

OAKLAND COUNTY

REAL PRODUCERS.®

CONNECTING. ELEVATING. INSPIRING.





Written By: **Jane K. Asher, Ph.D.**
Photo Credit: **Jessica Laine Photography**

► couples in
real estate

MIKE & DAWNE RIPINSKI

Couple: Mike & Dawne Ripinski

Years Together (in Life): 47 total, 44 married

Years Together (in Real Estate): 9

Business: Team Ripinski, Century 21 Curran & Oberski

Career Volume as a Couple: \$54 million+ (since 2010)

From Retail to Real Estate

Mike and Dawne met in the 1970s at JC Penney where they both were employed as department managers. They became very good friends and remain each other's best friend today.

Dawne and Mike both obtained their real estate licenses in 2000, after which Dawne began her career in real estate, and Mike worked as a property manager for Beztak Properties. Dawne suggested that they team up and work together, and in 2010, Mike decided to "retire" and join Dawne at Century 21 Town & Country. Initially, Mike thought he'd just assist with Dawne's business, but he quickly found himself in a different situation than he anticipated. Mike retired from Beztak on a Friday, took Saturday off and held his first open house that Sunday. That weekend marked the start of their full-time collaboration, and Mike and Dawne have been partners in real estate ever since. They joined Century 21 Curran & Oberski in May of 2019.

Sharing the Blessings of Their Success

Throughout their careers at Century 21, Mike and Dawne have earned multiple Master Ruby Awards and Quality Service Awards. They were also recognized as Co-Optimists of the Year by the Royal Oak Optimist Club in 2005, and Mike received a City of Royal Oak Volunteer Recognition Award in 2018.

Mike and Dawne take great pride in supporting their community and in dedicating their time and resources to helping others. Dawne and Mike volunteer at the Royal Oak Animal Shelter and are active members of The Royal Oak Optimist Club, where Dawne formerly served as president. Dawne is also a member of the Business Women's Network, a branch of the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce, and Mike is currently serving on The Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Mike is the former chairperson of the Royal Oak Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and of the Royal Oak Civil Service Board, and he has also served on Royal Oak's Senior Advisory Board and on the Normandy Oaks Task Force, which was responsible for converting an underutilized golf course into a 40-acre community park.



“Our best advice for couples working together is to know each other’s strengths and weaknesses and to define your roles based on those qualities.”

play (and sometimes a concert) and dinner at one of our favorite restaurants.

What are some things you both have in common in the industry?

Dawne: We participate in industry and C 21 events.

Mike: We both believe in networking.

Mike and Dawne also support Metro Detroit Youth Clubs (formerly Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland & Macomb Counties) and Gilda’s Club Metro Detroit, an affiliate of the Cancer Support Community. “Our involvement in our community is important to us, and through our volunteerism, we have built strong relationships,” Dawne said.

Q&A with Mike & Dawne Ripinski

What advice do you have for a couple looking to go into business together?

Our best advice for couples working together is to know each other’s strengths and weaknesses and to define your roles based on those qualities. It’s also important to communicate weekly and daily plans/updates to one another.

What has been your most difficult challenge in business and/or in life? How did you overcome it?

The most difficult challenge has been defining our strengths and weaknesses and letting the business evolve.

What is your secret to working together?

Our secret to working together is keeping separate offices/workspaces and separate client files but also being flexible enough to help each other out.

What is the most rewarding part of working together?

Dawne: Becoming known in our community for what we do.

Mike: Sharing the success of our business.

When you’re not working, what do you like to do for fun?

We enjoy going out to dinner with friends (especially in Royal Oak) and traveling to Chicago to see our daughters’ families. Every year, we also take a two-week R & R trip to Cozumel.

Describe your ideal workday together.

Morning workout, breakfast, go to the office (usually together), review daily schedule, follow through on to-do lists, generate future business.

Describe your ideal date night.

Our ideal date night includes a movie or

What are some things that you do differently from one another?

Dawne: Mike is stronger at building relationships through his involvement with associations like the Chamber of Commerce.

Mike: Dawne is better at planning and organization.

What’s the one thing you admire most about your significant other?

Dawne: I admire his ability to “schmooze” and his public speaking skills.

Mike: She’s always, always professional in actions and communications.



CENTURY 21

Curran & Oberski

Team Ripinski 248-789-2735

MIKE: 248 - 789 - 2735 | **DAWNE:** 248 330 9199

www.teamripinski.com

OAKLAND COUNTY

REAL PRODUCERS®

COPYRIGHT BY N2 PUBLISHING AND MAY NOT BE COPIED OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT PRIOR, WRITTEN APPROVAL