

BEAGLE CONSTRUCTION

A Place of Serenity in a Small Town

WRITER | MARY ANN HUMPHREY PHOTOS | KRISTIAN WALKER

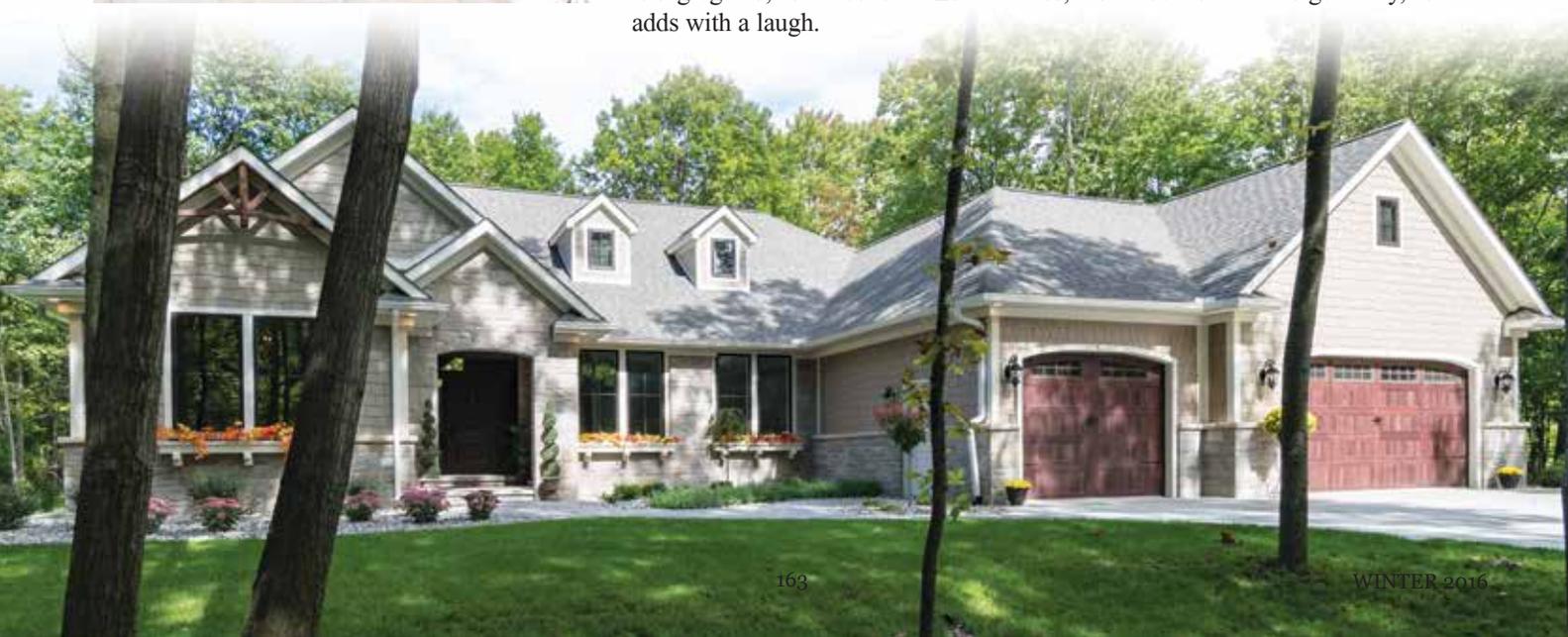


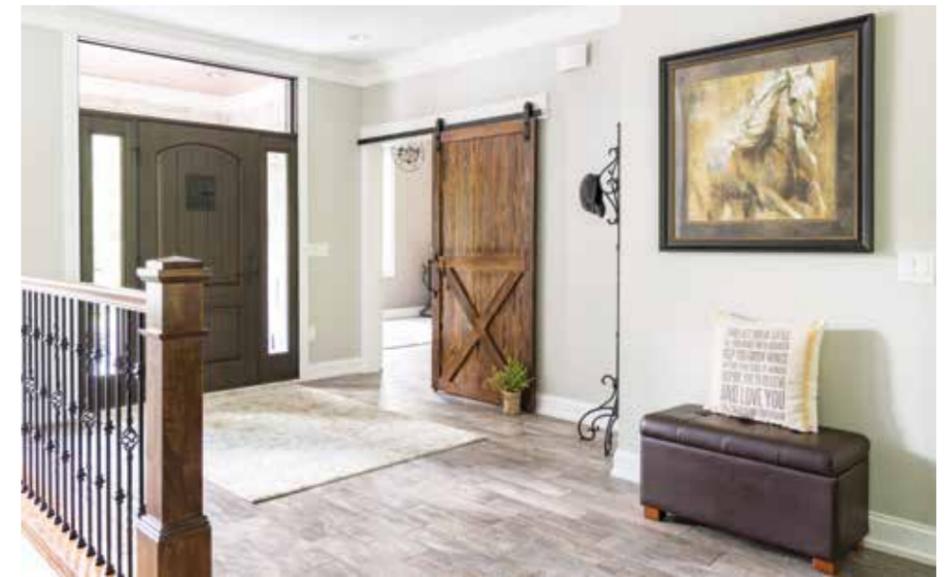
While many people dream of recreating their beloved childhood experiences, few are able to accomplish such a feat – but Nicole and Matthew Schultz did. They wanted their two and a half-year-old son to enjoy the kind of small-town, country living they had while growing up, so they engaged Beagle Construction to build their 4,320 square foot home on two wooded acres near the village of Hemlock, outside of Saginaw.

The home sits at the end of a hidden private drive, and while it's only two minutes from the grocery store, the surrounding trees create a serene oasis. "My husband and I grew up in the country making tree forts – our generation played outside until dark," says Nicole. "That's what we wanted to give to our son," she adds. As the office manager and interior consultant for Beagle Construction, she knew Tom Beagle was the right builder for the job. "We were able to incorporate many of the things Nicole liked best about the homes we've built into her home," Beagle says. "Every part of it is custom," he adds.

The couple's vision for their four bedrooms, three and a half-bath home included open-concept living— there are no walls between the kitchen, dining room, foyer, and great room of the French Country Craftsman-style house. "With the open floor plan, you can look from the kitchen through the huge dining room windows to the outdoors," Nicole says. This open concept is also important for the couple when entertaining friends and family. "Everybody is together, nobody is segregated," she added. "And with kids, it's harder for them to get away," she adds with a laugh.

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In the foyer, an ornate wrought iron staircase baluster complements the handmade sliding barn door leading to the private home office, which has an eclectic, vintage flair. “Every room has its own unique features,” Nicole says. “Each room has one thing that stands out from everything else.”

Chandeliers illuminate the kitchen’s 11-foot island topped with matte-finish leathered granite. “It’s fingerprint friendly; you can wipe it off, and it looks great,” says Nicole. Graceful white maple cabinets with soft-close doors made in Michigan from Pioneer Cabinetry add to the kitchen’s bright charm. Upgraded KitchenAid appliances and an enormous chef’s sink are perfect for Matthew, who loves to cook. “It’s such a big sink; you can wash kids and small dogs in it,” Nicole laughs. The stove’s backsplash is an all-natural stone with a basketweave accent. Glass shelves above the cabinets allow Nicole to change out her décor seasonally – in the fall, she likes pumpkins and gourds, and in the winter, she displays Dickens Village from Department 56. A large mud room off the kitchen offers plenty of storage with a custom cubby for each family member.

Porcelain tile floors throughout the entire first level have a rustic hand-scraped wood appearance. They are easy to clean, as well as pet and child-friendly. “The tile retains the nice look of a hardwood floor without the maintenance,” she notes.

Four large windows flood the master bedroom with natural light. “Anywhere you look in the room, you can see nature,” Nicole says, adding that a doe and her two fawns regularly visit. In the master bath, a large tub with a view

of the trees and the television creates a spa-like feel. The walk-in glass shower with its natural pebble stone floor features a Bluetooth-enabled LED mood lighting fan. “You can listen to music while taking a shower and the light changes, it’s very relaxing.”

On the fully finished lower level, the state-of-the-art, professional home theater room includes a wet bar with two refrigerators. Three tiers of seating, along with two couches, provide plenty of room for guests. “We like friends to come to watch the game or movies,” she says.

The great room features a commanding two-story gas fireplace constructed of “Bucks County” Southern ledgestone. Above the fireplace’s hand-scraped pine beam mantel, the television is recessed flush with the stone. Pine ceiling beams traverse the length of the room, and glass French doors lead out to the covered patio, which has a tongue-and-groove pine ceiling and a view of the woods. “At the end of the day, it’s a great place to unwind and enjoy all that nature has to offer,” Nicole says. It’s also where they can watch their son play in his own tree fort – just the experience they wanted for him, which Beagle Construction helped them achieve.

Beagle started the company at the age of 22, and his son and grandson work in the business with him. “We’re very hands-on,” he says. “Among the three of us, we’re at every job, every day. We’re very accessible.” Adding that he builds homes ranging from average prices to millions of dollars, and all receive the same craftsmanship and attention to detail. “Smarter building for better living is our philosophy,” he says. □



Smarter building for better living is our philosophy



Beagle Construction

PRINCIPAL OWNER: Thomas Beagle
ASSOCIATES: Scott Beagle, Gary Kowalski
OFFICE MANAGER: Nicole Schultz
YEARS IN BUSINESS: 41 business started in 1975

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