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GREETINGS

- JOHN KLEMISH, THE GREENBRIER SPORTING CLUB BROKER IN CHARGE -

e are entering one of my favorite times of the year at The Greenbrier Sporting Club, as spring has come to The Greenbrier Valley. The trees on Greenbrier Mountain and Kate's Mountain are returning to green. Tulips and daffodils and pansies are providing bursts of color throughout the property and the action on The Snead and the Ashford courses is beginning to heat up.

There's a new buzz around The Lodge, as many of our members are returning for the season. We enjoyed having many members stay with us longer than normal this year, and we hope that's a trend that will continue. But there's always an extra energy in the air during the spring and summer months, and I'm always thrilled when it returns.

As we slowly begin to transition back to "normal" after the unprecedented events of the last year, there's still a renewed interest in what all of us know is the perfect place to experience "Life As Few Know It." The return of the warm weather serves as a reminder of the incredible outdoor activities available right in our own back yard, a chance to breathe in the fresh mountain air while enjoying time with the ones you love.

Record numbers of guests visiting The Greenbrier also send a clear message of how lucky we are to have the beauty and the amenities of a world-class resort right at our fingertips.

As West Virginia celebrates the 50th anniversary of its favorite song, "Take Me Home,



Country Roads" I realize more than ever that the messages contained in the lyrics of that John Denver tune couldn't be more accurate. West Virginia is a wonderful place to call home, and The Greenbrier Sporting Club truly is "Almost Heaven" to its members.

Discover why so many new members are making the decision to experience life at The Greenbrier by scheduling your tour today. I can't wait to show you around.

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Country ROADS

n April 12, 1971, John Denver released "Take Me Home, Country Roads" on his album "Poems, Prayers and Promises." Fifty years later, the song still echoes off the mountains and through the valleys throughout the state of West Virginia at sporting events, festivals, reunions and backyard cookouts as an official state song. It's ironic, then, that as the hit song celebrates 50 years and more than 1.6 million copies sold, many are discovering exactly why West Virginia is "Almost Heaven" and establishing their own "home far away" for the first time.

"Take Me Home, Country Roads," which has also been recorded by Olivia Newton-John, Ray Charles, Roy Acuff, Hermes House Band and many others, paints the picture of West Virginia's scenic mountains and valleys, a simple, timeless way of life and the sense of home that can be found among the hills. That, said John Klemish, Broker In-Charge at The Greenbrier Sporting Club, is exactly what is drawing new homeowners to West Virginia. "All the activities we have here, the beauty of the mountains and the history of The Greenbrier are hard to pass up," said Klemish. "We have seen it all here." While the world continues to process the way life has changed over the last year, a peaceful, secluded way of life, like the one that can be found at The Greenbrier Sporting Club, is more appealing than ever before.

"People feel safe here," said Klemish, explaining that home sales were up 167 percent in 2020. "It's a friendly community, and it allows them to get away from the cities and enjoy what nature has to offer."

And enjoying that nature, far away from the glimmer of even the smallest city lights, is as easy as getting in the car. Denver's song, inspired by the enduring beauty of the state, recognizes that taking in all this scenic glory from the road is every bit as classically West Virginian as wandering the mountains on foot.

To enjoy the same scenic beauty, hop in the car, let the radio remind you, and head for these country roads:







Left: Farm Heritage Road Photo by Sheena Pendley





To enjoy the same scenic beauty, hop in the car, let the radio remind you, and head for these country roads:

Highland Scenic Highway

Stretching through Nicholas and Pocahontas Counties, the Highland Scenic Highway includes state routes 55, 39, and 150 between Richwood and the edge of the Monongahela National Forest north of Marlinton, skirting the Cranberry Wilderness. Allow at least two hours to cruise the 43-mile highway, or take as long as overnight and make use of the multiple campgrounds accessible in the lofty hardwood forest.

Farm Heritage Road Scenic Byway

The Farm Heritage Road rolls through sloping farmland and showcases rural life in Monroe County on routes 12, 122, 219, and 3 from Peterstown east to the state line at Sweet Springs. Winding into the county seat at Union and through unincorporated Salt Sulphur Springs, Gap Mills, and more, the byway will take you by farmland preserved by continued use, and small resorts every bit as stately and historic as The Greenbrier, where people came to meet the restorative embrace of the Mountain Mama herself. At just over 59 miles, leave an hour and a half to travel the byway – and extra time to stop in Gap Mills and browse the locally famous Cheese n' More store!

TAKING IN ALL THIS SCENIC GLORY FROM THE ROAD IS EVERY BIT AS CLASSICALLY WEST VIRGINIAN AS WANDERING THE MOUNTAINS ON FOOT.

Skyline Drive

While it doesn't cross into West Virginia, Skyline Drive showcases the extent of Denver's lauded Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah River, coursing through the national park named for the waters just over the state line. And with plenty of state routes accessible from more major highways and interstate stretches, getting to the drive – or finding a scenic route to the scenic route – is half the fun.





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WHEN THE SAINTS COME NARCHING IN:

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS' HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON AND FIANCÉE SKYLENE MONTGOMERY TELL US WHAT THEY LOVE ABOUT LIFE AT THE GREENBRIER SPOORTING CLUB

Above: Photo by Olivia Grey Pritchard

hough the New Orleans Saints have yet to return to West Virginia for training camp, head coach Sean Payton has certainly found a home away from home at The Greenbrier Sporting Club.

An established New Orleans resident, Payton found himself in West Virginia beginning in 2014, when the Saints held training sessions at The Greenbrier, taking advantage of the weather, the climate, and the resort's Sports Performance Center. Though the Saints only came marching in for a few seasons, Payton made a more permanent place for himself, and is loving his time spent in West Virginia.

"The Saints practiced there for three years," Payton says, "and shortly after, I became a Sporting Club member."

The area turned out to be good for more than just football – "the thing that stands out to me is certainly the facilities and the golf," Payton says. "I mean, it's outstanding. And the weather, especially when we come in the summertime, is fantastic."

West Virginia's mountain summers certainly present a contrast to those in humid New Orleans.

Part of the drive to bring the Saints to West Virginia was the weather. The weather here is forgiving enough to push training a little harder, and gloriously sunny in a way that encourages residents (and visiting football players) to get out and enjoy the natural mountain playground, as well as the activities presented at the resort and The Sporting Club.

But, what really stands out for the Saints head coach is the same thing that makes West Virginia home to so many others, whether they were born here or, like Payton, found their way later.

"Most importantly," Payton would say, "are the people and the hospitality. We always have a great experience when we go back there, sometimes during the holidays, like Fourth of July weekend, and then other times of the year. But the hospitality has always been great. The people in West Virginia have been warm, friendly."

That hospitality is what natives and transplants alike love about West Virginia. It's what The Sporting Club prides itself on bringing to its members, what the people who live here share in spades with those they meet, and what towns in the Greenbrier Valley strive to provide for anyone who visits or moves here.

And of course, "The golf is outstanding," Payton emphasizes, noting the resort's four championship golf courses and the newest addition, The Ashford Short Course.

Payton's fiancée, Skylene Montgomery, a West Virginia native herself, also knows very well just how special the state is.



"I always love our trips to the Greenbrier," says Montgomery, "and coming back to West Virginia gives us the opportunity to visit with our friends and family who still call the Mountain State home."

Raised just a few hours away in Mineral Wells, West Virginia, Montgomery says her trips to The Greenbrier are a homecoming of sorts. The resort provides the perfect setting to relax and catch up.

"I always enjoy getting in a round or two of golf with my dad. Sean and I have made many wonderful memories over the years there. Between some great 4th of July weekends and delicious meals shared with friends, we've had a lot of fantastic visits.

"What I have always loved most is that there's never a shortage of things to do," she continues. "Whether you want to relax at the spa, play tennis or experience something like falconry, there's a long list of things to enjoy. The Greenbrier is a very special place and I always look forward to our time there."

As a Sporting Club member and property owner, Sean and Skylene's opportunity to get in on all the facilities, activities, and amenities they enjoy here in West Virginia is now as simple as coming home among the hills.



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Hore Colorer of the greenbrier

If you've visited The Greenbrier in the past, you probably know a little something about the food. With a history that includes many top-level chefs and legendary dishes, the cuisine at America's Resort is almost as well-known as the waters. But what is on the plate is just part of the overall dining experience. What about the plate itself?

"It's extremely important, especially this day and age," said The Greenbrier Executive Chef Bryan Skelding. "It's the canvas for our food. I don't care for plates that are just plain. You don't want to have too much going on, but you want to have enough to make it eye appealing.

"To me, it's just as important as the food. People eat with their eyes. If it looks good when placed in front of them, and then the first bite is seasoned properly and at the correct temperature, they are usually going to be happy."

While many modern chefs thrive on a blank canvas with solid colored plates, you don't often find that look at America's Resort. Each dining outlet around The Greenbrier features its own china, and no two styles are anything alike. Whether it's the Dorothy Draper-inspired rhododendron pattern found in the Main Dining Room or the Prime 44 china adorned with a Jerry West logo, you know where you're dining before the food ever hits the plate.

"It adds to the whole dining experience and the whole Greenbrier experience," Skelding explained.

The china at The Greenbrier has to look

different than what guests will find on their travels anywhere else, and that means a departure from "the norm." If that means pink china or gold rims, which would make some chefs cringe, that's just fine with Skelding.

> "This is The Greenbrier," he said, overflowing with pride. "This is exactly what should be in the Main Dining Room. We are unique, one of one, and our style is our brand.

> > "I'm a Greenbrier chef, so I love all this stuff."

Skelding is not alone. Do a simple search on eBay, peruse through antique stores across the South or type in Greenbrier china into the search bar on Google, and you'll find an almost endless stream of buyers and sellers exchanging Greenbrier china. Recreations of the china are so popular in the resort retail stores, it's difficult to keep it on the shelves. There are multiple blogs where collectors share their Greenbrier china collections. Skelding even has his own collection in his personal dining room, complete with a rare plate that he hasn't seen in other collections. The plate, which his wife found at an antique shop and purchased for \$50 — a steal in Skelding's eyes — was used on the train that transported guests to and from The Greenbrier from Washington, D.C. It features the iconic "Greenbrier G" repeated on the rim all the way around the plate.

> "It's in my dining room with some plates that mean a lot to me," said Skelding. "And it's right in the middle."

As much as the china has been studied and collected, it's still virtually impossible to document everything The Greenbrier has used in its dining establishments through the years. The Greenbrier's historian, Dr. Robert Conte, has seen pictures of what was used at The Grand Central Hotel, the first hotel, affectionately known as "The White," that stood on property from 1858 until 1922. It was a simple white design with "The White" in green script.





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From the time the current hotel opened in 1913 until the property was converted into Ashford General Hospital in 1942, the dining room used the same pattern with floral around the rim and a crest with GH in the middle. But when The Greenbrier was "Draperized" by renowned interior decorator Dorothy Draper after the war to reopen as a hotel in 1948, the china was a small part of the grand plan.

> That's when pinks, greens and rhododendrons were introduced to the mix. Conte remembered a story he's been told of the preparations for the reopening when a maître d' was asked if there was a certain way the plate should be placed on the table. The gentleman took a look at the rhododendron at the center of the plate and pronounced, "the three little leaves shall always face the diner."

"That became the No. 1 rule," said Conte. "If you looked around the dining room, those 'three little leaves' always faced the diner."

As more and more dining outlets opened throughout the resort and the Main Dining Room became just one of many dining options, various patterns appeared in various outlets. Draper's Café had its own, Sam Snead's at the Golf

> Club had its own and newer outlets such as The Forum and Prime 44 also ordered china to fit the restaurant.

> > "It starts with Carleton," said Skelding, referring to Carleton Varney, Dorothy Draper's protégé, who is now the president and owner of Dorothy Draper & Company, which still decorates America's Resort 75 years after Draper first arrived by train to view the property. "He's the one that should and does know what fits best in the outlet. It has to make sense from his point of view."

Once Varney and the food and beverage team decide on a look, it's off to a company to produce that look. Several companies have been used over the years. Dr. Conte named Shenango China and Buffalo China as manufacturers that have shown up in his research, and Chief Executive Steward Dan Tatgenhorst, who now takes an active role in ordering the needed china, named Pickard and a few others. Most of what you will find around America's Resort, though, came from Newell, West Virginia, where The Homer Laughlin China Company produced some of the finest products around.

"It's made in West Virginia by West Virginians," said Skelding. "The quality is just phenomenal. I haven't seen any other china hold up like this as long as I've been cooking. It's just such a great product."

Established in 1871 in East Liverpool, Ohio, by brothers Shakespeare and Homer Laughlin, the company opened a factory in Newell in 1903, and, by the late 1920s, all production had moved to that facility and it was advertised as the largest pottery company in the world. In 1948, the company produced 10,129,449 dishes, so it made sense for The Greenbrier to order from its own backyard. Much of that china is still around.

"It will last until you drop it and break it," said Tatgenhorst. "There's a quality to Homer Laughlin. It's extremely heavy china. We poke fun and say you can throw it off the second floor of a building, and it's just going to bounce. Sometimes it would."

Lam Leads

With that type of quality, as well as the home state connection, The Greenbrier has ordered everything possible from Homer Laughlin. Interestingly, in 2020, the food service division of Homer Laughlin China Company was acquired by Steelite International, a British tableware manufacturer, bringing about the end of an era.

"The name's not going to go away," said Tatgenhorst, explaining that America's Resort has continued to work with the new company. "You're going to have Homer Laughlin around for a while. It's just going to be different."

In addition to the china used in each of the outlets, The Greenbrier also has some unique china used for special occasions. The Gold Service china dates back to 1956 and is used for the highest level of service and the most elegant dinners.

"I love the gold service china," said Skelding, calling that collection his favorite. "We have the gold forks. We have all gold china, all gold flatware and all gold stemware. It's just awesome. It screams class."

Another unique collection is the Van Buren china, used in the Colonnade Estate Home, a favorite meeting spot for foreign dignitaries, presidents and aristocrats over the years. The home, which overlooks The Greenbrier property, was once owned by Richard Singleton. Singleton's daughter, Angelica, married Abraham Van Buren, the son of Martin Van Buren, the eighth President of the United States. Because President Van Buren's wife, Hannah Van Buren, had died and he never remarried, Angelica filled the role of First Lady during her fatherin-law's presidency. Van Buren visited The Greenbrier and the Colonnade Estate Home on multiple occasions, and The Greenbrier purchased a set of china from

Woodmere China in New Castle, Pennsylvania, that was a recreation of Van Buren's White House China to honor that history. It is used only for dinners inside the Colonnade Estate Home.

> Another set of china used during special occasions is a white set with a gold Springhouse logo. This china dates back to a party thrown by Greenbrier County coal operator and philanthropist Lawson Hamilton and his family. Regular visitors to The Greenbrier, the Hamilton family hosted a large party almost every winter for family and friends, and during this particular party, the theme called for white china, instead of the colorful Dorothy Draper look. So, Hamilton purchased the china that he wanted and gave it to The Greenbrier. It's still used today for various functions.

"There's different menus that work with different china," said Skelding. "It just depends on what people are looking for."

What Skelding and the food and beverage staff look for is china that holds up to the demands placed on it at a busy resort like The Greenbrier, and they've been successful in that endeavor. The china used in Draper's Café dates back to 2010 and still looks new. The Main Dining Room china was purchased in 2013 and still sparkles. The newest china on property was ordered this year to replace the original china from Prime 44 West, which opened in 2009. A piece here and there may have to be replaced along the way, but for the most part, the china has a long shelf life, and even after it's replaced, it's rarely discarded.

Alexan Tuen

WE ++ MEEL S DRING

"Some companies will do a buyback, but a lot of times we hold onto it as much as we possibly can," said Tatgenhorst. "There may be a specialty dinner that we want to use it for. "Some of the historic china here on property, we just can't get it anymore. So, we have to hold onto it."

The next time you're dining at The Greenbrier, take just a second before your fork digs into the Lobster Mashed Potatoes, your knife cuts into The Sam Snead steak or your spoon scoops up the first bite of bread pudding, to admire the china, which is unlike anything you will find away from America's Resort.


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AT THE GREENBRIER

Resort living at The Greenbrier Sporting Club truly is life as few know it. Members live in gorgeous, varied neighborhoods across the club's more than 11,000 acres, ranging from vibrant energy nearest The Greenbrier and The Sporting Club to sweeping mountain views atop the ridges.

Members can choose to live on the fairway, on the banks of Howard's Creek, or at different elevations on Greenbrier Mountain, but no matter where you choose, The Sporting Club is a retreat and a home where your family can connect with each other and the outdoors.

Maybe you're an avid golfer — plots that front on the lush greens of one of the Club's four championship golf courses may be for you. Perhaps you'd like to be slightly removed from the comings and goings of the Lodge and The Greenbrier, but not all the way up at The Summit's 3,300 feet; The Ridges neighborhood offers the best of both, set halfway between the two.

John Klemish, the broker in charge of real estate at The Sporting Club, was tasked in 2000 with masterplanning what was to become known as The Greenbrier Sporting Club, and in that time, through expansions in both membership and home sites, Klemish says he still "marvels at the natural beauty





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and vast possibilities families have to build or buy their dream homes here in majestic, wild and wonderful West Virginia."

The Sporting Club contains nineteen neighborhoods, each suiting members' individual preferences and speaking to unique tastes in style. Closer to the hotel, homes are more Georgian, to match the classic, historical sensibilities of The Greenbrier, while homes in the mountains tend more toward modern structures of stone and timber. An Architectural Review Board ensures that homes speak in harmony with their surroundings, providing each neighborhood with a unified aesthetic that speaks to each homeowner.

Of course, The Sporting Club has expanded, too, offering more choices for homeowners. In good news for golf fans, new home sites situated along The Old White Course and The Meadows opened in 2017. The Willows neighborhood overlooks the 15th, 16th, and 17th fairways of the Old White, and Shawnee Corner is settled along the 3rd fairway at The Meadows, both courses having been restored in the past few years.

But no matter which neighborhood a family chooses to call home, Klemish says, there is one thing they all have in common. "Those of us that live here are proud to say we live in the lap of luxury at The Greenbrier, America's Resort for over 243 years."

Klemish also provides a rapid-fire breakdown of each of the neighborhoods available to homeowners at The Sporting Club:

Those wanting to live "in town" and near The Greenbrier and all of her amenities might consider Copeland Hill Cottages, Reservoir Hill, and Springhouse Cottages, all three featuring classic home designs in proximity to the historic hotel.

For those wanting a more mountain look, with emphasis on timber and stone, and those keen to split the difference between living as if in the

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mountains and being able to walk to the hotel, Klemish says he would recommend White Sulphur Hill and Traveller's Hill.

If families prefer more of a neighborhood feeling, The Sporting Club offers Howard's Creek, Fairway Cottages and Creekside Cottages, as well as The Lodge Cottages, which surround the private members-only amenities, just west of The Greenbrier.

For golf aficionados (or golf enthusiasts in the making), The Club offers The Willows, Meadows, Ashford, Shawnee Corner, and Snead neighborhoods. Many of these sites offer not only golf vistas but also prime trout fishing in Howard's Creek—right out the back door.

Finally, The Sporting Club puts forth the vast mountain estates known as The Ridges, Oak Hollow, and Summit Village. In the heart of the mountains, sites run up to 13 plus acres with views that extend over 10 miles across the hills and peaks of the Allegheny Mountains.

For members Marty and Alison Butler, whose home overlooks The Old White, The Sporting Club offered a "dream come true" second home, where they could retreat from Cleveland after only a short five-hour drive.

"We visited the resort a couple times per year for a few years and fell in love with the beautiful surroundings and the great people," the Butlers said. "We were excited about The Sporting Club, and it has exceeded our expectations. The entire team does an amazing job making us feel at home."

The Butlers chose to make their home near the resort and the golf courses for many reasons—proximity to amenities like the pool, putting green, and driving range that appeal to both the Butlers and their teenaged daughters, as well a quick 15-minute walk to The Lodge.

"We had never thought about living on a golf course," the Butlers said, "but we thoroughly enjoy seeing the golfers come through The Old White—with horses and carriages in the view behind them.

The nearness to the course even inspired their daughters to take up golf, with some help from The Sporting Club's instructors after a couple of rounds played at the Ashford, "which was a blast for the whole family!"

Downtown White Sulphur Springs is downright delicious.



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"Wer really enjoy-living in the heart of it all."

"We really enjoy living in the heart of it all," the Butlers say of their home.

Conversely, Jason and Tenille Adkins of Kansas City, Missouri sya the views and privacy of the mountain drew them particularly to the Summit.

"We chose The Summit for is proximity to The Summit's dining, pool, and recreational facilities. We love seeing woldlife and r=their friends have a blast exploring the mountain. It really is the best of both worlds up here—close to The Greenbrier and all it offers, but also off on its own, provioding privacy and magnificent views."

Klemish says he often tells members as they tour The Sporting Club that, "certainly one of the 15 different neighborhoods will check all of your boxes."

The Greenbrier has played host to some of the world's most influential people—and now, you have the chance to join that legacy when purchasing a home at The Greenbrier Sporting Club.





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JOHN KLEMISH, Broker in Charge 855-494-1076





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JOHN KLEMISH, Broker in Charge 855-494-1076



























JOHN KLEMISH, Broker in Charge 855-494-1076





\$1,495,000 | Copeland Hill 31 | 2,700 Sq. Ft.





\$1,100,000 | Creekside Cottage 344 | 2,419 Sq. Ft.



















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\$2,895,000 | Greenbrier Summit Village 1 | 4,272 Sq. Ft.



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t takes an enormous amount of time and talent from a very large group of people to provide all those dining experiences at The Greenbrier. Here is the entire Culinary Brigade gathered together on August 30, 1973. In the foreground are (L to R) Executive Chef Hermann Rusch, Greenbrier President Truman Wright and Resident Manager Wes Keenan. A huge 5 foot by 5 foot enlargement of this photograph hangs in The Greenbrier's kitchen today.

> Dr. Robert S. Conte Historian The Greenbrier



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