

It's a Good Life WITH THE GOODSONS

BY NATALIE LERNER



Photo by Olivia Brady

Music is the language of the soul. We all speak it, and it has the power to bring people together. For Doug and Pam Goodson, that was so true!

“Doug and I met as students at The University of Texas (UT),” explained Pam. “Doug was the keyboard player and backup singer in a popular local band called Short Notice, and I was a groupie... Being a groupie paid off, as Doug and I eventually got married on June 4th, 1994, at Perkins Chapel, on the campus of Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, Texas.”

Pam graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Learning and Development at UT. She accepted her first teaching job in Spring Branch ISD (SBISD) at Wilchester Elementary, where she taught second and third grade. After obtaining a Master’s Degree in Educational Administration from Houston Baptist University, she worked as an administrator at Memorial Drive Elementary, and later as a part time instructional consultant at Bunker Hill Elementary. In 2010, she filed for Position 6 on the SBISD Board of Trustees. After a successful campaign and election, Pam served on the school board for twelve consecutive years.

“Serving was incredibly rewarding, and I am grateful to the Spring Branch community for their trust and support,” expressed Pam.

Meanwhile, Doug graduated from the McCombs School of Business at UT. He is now the owner of Wright Asphalt Products with terminals in Brownwood, Texas and Casa Grande, Arizona.

After 28 years of wedded bliss, music is still a huge piece of Goodson life, and lives on through their kids. Both of their children, Kyle and Grace, performed musical theatre on stage at the Hobby Center as part of the Tommy Tunes Awards.

Pam proudly shared, “Kyle performed twice for best featured performer in his Stratford Playhouse roles, once as Uncle Fester from *The Addams Family* and once as the Family Solicitor from *Me and My Girl*. Grace performed in the ensemble in the award-winning Stratford Playhouse performance of *Newsies*.”

Kyle is now a fourth year student at The University of West Virginia studying mechanical engineering. He spends his summers working at Laity Lodge Youth Camp, and in his free time he focuses on music and plays bass guitar in a band called Homework Beer. Like father, like son.

Grace attends UT, her parents’ alma mater. She is a sophomore studying elementary education, and has pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma. This past spring, Grace’s team won the UT intramurals girls doubles tennis



Election Day



SBFFA Grand Champions



Goodson Christmas 2019 Photos courtesy of the Goodson family



Photo by Hallie Keller Photography




Photo by Debbie Dodds

Kyle as Uncle Fester performing "The Moon and Me"



Grace in The Newsies

Photo by Hallie Keller Photography

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Harley Quinn

league. She still swims for the neighborhood Wilchester Wahoo summer swim team, and is also a camp counselor at Laity Lodge Youth Camp.

The newest member of the Goodson family is a sheepadoodle with a big personality, Harley Quinn. "She has destroyed several pieces of furniture...but we love her anyway" stated Pam. Harley Quinn maintains a love-hate relationship with the old family cat, Tiger. She gets her break from Tiger via daily playdates with other neighborhood pups though. Their Wilchester West neighborhood is very pet friendly.

The Goodsons have been in their home for over 20 years and can't imagine living anywhere else. "We bought in the subdivision for several reasons," Pam began. "At the time, Wilchester Elementary was the highest performing elementary school in the district. Additionally... the faculty and staff were like family. Because I am active outdoors, I wanted to live in a neighborhood with easy access to the bayou. It's great to be able to walk out the door and jump on the Terry Hershey running trails. Lastly, the Wilchester West subdivision is uniquely identified by the gas lamp posts. There are

no street lights, just gas lanterns in every yard. It's beautiful."

Wilchester has a reputation for taking care of each other, celebrating birthdays or initiating meal trains for neighbors in need.

Pam served on the HOA board for six years, and Doug co-founded the Wilchester Mens Club, whose motto is "Doing Good in the Hood." Pam stays engaged with the Wilchester Women's Club and with two different running groups. She was one of two runners selected to represent the City of Houston in the Athens, Greece marathon in 2005.

Wilchester has produced many Stratford Spartans that have gone on to do wonderful things. Both Kyle and Grace thrived academically and had opportunities to engage in sports, fine arts and community outreach. They are proud to be part of "Stratford America".

Pam expressed thanks for becoming the first SBISD school board member elected from Wilchester. "Without the support of my neighborhood, I would not have prevailed."

Outside of neighborhood life, the Goodsons are part of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. Pam is active in the Children's

Ministry, teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Pam also plays tennis, pickleball, and golf. Doug serves the community with the Spring Branch Education Foundation (SBEF). After serving as Chair of the SBEF Golf Tournament, he now co-chairs the annual SBEF Clay Shoot. Doug is an active buyer at the Spring Branch Future Farmers of America Show and Sale, and employs neighborhood seniors as his interns through the SBISD Academy of Finance program. He is also the head coach of the Pecan Bowl championship team, The North, and an excellent chef that can be found at the local grocery store, sometimes multiples times a day.

To unplug from the hustle and bustle of city life, the Goodsons retreat to their vacation home in Rockport, Texas. In addition to their other talents, they are also a family of anglers. They find fishing to be a time for fellowship and reflection, where serious parenting conversations take place. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." is a recurring lesson.

From music, to athletics, to community groups, the Goodsons embrace life with fervor.

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