



Searching For That Place To Call Your Home Town

For one young family, Barnesville seems to be the place they are considering to set down roots. The Nick and Sara Kjos family moved to Barnesville in April of 2019 from Sabin.

They have lived in Moorhead, Fargo, and even a year in Wisconsin before choosing Barnesville. After buying and flipping a few houses, the couple finds themselves in an updated home, but they still have visions of improvements they would like to do to their current home.

Nick grew up by Hitterdal and Sara is from Freedom, Wisconsin. The two met when Sara came to spend time with her dad who lived in Fargo. Spending most of their relationship in the F-M area, they choose to move to Wisconsin early in their relationship to be close to the remainder of Sara's family. After one year there, the two decided to move back to the F-M area.

The first home in Moorhead the couple bought definitely needed updates, so they got to work. With each house purchase, the couple has been able to make improvements after tearing things apart and rebuilding them.

Now that they have two sons, three-year-old Axton and one-year-old Owen, along with multiple pets, they were looking for a community that offered small class sizes for when the boys start school, access to parks and different activities for families to become involved in. Barnesville seemed to check off these items on their wish list.

After being residents of the city over the last 11 months, they have experienced the Barnesville community picnic, the Clay County



Nick and Sara Kjos chose to relocate their family to Barnesville in 2019. The couple are proud parents of sons Axton and Owen. Missing from the picture are their two cats and two dogs which are intricate parts of their family.

Fair and Potato Days. With their new home located a block from the high school, they enjoy being able to walk to these local events and bring the kids has reinforced their decision of moving to Barnesville.

Both work in Fargo, Nick as a warehouse manager for Aldevron, a bio-tech company and Sara is a supervisor of business applications and testing at Noridian.

The boys attend daycare at the Barnesville Day Care Center. Being able to drop the kids off before getting on the road and driving with them to Fargo every day had benefits that the family was excited to take advantage of. The boys have adjusted to their new environment, along with dogs Moxxi and Bailey, and cats Ziva and Boo Radley.

Empty Nesters Finding Their Middle Ground

Working from home has its advantages, but there is something to be said about the camaraderie of working side by side with fellow employees.

When Rick and Susan Pautzke started contemplating moving from their rural home near Atwater, MN, one option that came up was for Susan to be able to set foot most days in the office of her employer Stone Ridge Software of Barnesville.

After working remotely for three years and considering a move to be more centrally located between their two children, Barnesville became their destination.

The couple looked at a few other locations, knowing that she would still have the option to work from home. Once they decided on Barnesville, the task of searching for a house began. The home they purchased was previously owned by Richard and the late Andrea (Norby) Sylvester, in the Peterson/Haugrud Addition.

One of the transitions was going to be living within city limits. Rick and Susan liked their rural setting, but knew the change would be a new adventure.

Rick was able to find work driving truck for Riley's Transfer out of Fargo. He went from being an over-the-road driver to one that is home every night.

Since the move over the summer of 2019, they were able to enjoy a few of the local activities such as



After living rural for many years, Rick and Susan Pautzke, along with their rescue dog Nala, have discovered living in town to have its pluses and minuses.

Potato Days and the community picnic. They look forward to being able to walk over to the Clay County Fair this summer as they were out of town during the event last year.

Living in Barnesville has put the couple on the map directly between their two adult children and a few hours closer to their three grandchildren in Thief River Falls. Being able to see their granddaughter dance in Fargo in February was one example of the opportunities

Barnesville has given them.

The Pautzkes enjoy traveling. Each winter they take a trip to someplace warm with extended family members. Last fall they were able to attend the Vikings game in Dallas with a large family group.

The couple also enjoys time with their eight-year-old dog Nala, who they rescued three years ago. Nala has become this friendly, loving dog that enjoys her family.

Looking For A Small Town Feel, Mission Accomplished

After spending almost a year searching to buy a house, Connor and Raina Brown chose their current home in Barnesville. Hoping to find something before their daughter was born, they were able to move in just a month before her arrival.

The couple's daughter Paislee is a happy 15 month old toddler who enjoys being outside in the family's yard, going for walks and visiting with others.

The Browns, each growing up in a small town, wanted the same environment to start their family. Raina is from Kindred, ND and Connor grew up in Pembina, ND. They lived in Fargo for five years before the move.

Currently, the small family is extremely busy as they are both going different directions on a daily basis. Connor works in Fargo as a payload operator for Insurance Auto Auctions.

As for Raina, she is currently enrolled at M-State, Detroit Lakes



Connor and Raina Brown, pictured above, moved to Barnesville in late 2018. Their daughter Paislee was born only one month after the big move.

in the RN program. Previously, she earned her LPN licensure at North Dakota College Of Science, Wahpeton. She takes her daughter to daycare in Fargo and then drives to Detroit Lakes for school. In her spare time she also works.

The couple is enjoying their time in Barnesville. They attended a few events at Potato Days, being especially fond of the food court.

Looking forward to summer, the small family goes for walks quite often, plus anticipating on taking Paislee to McGrath Park and the splash pad for the first time. Connor has spent time out on the Barnesville golf course, also waiting patiently to get out on the links again.

When the couple bought their home, it was in a state of rehabilitation. The previous owner was remodeling and had torn up the floors on the main level and demolished the finished basement. It is located close to Hope Lutheran Church, making it close to one of Barnesville's many parks.

Since moving in, they have installed new flooring, painted every room, and made updates in their kitchen/dining area. With the installation of new HVAC, the Browns now have plans to start on the outside house and yard. They are looking forward to doing some landscaping over the summer.



Paislee Brown enjoying her first Potato Days.

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