

If you know a family you would like to nominate, please email shelly@imagesaz.com.

Writer Lauren Strait
Photographer Jamie Pogue Photography



Big Apple Family Grows New Roots in Small Town

It's not often that you run into families residing in Cave Creek or Carefree who have lived here for as long as the Sheehans. For more than 20 years, James and Valerie Sheehan have been building custom dream homes and a foundation for their family and community.

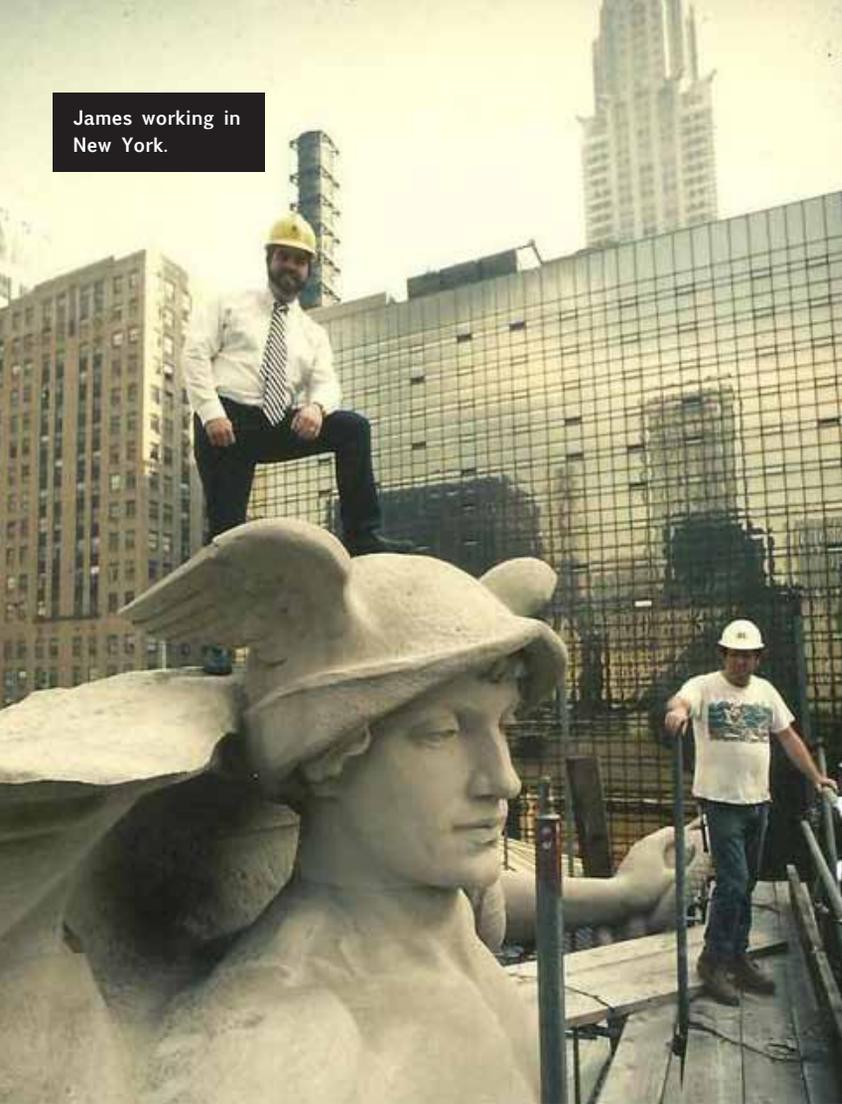
James took us back to where it all began – good old New York.

Uprooted

James met Valerie through his cousin. He lived a town over from her and were introduced to each other when they were mere teens. They began a friendship, but were not yet romantic. Valerie went off to college in another state, and James set off to Manhattan to begin his career in historical restoration and preservation of some of the most world-renowned landmarks.

“It wasn't until my parents decided to move a town over, right next door to Valerie's parents, when she and I started dating.”

James working in New York.



Two years after their courtship, James and Valerie were married.

“I married the girl next door,” said James. “I’m not sure many other people can say that.”

They lived in New Jersey and both commuted to New York each day for work. Valerie worked as a financial analyst for Dean Witter in Two World Trade Center. James regularly spent his lunch hours at Windows of the World, the restaurant on top of the World Trade Center building, admiring his craftsmanship of his latest skyscraper project. Little did they know they were about to be uprooted and embark on a whole new adventure.

New Roots

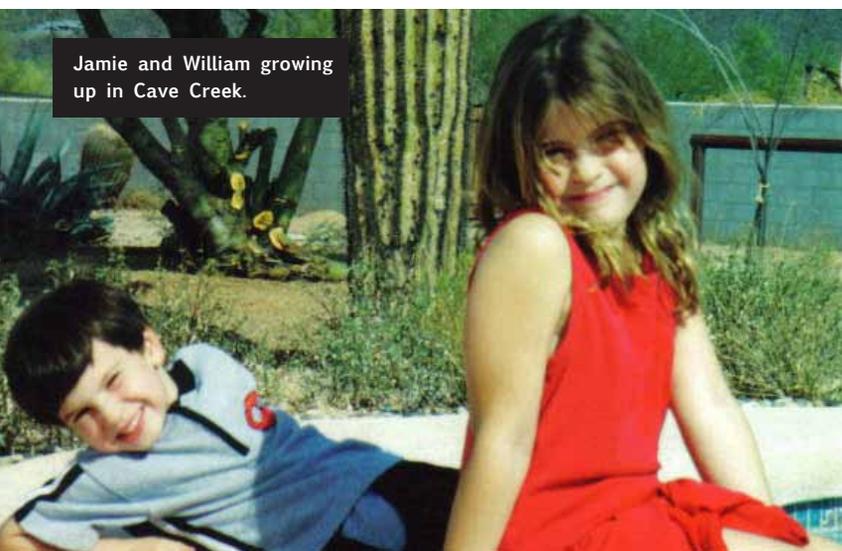
The Sheehan’s journey to Cave Creek began when James was asked to join his uncle’s business as a home builder.



“My uncle owned a successful general contractor business in New Jersey,” said James. “One of his clients bought some acreage behind Black Mountain and refused to let anyone but my uncle build his dream home.”

So, in 1980, the McKenzie brothers packed up their tools and headed out west to build dreams. James and Valerie joined them 16 years later. Their business took off and they have been building homes ever since.

Jamie and William growing up in Cave Creek.



“I’m proud to say I am one of the oldest home builders in Cave Creek and Carefree.”

After his uncle retired, James and his wife took over the business and expanded their portfolio of building custom luxury and masonry homes.

“One of our homes is anchored at the end of Spur Cross road, south of the horse stables,” said James. It’s a great example of James’ design and craftsmanship.

Planting Seeds

The Sheehan’s wasted no time building a family, and together brought daughter Jamie, now 20, and William, now 17 into the world.

“Cave Creek is their home,” said James. “My daughter is a go-getter like her dad. She just finished her second year at ASU. She is transferring to NAU to complete her degree in hotel and restaurant management. She currently works at Carefree Conference Resort and is in the process of obtaining her real estate license.”

The Sheehan’s son William is a current student at Cactus Shadows High School. William works on improving his golf game at Rancho Manana Golf Course, and is a member of the Cave Creek Boy Scout Troop 15.

“It has been most inspiring to see my son display his sense of community with a recent Eagle Scout project.”

In order to become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank of Boy Scouts, William had to complete a community service project. He decided he wanted to bring a sense

■ Commercial
 ■ Residential
 ■ Design
 ■ Construction
 ■ Maintenance
 ■ Irrigation
 ■ Certified Arborist

"For All That's Green" Inc.
 Custom Landscape Services for More Than 30 Years!
EARTH CARE

EarthCareAZ.com
480.488.2915
 f /EarthCareAZ

Res. ROC 100555 Com. ROC 136280

lorelei
 photography
 www.loreleiphotography.com
 602.795.0555

Mini Sessions available for a limited time this summer!

Get a head start on your Holiday Portraits and Senior Portraits with sessions and digital portraits starting at \$99!



of community by creating a monument for the Town of Cave Creek. According to his dad, it took William about a year to complete the process.

“I’ve never seen him work so hard,” said James. “He had to meet with town hall to get it approved. He held car wash fundraisers, built relationships with the local Kiwanis club for donations, wrote letters to local businesses for their support, and hit up friends and family for their volunteer time.”

Once the funds were raised he worked with Tyler

Green, a local architect, to create a design for the project.

“As a dad, I was amazed at what he accomplished. Not only will this be something the town can appreciate as a community, but it’s something my son can one day show his children what he contributed to his community.”

The monument currently sits on the east side of Cave Creek road right across the street from Rancho Manana Golf Course.

Tending to the Garden

After 25 years, James and Valerie seem to have figured out how to balance life, work and family very well. Not only do they manage McKenzie Brothers, but the Sheehan's also own a high-end outdoor furniture boutique called Carefree Outdoor Living.

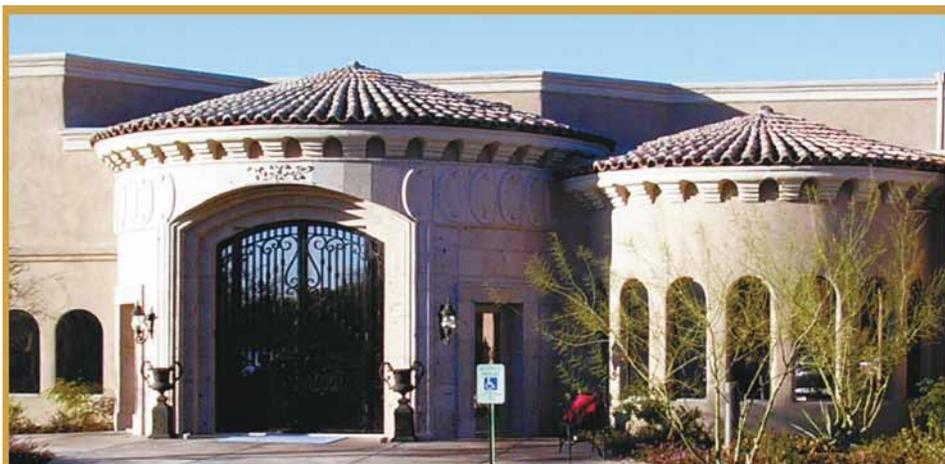
"It's fantastic working with her," said James. "But I don't think every married couple could do it."

"I am the hands-on guy who runs around 12 hours a day in the field, and she handles the finances, contracts and operations. We complement each other and it works best that way."

When the Sheehan's are not working, you will find them enjoying meals together around the dinner table each night, splashing around in their pool, entertaining their friends and checking out the local lakes.

If you see a 1935 Chevy or 1941 Willys rolling up next to you on a Saturday morning, it's probably them, making their way to the local coffee shop to meet up with the local classic car club.

"The bottom line is that we enjoy being able to live and work in a town with such a sense of community," said James. "We are proud to be a part of history in this town."



THE HERITAGE
at Carefree

Discover
Luxury, Elegance
and Comfort in
Retirement Living

480.488.1622
www.heritagecarefree.com
(On Pima, South of Cave Creek Rd.)

Enjoy the Continuum of Care Through our Independent, Assisted, Memory/Alzheimer and Nursing Services

Be Enticed by our Delicious Meals and Customized Daily Menus

Discover Accommodating Apartments with Beautiful Views

Explore Activity Programs, Special Events and Tours

Benefit from the Wellness Programs of Nursing, Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapies

Hourly and Daily Care Available for your Loved One

36590 North Pima Road, #3481 / Carefree, AZ 85377
Email: heritageseniorliving@gmail.com

Considering...
BOTOX, RESTYLANE OR FACE LIFT?

REVITALIZE YOUR SKIN WITH COLLAGEN INDUCTION THERAPY

The benefits of collagen induction therapy are a reduction in the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, younger-looking skin with fewer signs of aging. Using the Eclipse Micropen™ also has a positive effect on hyper-pigmentation as well as on hypo-pigmentation, acne scars, traumatic scars and stretch marks and generally creates a fresher appearance or glow to the skin.

\$25 OFF
your first treatment
or facial
*Expires August 31, 2014

Skincare by Stephanie
Call for an appointment 602.326.0928
Desert Foothills Medical Center
36889 Tom Darlington Drive
Carefree, AZ 85377
Medical Esthetics • Laser Treatments • Specializing in Dermaplaning
Chemical Peels • Collagen Induction Therapy • Beauty Alliance Products