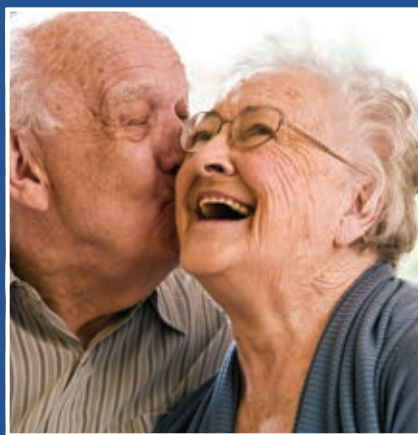
New members are added beginning with a recommendation from a club member.

"Somebody has to recommend them, and then the mem-

bers vote on whether they want to take the individual (as a member)," Marshall said.

Most members are "people who had retired and moved to Tellico Village and had been in Rotary before," the president said. "People got together and started a Rotary Club there."

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- Bursitis
- Crunching & popping
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My name is Dr. Steiner Douglas Sanford of Maryville Spine & Laser Chiropractic Clinic. Since we've opened, we've seen hundreds of people with knee problems leave the office pain-free. If you're suffering from these conditions, a new breakthrough in medical technology may completely eliminate your pain or greatly reduce the pain in your knee.

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Leveraging advanced technology, we provide effective treatments for common knee conditions including patella-femoral pain syndrome, osteoarthritis, bursitis, bone-on-bone discomfort, and runner's knee.

So if you're suffering with chronic knee pain and would like to find out if you're a candidate for our Advanced Knee Procedure, give us a call today to schedule your Consultation & Qualification Treatment.

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- One Trial Treatment
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Due to the expected demand for this special offer, I urge you to **call our office at once. The phone number is (865) 466-6500** Call today and we can get started.

Normal Knee



Osteoarthritis



Former Knee Patient

"For over 10 years my left knee pain has kept me from doing the things I love, like playing golf and working in my garden. At times the pain has been a 10/10 and everything I tried failed to work. I couldn't sit or stand without using a cane. Doctors told me that I would eventually need to have a knee replacement. I am now living pain free after Dr. Sanford performed her Knee Rejuvenation Procedure. I actually feel like I got my life back. I can now play golf, garden and play with my grandchild again. Life is better!" **Wylie**

Former Knee Patient

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