



rockstar residents

Submitted by the **Mabes**
Lindsay Fort Photography

Phil and Ellie Mabe

NEW OWNERS OF THE **OUTER DUNES BREWING COMPANY**

In case you have not already heard the good news, Wilmington's beloved Liberty Tavern reopened recently as Outer Dunes. The revamped bar features a fun rotation of craft beer, plus a variety of wines and domestic beers. Food trucks set up out front several nights a week, and there is already a solid lineup of live music on the weekends. The best part – the owners are our neighbors!

Phil and Ellie Mabe grew up on the Carolina coast, Ellie in Wilmington and Phil in Southport, but did not cross paths until attending college at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. With a deep connection to the beach and a love for the great outdoors, they embarked on an epic road trip after college and ended up settling out west in South Lake Tahoe, CA. For the next few years, Phil taught snowboarding in the winters (which last a lot longer out there – roughly October to June) and focused on teaching golf during the summers. Ellie ran a catering company, managed multiple restaurants, and coordinated countless special events in the beautiful Tahoe destination.

Phil had been a homebrewer for many years and has always had a passion for chemistry. After having partnered in a nano-brewery in Lake Tahoe, Phil started brewing for Revision Brewing, located in Reno, NV. The opportunity to train under award-winning brewers was an opportunity he couldn't miss. It had always been a dream for the couple to open their own brewery, it was simply a question of when and where.

In the fall of 2019, Ellie was offered a position in Wilmington with her sister Amy Wright's company, Bitty & Beau's Coffee. The coffee shop is named after Ellie's niece and nephew, Bitty and Beau, who both have Down





syndrome. The coffee shops employ people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and have been very successful in raising awareness and creating jobs. Amy wanted Ellie's help with opening more locations, as well as expanding to a franchise model. This turned into an opportunity for Ellie and Phil to transition back to NC and start planning for their dream goal -- a brewery of their own.

Unfortunately, that dream was put on pause last year, due to the pandemic. The Mables had just moved home, and the world had changed. No more handshakes, no more hugs. While they worked and waited patiently, they spent as much time as possible outside on the golf course. There, the Porter's Neck community made them feel welcome and at home. Phil also used this time to experiment with making additional home-brewed recipes, of which many neighbors have been the lucky taste testers.

Ellie and Phil plan to construct a brewery at Outer Dunes later this year, so we will get to experience some of Phil's inspirations in the coming months. The Mables are members of the Porters Neck Country Club and continue to be avid golfers. When they



are not working at the brewery, you might also find them on the slide at the pool or on the back patio. They are always looking to meet new members, so if you ever see the Mables on the tee sheet, make sure to join.



Each month, we will select one family to highlight in our "Rockstar Resident" section. If you'd like more info on how you can be that family (or have a recommendation), please email LifelnPortersNeckContent@gmail.com. Photos included!



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