

Brandee Kelley

Brandee Kelley Group/Keller Williams Realty

Brandee Kelley leads the Brandee Kelley Group with Keller Williams Realty. The group has helped meet the real estate needs of more than 1,000 families and individuals since 2005, serving clients with the highest standard of integrity through experience and teamwork.

"We help buyers, sellers and investors with residential and commercial transactions in DFW and throughout the world," Kelley says. "Although we office in Arlington and Southlake, we literally have business partners throughout the U.S. and in 42 other countries."

Kelley says her group employs a team approach that allows each member to utilize their gifts and strengths, while creating synergy that helps produce the best results for clients.

"Our team is supported by two of the most experienced administrators in real estate," she says. "Our team also includes agents with different specialties like the luxury market, working with investors and first-time buyers."

Kelley has leadership experience in business, in the community and in ministry, a collective trilogy that has paid dividends in her professional journey.

"These experiences have led to priceless relationships, which are a blessing to me personally, help in leading the team, and have created a network that benefits our clients," she says. "We often know about homes before they officially hit the market, which is key in this current low-inventory market. And when we put homes on the market we purposefully utilize proven strategies to get multiple offers so the seller gets the most money for their home in the shortest amount of time."

That kind of service is a hallmark of the Brandee Kelley Group, and its leader says it hasn't gone unnoticed.

"Someone told me the following about our team: 'This team has dedicated their lives to assisting clients

with what is likely the biggest investment of their life, and they take that role very seriously. It's much different than any other Realty group I've ever seen.'"

In addition to Kelley, who owns the company, the Brandee Kelley Group features Georgann Puddy, Lead Agent; Kyla Miller, Director of Operations; Terri Allen (Specialty: Luxury); Kristin Babek (Specialty: Builders and Investors); Becky Davis (Specialty: Senior Housing); Libby Wren and Emily Swanson.

The team serves clients with the heart of a teacher and consistently strives for five-star service. Kelley

notes that each team member has a heart for God, service and the community.

"God has blessed us with an amazing business, which allows us to share," she says. "For example, part of every commission earned goes to Bikes For Mission Arlington, which each December allows thousands of children to learn more about the love of Christ through the gift of a new bicycle. The team also has supported thousands of teen girls

during the There(4) conference, which helps them learn about and live out their identity in Christ."

As Kelley and her team continue to set the standard for the way to administer residential real estate, she believes they are doing more than that. "Lives are built and legacies left by daily decisions," she says. "Each day we make choices based on the priorities of God, Family and Business. My goal is to live out 2 Chronicles 31:21b: In all she did, Brandee sought the Lord, worked whole heartedly and prospered."



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John Parker

Texas Insurance Agency/Parker & Richardson

John Parker has made his mark locally in two important industries, as the founder of both the Texas Insurance Agency Mansfield branch and the accounting firm Parker & Richardson.

Texas Insurance Agency traces its start back to 1959 in east Texas. The agency has gone through many changes over the years and has grown to include several locations in the north Texas area. Texas Insurance Agency is locally owned and operated.

"People often ask why choose a local Independent Agency?" says Parker. "Our response is we represent many different insurance companies, so we can compare coverage and price to give you the best possible value. Simply put ... we work for our clients. We also live and work in the same communities as our insured clients, and, as such, we are always available for a face-to-face meeting."

Texas Insurance Agency provides auto, homeowners, commercial and life insurance. It is associated with a number of reputable insurers, including Allstate, The Hartford, Nationwide, Progressive, Safeco and Travelers.

"These insurance companies allow us to offer a wide range of quality insurance products that are competitively priced," Parker says.

The company has added the ability for prospective clients to get actual real time quotes directly from its website, texasins.net.

"This allows the insured to reach out to us 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year," Parker says. "The client information, as well as the policy pricing, is uploaded to us. We contact the client within 24 hours to confirm and update the information. This has been a valuable tool for prospective insureds because it gives them an idea of what their insurance costs will be."

Parker & Richardson, a certified public accountant firm, opened in 2004, but its origination dates back

to the solo CPA practice Parker started in 1995. Over the years the practice has evolved into a boutique CPA practice that specializes in catering to the distinct needs of business owners.

Whether you need tax planning, tax return preparation, strategic or transactional consulting, small business consulting, business valuation, state and local tax assistance, or a full complement of other individualized services, Parker & Richardson has the people and capabilities to respond effectively and efficiently to your needs.



"As both entrepreneurs and business owners, we understand the issues associated with owning and operating a business," Parker says. "This experience, coupled with our tax expertise, allows us to be as tax efficient as possible when assisting clients."

Parker & Richardson provides tax planning and tax preparation, as well as accounting and consulting.

"We have several clients that have us

handle all facets of their accounting needs," Parker says, noting that the firm's staff strives to provide great service and always do what is best for the client. "These principles have been emphasized from day one and continue to be our focus on a daily basis."

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Tommy Teasdale

Urban Country Flower Co.

Tommy Teasdale caught the entrepreneur bug at a young age - and its symptoms have manifested in one of the area's more popular retail floral operations: Urban Country Flower Co.

Teasdale has long turned his professional focus to design and craft. And after gaining experience with floral event companies, working for big box stores with their displays/store layouts, honing his skills in overseas product development and working as a buyer at market, he has created a store like no other.

"I have always been drawn to the art in nature and enjoy designing things beautiful, so floral design made sense for me," he says. "I've had several mentors along the way and enjoy passing on my experience and knowledge to up-and-coming floral designers. Whether it's a floral bouquet celebrating a life or love, I have so much joy in creating unique floral designs."

The most important mentor might have been a high school teacher, who recognized that Teasdale had a learning disability and realized he would learn better by working with his hands. She introduced him to his first part-time floral job. "She told me that this career could take me anywhere I want to go," he says, "and she was absolutely right."

It took him to part-time jobs in college with small-event flower shops, through the aforementioned stops on his career path, and ultimately to Pantego. Urban Country Flower Co. customers routinely find an array of products in a shop that, in addition to flowers, features gardening items, specialty pet items and a host of hospitality items, including beautiful charcuterie boards and accessories.

"My husband David and I moved to the area over 22 years ago, David in long-term healthcare and I in retail display/events," Teasdale says. "We loved the sense of community here. In 2018 I retired from the furniture industry. We were trying to figure out what would be my next chapter. It only made sense to take the event

company and move it to a brick and mortar location. I really felt Arlington/Pantego needed a high-end flower shop and gift store."

Urban Country Flower Co. opened as a small test shop (400 square feet) in a shared space. Within six months it had begun to outgrow the venue.

"Even with all the craziness going on in the world the last few years, we've been able to grow to over 3,400 square feet with the support and love of our community," Teasdale says. "With the addition we were able to grow the Urban Home Pantego shop,

which features home decor, home fragrances, exquisite and unique gifts and gourmet food products."

Teasdale also recently added to the fare a stationery and card selection and a "game night" section. Urban Country is also a premier Jon Hart bags shop featuring high-quality bags, luggage and gifts as a resource for high-quality grooming items.

"Many of our items have a 'give back' community component

and we love to work with local, family-run businesses," Teasdale says. "We have always aimed at being the best neighbor we can be and that includes truly knowing the people in our community. I want to be the shop owner that knows my customer's names and their children's names. It's about relationships for us and we do our best to reflect that in our shop. I absolutely love when people stop by and say Hi. I believe that if we all stick together, we can help each other live well."



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Valerie Landry

The Sanford House Inn & Spa/Restaurant506

When it comes to taking care of customers, few local business principals can match what Valerie Landry at The Sanford House has accomplished. The venerable inn, which also sports a spa and the award-winning Restaurant506, has been an *Arlington Today* Readers' Choice winner for each of the past nine years.

And, most recently, Landry and her stellar team have taken "going above and beyond" to an even higher level, what with The Sanford House celebrating its 25th anniversary by performing 25 acts of kindness in the community throughout the year.

"This is our way of saying 'thank you' to the community," Landry says, "because without this community, we wouldn't be here."

Together, she and the team have come up with an impressive list of events and non-profits to support. Here are a few of the services they have rendered or will render this year:

- Providing snacks for blood donors at a blood drive organized by The Rotary Club of Arlington;
- Gathering books and board games for an upcoming Arlington Public Library Foundation donation drive;
- Organizing a "Cones for Cops" event in summer to provide Kona Ice treats for police officers;
- Creating hygiene packs for Arlington Life Shelter residents;
- Providing coloring books and dental care packs for local kindergarten students at nearby AISD campuses.

There's more to come as the year progresses, Landry promises. And she urges those in the Arlington-area to stay tuned to social media and the inn's website throughout the year for more updates and photos as the events happen. The Sanford House accounts can be found here:

Instagram: @thesanfordhouse

Facebook: @thesanfordhouseinn

Web: thesanfordhouse.com/25-years

Landry has been involved with the storied

local institution almost as long as she has been around. In fact, she began working there when her grandparents built The Sanford House two and a half decades ago. After college, she moved back to Arlington and began working as the Spa Director and Marketing Director for the company.

"Soon after that," she says, "we remodeled the property to accommodate our restaurant and bar, and I shifted into my current role as General Manager."

In that position, she is overseeing the inn's grand

celebration, which will impact her community, as well as give visitors to The Sanford House a heightened sense of hospitality, regardless of what portion of the property they visit.

"Our mission is to provide tremendous, sincere hospitality to every guest," says Landry.

Even if you don't stay in the inn, you can enjoy both the spa and Restaurant506. The former offers full body, facial, and nail services for special

occasions or "just because." Restaurant506 has won Diner's Choice awards from Open Table each of the past four years and was also honored by Open Table for offering one of the top 100 brunches in the nation.

Landry says she is devoted to making sure that people who visit The Sanford House - any facet of it - come away not only pleased with their "Sanford House experience" but so enamored that they make a point to return.

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