

Fernwood Creek TECHNOLOGY

sponsor spotlight

Where did you grow up? How long have you lived in the area? Tell us about your family.

I was born in Pittsburgh. At the age of nine, my dad got a job in San Francisco, and my mom, brother Tim (age 4 at the time) and I flew to the small town of Moraga, 20 miles east the city. Long story short, I moved to the Los Angeles area 10 years later, went to college, got married and had two beautiful daughters, Autumn (37) and Faryl (32). I got divorced several years ago and moved to West Virginia for a quieter life near my brother. I bought a home in South Hills in 2015. Then, I married a wonderful Southern belle from Sissonville, Janice, and we live happily in our home in South Hills, overlooking the Kanawha Valley. You can read about it in the April 2018 issue of *South Hills Living*!

Tell us about the events that led up to where you are now (i.e. education, career path).

I was working for my dad in the '80s at his software firm in the Los Angeles area, mostly experimenting with emerging computer networking technologies. In 1987, he decided to move my mom and himself to Arusha, Tanzania, Africa to work as missionaries for The Holy Ghost Fathers. Not wanting to move to Texas with the company, my father gave me seed money to start what is now known as Fernwood Creek Technology. I moved to Charleston in February 2014 to start a new life and moved my business with me.

What is your business, and how/why did you start your business?

Being around computers all my life, it was a natural fit to eventually become an IT advisor. I had a client base of nearly 200 in California. I still maintain some of my clients on the West Coast and have added an additional 50 local clients since I moved to West Virginia. Technology can be scary and stressful for some, and fixes need to be immediate. I take pride in providing a personal approach and prompt attention to all of my clients. I also provide discounted rates to nonprofit organizations. No job is too small.

What is unique about your business (what sets you apart from the rest)?

"What does an IT advisor do?" you may ask; well ... I make sure all your computers play nice with your printers. I make sure that you can access the files you need when you need them. I make sure others don't access the files they shouldn't. I make sure you are protected from outside threats as well as inside ones. I get to know you and what your priorities are. I tailor your IT world to work with you, minimizing any learning curve so you can do what you love to do.



John Saar



John and Janis Saar at the air show



Configuring private school iPads

Given your business expertise and the nature of what you do, what advice (whether general or specific) can you offer to the residents?

I can offer the businesses of our community a smooth-running IT network and fast and affordable service with over 30 years of IT business experience. I offer businesses an organized and smooth transition or upstart of their business IT network, should they need it, as well as maintain their current one. I like to get to know my clients and find out what is important to them. I then develop a work plan for their technology needs and provide prompt follow-up via on-site and/or telephone problem-solving support. My goal is to provide secure, dependable technology maintenance so that business owners can concentrate on their business. My job is to make your job easier.

What else we should know about you, your family, or your business?

I have worked for major banks and corporations as well as scores of small businesses, making sure they run as efficiently as possible. I keep detailed records on all my clients and share with you my "cheat sheet," which has anything an IT guy would need to know in case I get hit by a truck or win the lottery.

Fernwood Creek

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