

Villages Couple Built Life Around Friends, Fun and Muscle Cars

Paul and Darry Bova have always enjoyed fast cars, and their new 2020 Corvette C8 Z51 suits their shared passion.

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By Sherri Coner



Owning a C8 Z51, known as an incredibly high-performance ride, didn't concern Paul and Darry Bova when they opened their Arctic White 2020 coupe. With great confidence, these big engine fans drove home in the first-ever Chevrolet Corvette with a mid-engine placement.

After all, the Bovas' life together has been built around friends, lots of physical activities and, of course, fun, beautiful vehicles.

But even with all those extracurricular possibilities, they always appreciate an occasional adventure.

Sixty-two years ago, when they started dating, Darry quickly observed that her new beau seemed to have a lot of interest in vehicles. So it was no surprise at all when a strong theme involving automobiles followed them into married life.

In 1970, these native New Yorkers bought one of America's greatest sports cars – a 1964 Stingray convertible.

Through the years, they also owned keys for lots of other ignitions – from street cars, race cars and Mustangs to Ferraris.

When they started a family, Paul had a plan for all three of their children – all sons. When each one reached age 15, Paul tackled the restoration efforts of their first cars with each son.

The family garage housed two Mustangs and one Camaro while each one was brought back to life.

“I took pictures and documented the restoration for them,” Darry said of the right-of-passage moments for each of her boys. “Cars have always been a family thing.”

As their children got closer to young adulthood, Paul’s passion for cars developed into an interest in racing vintage sports cars.

By 1999, Paul decided to move right past the interest in racing.

Instead, the interest turned into a hobby. He started climbing behind the steering wheels and watching for racing flags to drop on road courses.

Watching Paul put the pedal to the metal made Barry realize something. “He looked like he was having too much fun,” she said with a laugh.

Three years later, this high-spirited woman decided to stop making racing a spectator sport. In 2002, she joined her husband on the racing circuit.

“We had a truck to haul the race cars and a motor home to sleep,” Barry said. “We traveled all over the place, all over the Northeast.”

After a five-year run, Barry was involved in a rollover. Thankful that she climbed out of the car without injuries, she retired from racing in 2007.

Paul continued to race until 2014.

One year later, the Bovas moved to the Village of Dunedin from Stamford, Connecticut.

In 2017, they bought a C7 Stingray coupe and joined The Village ‘Vettes Corvette Club. “I now do the layout design and production of the club newsletter,” Darry said. “My husband and I help out with the membership duties for the club.”

When they aren’t enjoying the C8, the Bovas might be difficult to find. They are committed to lap swimming. They conduct weekly exercise classes. They volunteer with Operation Shoebox and belong to a bonsai club.

“Paul drives the C8 more than I do, but I really do like to drive it,” Darry said.

