

meet your neighbors

Written by Elizabeth McCabe Cover photo by Jeff Dachowski www.dachowskiphotography.com

"I moved here in 1996 because it was an idyllic New England town with a postcard-like church with a big white circle," recalls Peter M. Kujawski, who worked at Nashua Corporation at the time.

"It had a country-like town feel yet it was close to a lot of amenities of the city with the proximity to Manchester, the airport and highways with fast access to Boston, the mountains and the ocean." Attracted to the big lots of land, Peter chose Bedford because of its proximity to the airport, its charm, and its schools.

Peter grew up on the shores of Lake Char-gogga-goggmanchaugga-goggchau-buna-gunga-maugg, literally "the fishing place at the boundaries and neutral meeting grounds," in Webster, MA. He is married to his wife, Lee Anne Lyons. Lee was born in upstate NY but grew up in many places, including Belgium because of her father's work.

This happy couple resides on Gage Girls Road and has five children: Ashley Kujawski, Chris Kujawski, Sean Lyons, Connor Lyons, and Griffin Lyons. Callie, their rescue dog, rounds out the home with loving kisses and unconditional love.

Leading in a Moment of Crisis

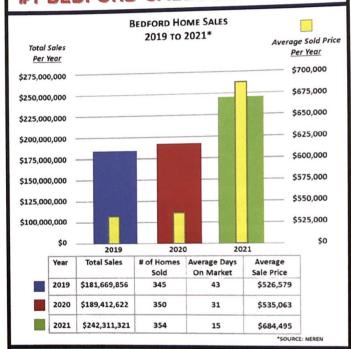
Peter earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the Eng Worcester Polytechnic Institute and his MBA in management from Golden Gate University. He faithfully served our nation in the U.S. Army and we are so grateful for his service, especially on 9/11.

"As a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, on 9/11 I was deployed to a bunker in Maynard, MA," says Peter. This bunker was "the nerve center for all 28 agencies of the Federal Government who responded to the World Trade Center." Using his leadership, Peter led a team of seven military people for over four days. "We directly managed all the tasks given to the Department of Defense by FEMA," explains Peter.

It was a moment in history that put all his skills to the test. Using his experience and expertise, he was able to shine in a moment of crisis. Working with Lt. Col. Brian Dubie, Peter manned the Department of Defense desk for the first 48 hours after the disaster. His level-headedness and leadership ability were evident in his management of requests for assistance for body bags, heavylift helicopters, air support to FEMA, and more.

"It was the single most important thing I did in my 30-year military career," says Peter. After serving on 9/11, he got promoted to full colonel after getting passed over twice.





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Helping Others

"My wife Lee Ann has had a very successful career as a physician's assistant," says Peter. Lee has a heart to help others and was in practice for over 34years, impacting thousands of people in the process. On average, she saw 20-30 patients per day.

In her 34 years of service, she aced every one of her six-year license exams, precepted students coming into the profession, and had never had a lawsuit. Although she got laid off during the pandemic, Lee feels grateful that she had a career that she genuinely enjoyed.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Boston College, followed by her master's as a physician's assistant, and was proud to be the first graduating class from Northeastern University (NEU).

Bedford Roots

"We raised five children in Bedford. They all went through the Bedford School system until high school. Our children went to three different high schools in part because Bedford High was not built yet," recalls Peter.

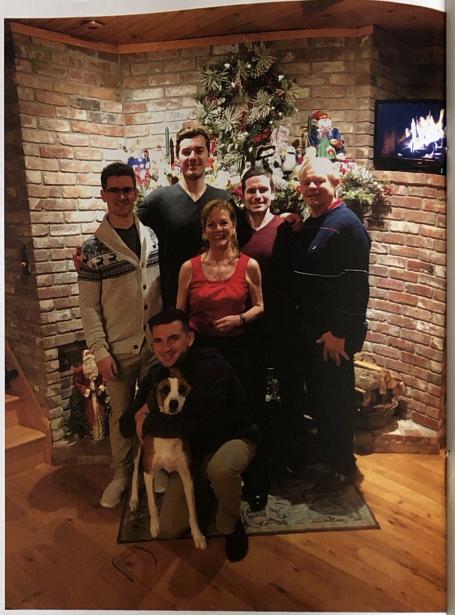
Active in the community, Peter and Lee's sons played baseball and football in high school. Not only did they play on four state championship teams, but they also went on to play Division I baseball at Northeastern. Two of the boys played all four years and one was MVP of his team his senior year."

Peter has coached Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball. He has also been on the Board of the Bedford Jaguars. In addition, he is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He comments, "It was somewhat difficult balancing a 30-year military career, a full-time civilian job, and all of the kids' activities." However, he was committed to the community.

All five of their children are college graduates and are successful tax-paying citizens. Ashley earned her BS in journalism from NEU and Chris earned his BS in business administration from NEU. As for Sean, he majored in criminal justice while Connor majored in biology from NEU. Griffin earned his BS in biology from Stonehill.

Family Fun

Peter and Lee like celebrating all the holidays. Lee decorates the mantle and the house for every holiday, including Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day.



Connor, Griffin, Chris, Lee Anne, Sean, Pete

To relax and unwind, Peter and Lee like spending time in their spacious backyard. They also like hiking (recently finishing the 48/4000 footers), biking, skiing, walking, and traveling. Favorite vacation spots include Costa Rica and Machu Picchu. Cruising Europe is another activity they both enjoy.

Closer to home, they like rooting for the Red Sox and Patriots. You can also find Peter and Lee frequenting their favorite restaurants, including BVI, Hanover Street ChopHouse, and Airport Diner. For a family dinner at home, swordfish on the grill and bacon-wrapped fillets on the grill always hit the spot.

We are honored to feature Peter M. Kujawski and Lee Anne Lyons in this month's issue. Be sure to say hello to them when you see them out and about. They would love to meet more friendly folks here in the neighborhood (and that means you!).



Would you like to nominate someone in the town to be featured? Reach out to us at bedfordlivingnh@gmail.com



Costa Rica, August 2021, L to R: Griffin Lyons, Sophia Zagami, Nick Cyprus, Linda Cyprus, Christina Coplon (Chris' fiancé), Chris Kujawski, Kendra Padfield, Sean Lyons, Lee Anne Lyons, Jacqueline LeBlanc, Pete Kujawski



L to R: Sean Lyons, Ashley Kujawski, Griffin Lyons, Jackie LeBlanc, Lee Anne Lyons, Peter Kujawski, Chris Kujawski, and Connor Lyons. Photo by Christina Green at Studio Christena's (https://www.studio-christenas.com/) (https://www.studio-christenas.com/)