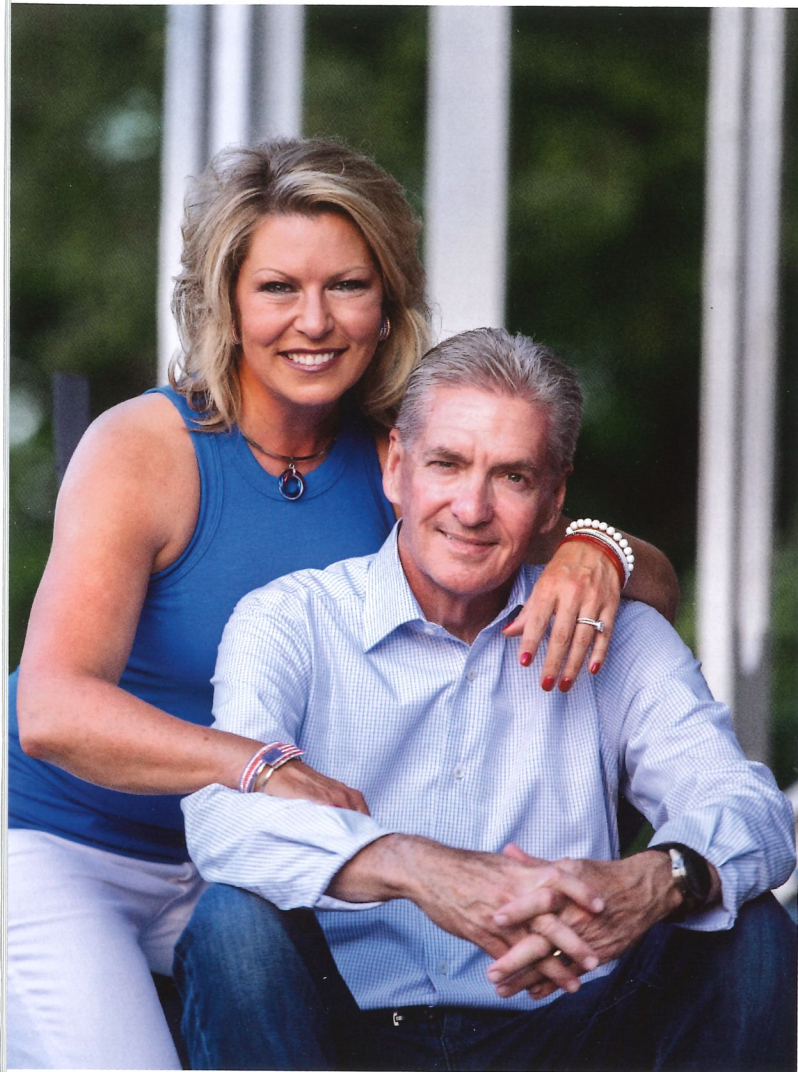


Behind the Scenes with Larry and Cheryl Dillin



Photos by Deanna Miller Photography

By Robin Rismiller

I have to tell you, Springboro, chit chat with the Dillins is...different. There's not a lot of talk about weather, traffic, good sales, pets' unfortunate habits, etc. Instead, you find yourself in uncharted conversational waters. Did Cheryl just say she climbed Mt. Elbrus and also jumped off of the tallest bungee in the world? And what was that about Larry being a former real estate consultant around the world for Fortune 100 companies?

Your ears prick up. You pay attention. And you decide if the chit chat is this cool, just wait until you get to the good stuff.

Turns out, that when it comes to the Dillins, the good stuff is not in short supply. Larry and Cheryl care deeply about making a difference. They channel their talents for providing real estate solutions and marketing strategies respectively to positively impact communities...and they love it. Larry is the CEO and master developer of Dillin LLC. He offered,

"I help people think without limits...then put together action plans to accomplish what they dream of." He chooses his projects based on how his values match up with those of his potential clients and then works hard to create solutions and ultimately "a legacy for the community."

Cheryl is the CEO, chief brand officer and owner of Hardy Communications. (Hardy is her maiden name.) For 25 years, she has created strategies and events for privately held companies, developments, communities and non-profit organizations. She and her team are proud to "stand in front of a train (and win) for the people and communities that [they] care about."

While all of this community building sounds amazing (and it is), what does it mean? If you're nodding along to the lingo but wondering if you're the only one not entirely clear on specifics, don't worry. If you've shopped or dined at Austin Landing or are familiar with the Wright House revitalization project, then you've experienced some of the community development that the Dillins are so passionate about.

Interestingly, Austin Landing is what brought the Dillins to Springboro. Cheryl was asked to manage the branding and events at Austin Landing, and shortly thereafter Larry took over as the developer and property manager. The two worked their magic with Cheryl creating an events program that raised \$750,000 for charities over five years and Larry completing the development, improving its net operating income and finally facilitating its "successful and profitable sale in 2019."

Today, the couple's focus is to restore the Wright House, located off of 73. Larry explained, "I felt a responsibility to purchase the property and restore it because it's such a historic statement in the City of Springboro."

He came home to bring Cheryl on board and announced, "Honey, I bought the Wright House." Cheryl laughed, "I heard 'right' house and informed him that I didn't know we owned the wrong house." The two still get a kick out of this today as they move forward with their plans to revitalize the iconic landmark.

If you ask them what they are most proud of when it comes to their ventures in the community, the Dillins don't miss a beat. Larry enjoys a sense of accomplishment when he visits a venue that he and Cheryl created and finds that people have deemed it their special spot. Cheryl meanwhile is proud to work with "a team with heart," a team who is genuinely happy for the charity/community that they've served and who is interested in continued growth.

Along with looking for ways to impact the community on a larger scale, Larry and Cheryl have embraced Springboro as home. They consider themselves incredibly fortunate to have wonderful neighbors and to have met so many friendly and giving people around town. As Cheryl said, "In Springboro, it's been easy to bloom where you are planted."

Outside of their professional lives and relationships within the community, these two go-getters enjoy a variety of hobbies, many of them outdoors. Specifically, they love hiking and fly fishing, and if given a choice they would choose Jackson Hole, Wyoming, or another spot out West to partake in both. Cheryl also schedules yoga and mountain climbing when she can, while Larry likes to read.

In addition to making time for some down time if you will, the Dillins step back to appreciate their big picture. Yes, they love their careers and giving back to the community. Yes, they love nature and travel and look forward to spending more time with family and friends. But underneath the surface of all of this, they are incredibly grateful for each other and for working to keep their relationship strong.

Cheryl commented, "This is year 21 for us. We are grateful that we can weather the storms together and come out stronger on the other side. We've been through a lot and are proud of what we have done together."

So, Springboro, I hope you've enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at a couple who has done quite a bit of behind-the-scenes work themselves, all in the name of "creating community legacy." (Seems like a perfect story to share in a community magazine if you ask me. 😊) And admit it, you don't like garden variety chit chat anyway.

Take Five WITH THE DILLINS

- 1. A MOVIE YOU LOVE: FIELD OF DREAMS**
- 2. SOMETHING YOU LOOK FORWARD TO: 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS**
- 3. FAVORITE FAMILY MEAL: GRANDMA'S NOODLES**
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