



"DISTANCED BUT NOT ISOLATED"

Happy New Year!



The "All Things New" edition of the Fox Chapel Connection.

Neighborhood Spotlight

Kris Ahrens, The newest neighbor!

Kris was supposed to buy the house with the yard, then get the dog. But Covid happened.

His life had seemed to go along in a prescribed order.

His parents, Tom and Marilyn, moved from Minnesota around the country for Tom's sales career, and when it came time for children, they were to settle down and Kennesaw seemed the place. Tom saw the shipping business had good prospects and bought a Mailboxes Etc. franchise. With his older sister, Kirsten, Kris went through school there, Kennesaw Mountain High, and Kennesaw State, with a degree in Business Management.

Kris grew up playing baseball and was a pitcher throughout high school. He has good friends from his school days and they get together frequently - mostly around sporting events.

When he was four, Kris' mom was diagnosed with cancer and was told she had only four years to live. Marilyn was a fighter, proved the doctors wrong and lived to see both Kirsten and Kris through high school.

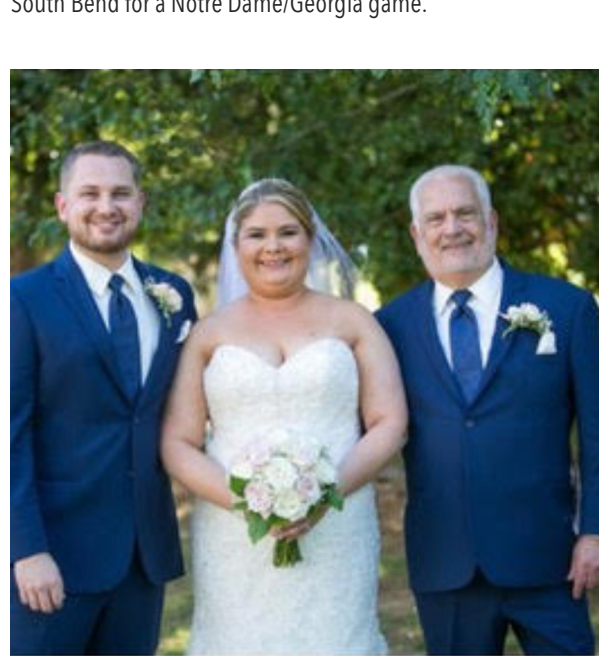
Tom had bought a UPS store at up and coming Paces Ferry Center in Vinings next to Publix; while at Kennesaw State Kris and Kirsten began working there with him and the family store came about.

What does he enjoy about his job? Working with family... Mostly! It's a small store and many of us in our neighborhood know Kris, Tom and Kirsten by sight. Kris enjoys the community and guesses he knows by name about 85% of mailbox holders.

With COVID, the government declared the business "Essential" and since March they have shipped "a ton" of supplies and enabled essential mail to get through. Christmas and post-holiday returns only magnified the amount of work. Tom is in the process of retiring and there are currently two other employees.

Tom introduced Kris to golf, his free-time passion. Since the mid-90's they have had "badges" which enable them to get tickets to the Masters. Kris also plays with friends at nearby courses.

Kris and Tom have had season tickets at SunTrust Park since it opened. The two have followed the Falcons and Bulldogs to games in Florida, to the 2016 Houston Super Bowl, and in 2017 to Chicago for a Cubs game, a Falcon/Bears game and to South Bend for a Notre Dame/Georgia game.



(Kris, Kirsten and Tom at Kristen's wedding in 2019)



(Kris getting ready to grill!)

Seldom does Kris get a long vacation, but he loves long weekends at Destin and Clearwater beaches - playing golf and enjoying fresh seafood and beers on the beach.

Post-college Kris has owned two townhomes, one in Kennesaw and one nearby in Smyrna. His plan was to buy a home with a fenced-in yard near the business and then get a dog.

Life is what happens when you make plans!

What is something while "Sheltering in Place" that's helping you get by?

Remy!! He's a "Quarantine Pup." I wanted to wait until I had a yard, but when the virus came, I really wanted a dog.

Remy is a hound-shepherd rescue pup now one year old. I got him at 3 months old. He and his brother had been abandoned on a farm in Alabama. People nearby have his brother and we get them together to play often. He's playful and friendly and great with kids. He and Tom are best friends, too.

What brought you to Fox Chapel?

I was ready for a house with a yard and so was Remy. He loves it. I found it myself online and asked a realtor to show it to me.

I did almost a complete renovation: new flooring, blinds, HVAC, appliances, fans. It's 4 1/2 months to work. I can have friends over to watch games. Tom is just one of the guys. In the spring I want to landscape the backyard. I like to grill and just treated myself to a Big Green Egg.

What do you do for fun in our area?

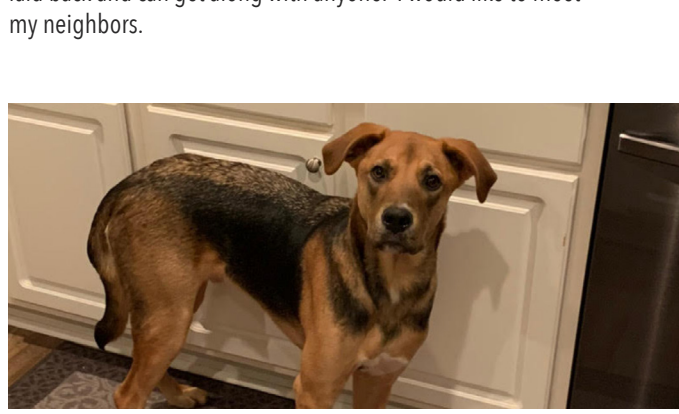
Golf and taking Remy out - Berger Dog Park in Smyrna is good. I'm looking forward to having a beer and enjoying the patio and backyard with friends.

Name a couple of restaurants you like:

I often call Uber Eats and order from Sushi Village and for Sunday brunch I like J. Christophers. I sit back and watch the NFL pre-game. Other favorite take-out spots are Padraics, Sports and Social and Olde Towne.

What would you like your neighbors to know about you?

I might seem shy until you get to know me but I am extremely laid back and can get along with anyone. I would like to meet my neighbors.



(Remy, Kris' new dog)



NEW RECIPE:

Baked Pasta, comfort food for our times

- 1 (16 ounce) box tubed pasta - ziti or penne
- 1 pound mild Italian bulk sausage
- 1/2 pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 3 cups prepared Marinara sauce
- 1 (16 ounce) package sliced mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions; drain.

Cook sausage, ground beef and onion in a large skillet over medium heat, stirring until meat crumbles. Drain mixture, and return to skillet.

Stir in Marinara Sauce and cooked pasta. Layer half of mixture and half of mozzarella cheese in a lightly greased 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking dish. Spoon remaining mixture over mozzarella cheese and cover with foil.

Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Remove foil; add remaining mozzarella cheese and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake 10 additional minutes without foil.

8 - 10 servings.



ENTERTAINMENT NEWS:

It's Out! NEWS OF THE WORLD, the film, now on a small screen near you.

Think you have too much news?

Text alerts, online newspapers, round-the-clock cable channels, Nextdoor app, Frontline tell-alls.

What if you were so hungry to know what was going on, you had to put on your best bib and tucker, hitch the team to the wagon, drive to the nearest town and pay a nickel to have someone read the news to you?

In Paulette Jiles' 2016 novel News of the World, Civil War veteran Capt. Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through Texas reading newspapers to eager audiences. He is pulled into a drama when he meets Johanna Leonberger, age 10, kidnapped 4 years earlier by Kiowa warriors who murdered her family. The tribe is tired of being harassed by the cavalry about her and sell her back to an Indian agent. When Kidd is offered a \$50 gold piece by the agent to take her from the only people she remembers to distant family she doesn't know, he resists, until his conscience moves him.

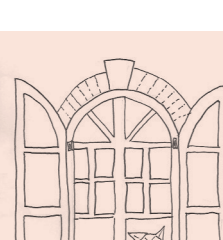
Now begins a harrowing and nearly disastrous journey and a shootout with bad guys so gripping you believe you are a part a movie instead of safe with a book.

As they travel, the Captain and Johanna slowly bond. The Kirkus' Review describes the book as "lyrical and affecting," and says that it "succeeds in skirting clichés through its empathy and through the depth of its major characters."

Now out on Prime Demand, the film stars Tom Hanks as the Captain and Helena Zengel as Johanna and was directed by Paul Greengrass.

Will the gunplay on film match the excitement in the book? Can the movie be as good as the book? Will the ending be the same?

As is said in the movie's trailer, this is a story of "men and women very much like you and me."



WANT TO MAKE A CHANGE?

Before starting an exterior home project, make sure you get it approved by the ACC. Simply fill out the form on the neighborhood website and submit it to the ACC.

For more information email FoxChapelHOAsecretary@gmail.com

HOA NEWS:

Annual meeting, HOA dues, and more.

Be sure to attend the virtual annual HOA meeting by Zoom January 21st at 7 pm. Jenny Seeley will be sending a Zoom invite soon.

Don't forget to remit payment for annual dues by 1/31/21 to avoid late fees. The total due is \$422.00. You can send checks to Wade Doss at 1852 or remit via Zelle (treasurer@foxchapelhoa.org).

Big thanks go out to Colin Law and Jeff Rountree for coming up with a new process to polish the brass on our mailboxes. We will learn more at our meeting.

Also, the dead end sign at the entrance was hit again despite the new street lights. Traci contacted Cobb County, and they are going to get better signage installed. In the meantime, please be careful in that area!

A fox was spotted at the entrance to the neighborhood recently. Please, be aware when you are walking or out with pets.



The HOA Team

**Meet the team that works hard behind the scenes to keep Fox Chapel great!
The board is always available for any questions and/or concerns.**

Traci Thomas - President TraciThomas2017@yahoo.com

Wade Doss - Treasurer Wade@Batesace.com

Jenny Seeley - Secretary FoxChapelHOAsecretary@gmail.com

Have something to share?

If you have something to share or want to suggest someone to be highlighted, reach out to FoxChapelHOAsecretary@gmail.com and you could be in the next Fox Chapel Connection!

