



# SUPER DAD

by Clare Morris

**What do River Bluff High School Principal Dr. Luke Clamp, Lexington Police Chief Terrence Green, and Mayor Steve MacDougall have in common?**

All are known as pillars of the community. But what some people may not know about them is that they are dedicated family men who are willing to go to the mat to be good dads.

We caught up with these three public servants recently to get their thoughts on the ups and downs of fatherhood.

Dr. Clamp has two sons, Ian (11) and Alex (8), who he describes as avid fishermen, academically gifted, and sports lovers. Ian plays soccer and Alex plays baseball, and they both play football and golf and are avid show and water skiers.

“Being a father about love,” says Clamp. “I learned this from my father, the late Alex Clamp.

Our son Alex is named after him. He passed away in spring 2010, but his memory and legacy of love pours through my four brothers and me.”

Chief Green has one daughter, Jordan Ashley, who is 18, and two sons named Joshua (15) and Isaiah (14).

“Being a father is special because, the more you invest in your children, the more they give back to you, with their unconditional love, knowledge, and their unselfish acts that they show in our community,” Green says. You get to place your mark on society with your kids, and hopefully they will pass this along to their friends and their children in the future.”

Mayor MacDougall has his hands full with three daughters - Brittney (34), Kamryn (14), and Addison (10). He is also a granddad to little Jack who is 2.

Regarding what makes fatherhood special, MacDougall says



Mayor MacDougall



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Chief Green



that he simply listened to his own dad.

"I followed my father's advice," he says. "I surrounded myself with beautiful women and let everything else sort itself out."

Something else these three men have in common is that they describe their wives in superlatives.

"My wife is the most amazing woman," says MacDougall. She is a nurse at Lexington Medical Center, mother to our two children who are still at home, and always supports me in all my endeavors - all the while, doing it with her beautiful smile and most kind heart."

Dr. Clamp has been married to Alecia Wheeler Clamp for 16 years. They met in class at Clemson and share a passion for public education. She was chosen as the 2019 Lexington One Teacher of the Year - a fact that Clamp is very proud of.

Chief Green met his wife Melinda at USC and describes her as "awesome."

"My wife is the glue of the family, the oil that keeps our family running, and our rock," he says.

When asked about struggles that fathers face today, all three men point to technology as the culprit.

"Technology has helped our kids navigate the world, but it has also hindered their development socially due to social media and texting," says Green.

"One-on-one time seems to be harder and harder each passing day," adds MacDougall.

All three men have demanding jobs, which can have an impact on their family time.

"Being in law enforcement, at any time you can be called away from your family, and the hours can be long, Green says. "I've missed a lot of ballgames, concerts, and school events because of the job. But I have a great family who understands the goals and mission of our police department."

Principal Clamp says that his job only enhances his experiences as a father and really enjoys involving his family in River Bluff events.

"Bringing my family to school activities shows our students and faculty that I am a father first," he says.

All three manage to squeeze in as

Principal Clamp



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much family time as possible.

"We love to play all sports together, and we love to fish on Lake Murray," says Clamp. "As a family, we have traditions and are excited when we create new ones."

Chief Green says that he likes to do almost anything with his family.

## **"As a family, we have traditions and are excited when we create new ones."**

"We like to do most everything, from watching them play their sports to going to the movies, eating out with family, Sunday breakfast after church, working in the yard with the boys, long vacation trips in the car, and laughing at each other," he says.

Mayor MacDougall enjoys going to Lake Murray and sharing with his kids the love of the lake he grew up with.

"I share the many childhood mem-

ories of the lake I have with them and hope that the memories we make there will carry on with them the way it did with me," he says.

The three dads have children of different ages and that affects their concerns about raising kids in today's world.

Chief Green's daughter Jordan is 18

and will be leaving home in the fall to attend college.

"My main concern is wondering if we equipped her with the right tools to navigate the many distractions in life such as underage drinking, illegal drugs, associating with the right crowd, and keeping her integrity intact," he says.

His concerns about his two sons who are 15 and 13 are a little different.

"With Joshua and Isaiah, I worry about them making the right decisions

at the right time. I want them to be leaders and not followers when they are faced with peer pressure on smoking, illegal drugs, underage drinking," Green says.

Chief Green recalls his own dad with fondness.

"My father and myself have the same mode of fathering, which is being patient," he says. "Dad worked multiple jobs, which prevented him from attending our activities at school; therefore, I always try to be present at my children's ball games, concerts, and school events."

As with everything, sometimes you have an "aha" moment when you realize that you know what you're doing. Steve MacDougall's moment was at his oldest daughter's wedding, where his two younger girls were a part of the ceremony.

"When I saw all three of my daughters and my wife having fun and celebrating at such a special occasion, I knew I succeeded in this thing called life," he recalls.

"I have four beautiful women that I get to share my life with." ■



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