

NEIGHBORS OF

DECEMBER 2024

# *Southern Bloomington*



THE MCCOY FAMILY

*is Lighting up Lives*

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Fox Creek, Pepper Ridge, Heartland Hills, Deer Ridge, Twin Grove, Crestwicke, Founders' Grove, Brentwood Estates, Tanglewood, Dover Ridge, The Grove, Brookridge, Hershey Grove, & Stonebrook

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# THE MCCOY FAMILY

## *is Lighting up Lives*

By Charlene Homan | Photos provided by Family

**H**on. Scott H. McCoy and Dr. Jennifer P. McCoy, alongside their grown children, Joshua, Hannah and Elizabeth, are central Illinois natives who have dedicated their lives to the communities they called home – including Pontiac, Normal and Bloomington, Illinois.

Scott and Jennifer's story began with a chance encounter at Scott's former Pontiac-based computer retail/service shop on December 1st, 1990, when Jennifer, accompanied by her parents, sought assistance for computer repairs. Little did they know this fateful meeting would spark a lifelong connection.

Scott recalls with fondness, "I had no idea who she was, but told my friend who was in the shop at the time that I was going to find out and have a date with her before the end of the year."

True to his word, a service call to Jennifer's family home led to a captivating conversation that laid the foundation for their future together. Fast forward to December 15th, their first date marked the beginning of a love story that would endure the tests of time. They were engaged a year after meeting and married nearly two years after they met.





Amidst their blossoming romance, Scott continued to delve into the IT development field, establishing a successful computer business immediately after high school. Together, Scott and Jennifer cultivated McCoyCORE USA, a thriving consultancy based in their home office, for nearly three decades. While Scott's expertise in business and marketing consultancy, particularly in tourism development and Route 66 tourism, flourished, Jennifer pursued her passion for education, earning multiple degrees and certifications from Illinois State University.

Scott also served as mayor of Pontiac, Illinois, from 2005-09 and was the youngest mayor to serve the small community. "I dealt with the worst natural disaster in Livingston County's history, as well as Governor Blagojevich's push to close the Pontiac Correctional Center during my tenure." The McCoy family moved from Pontiac to Bloomington-Normal in 2015 so Jennifer could pursue her career as an educator in administration. In 2023, Jennifer achieved a significant milestone by completing her Doctorate, further enhancing her role as an influential leader in the field of education. She is currently the principal at Lexington Jr./Sr. High school. Under her leadership for the past five years, Lexington High School has been ranked #5 in all of Illinois.

The McCoy's have three grown children, Joshua, who resides in the Nashville, TN area, Hannah, of Bloomington, and Elizabeth, who resides in Texas.

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"All the kids have families, and we have two grandchildren with number three on the way," shares the couple.

Scott and Jennifer also have two rescue pups - Rue (6), a Corgi-Chihuahua mix, and Reagan (7-8), a chihuahua.

Jennifer is deeply involved in her career with Lexington, and with the Illinois Principals Association. She is looking forward to more travel and she loves history, especially American and British. She is also an avid runner.

Beyond their professional endeavors, the McCoy family's philanthropic spirit shines brightly through their renowned Christmas Lights Show at their home in Pepper Ridge. What began as a modest display in 2017 has evolved into a mesmerizing spectacle of lights and music, captivating audiences far and wide. Their property, adorned with thousands of individually controlled LED pixels, synchronized to Christmas melodies, embodies the magic of the holiday season. With projection mapping, animatronic delights and meticulous attention to detail, the McCoy Christmas Lights Show has become a cherished tradition, uniting neighbors and spreading joy throughout the community.

"My biggest hobby is our Christmas Lights Show," says Scott. "Our house and property are covered in thousands of lights. It takes months to set up each fall and includes projection mapping and animatronics. You can learn more at [McCoyChristmasLights.com](http://McCoyChristmasLights.com). We love celebrating Christmas with the community and giving back with our show. It's become very popular."

Scott also volunteered with Special Olympics, creating one of the most popular videos for Spread the Word to End the Word, has been a board member of the American Red Cross of the Heartland, and has been involved in P.R.O.U.D (Main Street), among other charity organizations both in Pontiac and Bloomington-Normal. And if you've ever played the board game, 'Pontiac-opoly,' Scott is the proud creator of that as well.

The McCoy's journey, however, has not been without its challenges. In December 2019, tragedy struck when Jennifer, then 44, suffered a massive stroke, leaving her temporarily paralyzed on her left side. Despite the daunting prognosis, Jennifer's unwavering determination, coupled with Scott's steadfast support, propelled her towards a remarkable full recovery.





Scott reflects, "The surgeon told me she may have to learn how to walk and talk again, but Jennifer's resilience knows no bounds. Her triumphant return to health stands as a testament to quick actions, Jennifer's perseverance, her excellent doctors and the unwavering support of our tight-knit community."

The couple moved to Pepper Ridge five years ago from their home in Normal.

"We love the neighborhood," the couple shared. "We actually closed on this house when Jennifer was in the ICU at Bromenn (now Carle), after surviving her massive stroke. We moved to Bloomington/Normal because of Jennifer's career as an administrator in education. She has interned with D87 and was an administrator with U5, prior to being hired by Lexington."

Scott continues, "We have wonderful neighbors. We are constantly outside talking with everyone. Many of us are a bit OCD about our yards, so we have fun seeing each other outside working on our properties. There are also lots of children in the neighborhood, which is great. So many people walking, walking dogs, and such. We all watch out for each other."

As the nation anticipates the 2026 Route 66 Centennial, the McCoy family stands poised to contribute their unique blend of creativity and passion to the festivities. Scott and Jennifer have traveled the entire Route 66 together three times together and Scott travels it at least twice a year for work.

"I created the most-popular Route 66 app in the world," adds Scott. "I also consult with Route 66 businesses, points-of-interest and communities in the development of tourism and am a professional speaker on tourism and Route 66. Jennifer does join me on my Route 66 trips, when her schedule allows."

In addition to their U.S. travels, Jennifer recently took a trip to Europe with a select group of U.S. educators/administrators. The group worked with their counterparts in Europe on educational endeavors.

The couple adds, "We love our community here as much as we loved Pontiac. We've been very blessed."



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*Your Connection to the Community*