

#ReconnectTuesdays



Hello,

WE ARE RACHAEL & SONYA

We are the owners of Wilderlove



#ReconnectTuesdays

Rachael & Sonya of Wilderlove

What do you love about Greenwood?

Sonya: I definitely think I love that it's small. It gives you an opportunity.

Rachael: The fact that it's small gives us an opportunity to grow, because we can afford what's in the area and it increases our ability to start with not as much resources and grow, and I don't think we could do that in a lot of other places.



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Rachael & Sonya of Wilderlove

What makes Greenwood a good home?

Sonya: I think it's community. That's something really important to us.

Rachael: People care about each other.

Sonya: There's a lot of deep roots here, but then there's a lot of people who've moved into town and it gives a good mix with the old roots that are a good community foundation.

Rachael: I moved here from Indiana and it was similar to what I came from, and that's why I connected pretty quickly with people. It's friendly, there's an ability to strike up deeper conversations more quickly and not just surface.



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Rachael & Sonya of Wilderlove

What makes Greenwood a good home? (continued)

Rachael: I can't handle like just the surface everyday things. I like talking about things that matter. That's what our business is about. When people come in it's about things from the past, it's about connecting and about the community growing emotionally and mentally. We've even counseled people sometimes.

Sonya: I mean with everything that happened with the fire, we needed to move really quickly, people just came to help us move very quickly. They really care about our community, they care about us as a business and they wanted to fight for something that was good, they wanted to support something that they felt added to the community and that creates this feeling of hope.

Rachael: People are quick to help



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Rachael & Sonya of Wilderlove

If you had the ability to make any improvement to the town, what would it be?

Sonya: I know this requires money and grants but I think the curb appeal of the town can be elevated, like the building exteriors. If the town could kind of join in that not just expect each individual person to take care of them on their own, if that makes sense. It could be a united front, going to the businesses and saying if we got a grant for our community would you be interested in improving this? I'd love to see someone come in.

Rachael: Like a main street coordinator of some kind. We have some friends that have those coordination skills, if they could plug into that and maybe even pay them to do some of those roles they'd be very good at it.



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Rachael & Sonya of Wilderlove

If you had the ability to make any improvement to the town, what would it be? (continued)

Sonya: We have a lot of young families in this town that are looking for things to do that are family friendly. Places like Amity are good.

Rachael: And we've seen that because the streets were basically empty when we moved in over here and now they're not. People are out and about there's things to do, the culture is changing and I just

hope the town, and the council and things like that can come along. I mean I have pretty neutral feelings about how the town is run, I don't think it's good nor bad necessarily.



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Rachael & Sonya of Wilderlove

What is your current job or hobby? We're librarians so we'd love to know, does reading enhance this job/hobby?

Sonya: I think our business is our hobby that turned into a business. I'm an owner of Wilderlove, Rachael's an owner of Wilderlove. My role is marketing merchandise, I build displays for the store to help improve the visibility of things and make it more visually appealing. I was a graphic designer for 10 years before I quit to do this so I also do that for Wilderlove.

Rachael: Your hobbies you've monetized like book binding so she sells those in the store

Sonya: And I flip furniture and do some woodworking, so that pretty much covers it. I work with paper and wood.



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What is your current job or hobby? We're librarians so we'd love to know, does reading enhance this job/hobby? (continued)

Rachael: I used to be a teacher so a lot of what I do centers around organizing and teaching people about what we do and showing them different things when they come in, talking about things. I really love to learn. In my spare time a lot of what I do is research. My other hobby is sewing, but I can't monetize that one as much. Yes reading enhances my job. A lot of research so I do a lot of reading. I don't do as much pleasure reading as I used to. When I was younger I read a lot more stuff like Lord of The Rings or fantasy style stuff and historical fiction. That's why we have a large book collection. We love old books and vintage books and if we have a chance we're gonna expand that. We'd loved to have a larger collection and we do sell a lot of books and some of them are priceless. It's really cool to see because they say print is dying but I don't think so.



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What is your current job or hobby? We're librarians so we'd love to know, does reading enhance this job/hobby? (continued)

Sonya: I listen to a ton of audio books when I work, especially on furniture because I do a lot of repetitive work. I'm spending like 2-3 hours sanding, it's super boring so an audio book makes things go a lot more pleasantly. I think also initially how I learned book binding was by reading a blog



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Rachael & Sonya of Wilderlove

What are you reading?

Sonya: I'm currently listening to *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak, and I'm also reading *The Goldfinch*. Those are my main reads right now.

Rachael: I am reading *Love Does* by Bob Goff



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Rachael & Sonya of Wilderlove

What formats? (ebook, newspaper, magazines, etc)

Sonya: I tend to prefer print or audio. I'll read ebooks because sometimes I can download them from the library or get them for free.

Rachael: I like décor magazines, I will read them in print more than online because I don't like the format online. I like to flip and mark. I love design magazines and that's a lot of where I get my trending, like what to buy in what colors and things like that.



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Rachael & Sonya of Wilderlove

Do you have a favorite book or series?

Sonya: Oh my goodness, so many. I'm a fan of Kate Morton so I would say anything by Kate Morton.

Rachael: I like the author Athol Dickson. He does like historical fiction, but it's always a mystery so it's always got these twists and I love it.



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Rachael & Sonya of Wilderlove

What was your favorite childhood book?

Rachael: *Little Red Hen*, my grandmother and mother both read that to me so many times.

Sonya: I loved the Thornton Burgess books. He wrote a lot of children's books that were wildlife books. *The Adventures of Johnny Chuck*, *The Adventures of Old Man Coyote*. It was all set around wildlife. My mom used to get them from the library and read them to me for bedtimes stories and I think that's what instilled a lot of love for nature in me.



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What actor would play you in a movie?

Rachael: I don't know actors names that would be my brothers thing. I have no idea.

Sonya: I remember actors names from like my late teens and early twenties just like Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves. I don't know.



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If you wrote a memoir, what would the title be?

Sonya: Sacred Interruptions. Because I love everything to kind of go in a straight line, and that's not how life works. My life has been a series of what I call sacred interruptions, where God disrupts my life and says "this is a good thing for you" and then I start doing it and I'm like "this IS a good thing for me"

Rachael: You Won't Believe It But It Happened. I have a lot of stories like that.

Sonya: Story time with Rachael is always interesting.



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Do you have any ideas for how Greenwood could be a stronger and more connected community?

Sonya: That's something we try to do, like have events and bring people together.

Rachael: Events definitely. I would say like promoting small businesses, getting more individuals here and actively working. People need connections and the more kinds of businesses you have, the more kinds of people you draw. We each have a job to do, or each have something put inside us that we're supposed to do. Building community is about meeting those needs. Like if somebody loves hair, we have a barber, if someone loves music they can have a music studio and things like that. Creating those spaces in those places. That's definitely what we see ourselves trying to promote in the future. We'd love to be involved in that.



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Do you have any ideas for how Greenwood could be a stronger and more connected community? (continued)

Sonya: Yeah, being able to have small businesses draws people to the community. Maybe even things like a Community workday. Something like that where it's out into the town.

Rachael: Yeah, people in need that might need help with their yard work, or cleaning up sidewalks. The whole way to that is to start conversations and the conversations create community because you feel connection.
