

Naperville building managers live American dream

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By Anna Marie Kukec

Mina and Ali Setork married in 1976 in their native Tehran, Iran. As young newlyweds they planned to gain American educations and return home. Ali was on a scholarship at Brown University and Mina majored in computer sciences at Southern Illinois University. But the revolution in Iran changed all that.

When their native country was in chaos, they remained in the United States, leaving behind their families and other loved ones.

"That was a tough time," Mina Setork said. "We decided to stay here and raise a family. But we didn't really have a home until our daughter was 5 years old and we finally said 'This is our life.' We couldn't go back."



Mina and Ali Setork

They bought a home in Lisle, established roots and then raised two daughters. They later moved to Naperville, where they continued their careers as college professors. Mina also worked at AT&T Bell Labs. Then Ali got into real estate with a passion, buying residential properties. They started a home office, which eventually grew into a storefront. They incorporated, eliminated the residential properties and focused just on commercial properties with their privately held [DynaCom Management Inc.](#) in Naperville.

The firm now has about 15 employees and they manage commercial buildings, including DynaCom Center on McDowell Street, DynaCom Center II and Bond Street Offices, both on Bond Street, among others in Naperville and Warrenville. Their latest project is constructing the iMed campus for medical offices. Ground breaking is scheduled for Nov. 12 and occupancy for fall 2014.

"We have been very blessed," Mina said. "We have great people in our office and we're always doing above the market. While commercial buildings are hurting, we've been doing good."

In addition, Ali is on the board of directors for the Naperville Development Partnership and other not-for-profits. Mina is a member of the DuPage PADS board of directors and have sponsored some local charities.

Their two daughters now are grown and have families of their own. Leila Azarbad is a psychologist in Naperville and Sheila Stork is an optometrist in Geneva.

Mina and Ali also have had the chance to travel throughout the world and have since returned to Iran to visit family after the political chaos subsided. The first return visit was emotional, Mina said, but her daughters were young at the time and enjoyed seeing their relatives.

"We've actually been able to accomplish the American dream here," Mina said. "If you had asked me 40 years ago, where I'd be, I would never have thought of this. But once we came here, we had so many opportunities available to us. We worked hard and it pays off. God has been good to us."

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