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**Elizabeth Ries**  
**Twin Cities Live**



# content

JANUARY 2012



**ELIZABETH RIES**

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**WARM UP WITH WINTER DRINKS**

A thick blanket, crackling fire and wool mittens can do wonders to take the chill off the winter air, but nothing can comfort you from the inside out quite like a warm beverage on a cold day.



**CRAFTSMAN HOUSES ACROSS AMERICA**

Simple, solid, elegant and aesthetically appealing—these are just a few of the terms used to describe Craftsman homes, an architectural style popularized in the early 20th century. Characterized by details such as wooden porches with thick columns, open floor plans with few hallways and built-in nooks, Craftsman homes symbolize America's embrace of an emerging middle class.

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# Elizabeth RIES

by **ann e. butenas** | photos by **ashley cohn**

I recently spoke with one of the most engaging young women I have ever encountered. She has all the makings of a magnetic personality: good looks, charm, grace, charisma, style, humor, a self-effacing manner and a dog named Henry who loves to ride around in the basket on her bicycle. No, this is not Dorothy and her dog Toto, too; it's the lovely, talented and super-friendly Elizabeth Ries, co-host of *Twin Cities Live* that airs each weekday at 3 p.m. on KSTP-TV Channel 5. Although I enjoyed but a mere 30 minutes of energetic dialogue with Elizabeth, it was clearly evident that she was born to do what she loves to do, and Minneapolis could not be more fortunate to have her in our town.

Elizabeth, now 30, grew up in Apple Valley, and is one of those rare individuals who had a keen sense of her calling and purpose in life from a very young age. She recalled watching the news when she was about 12 or 13 years of age and thinking to herself that she could easily do that. "I just had a gut feeling that being an anchor was something I wanted to do and could do in my life," she smiled.

Elizabeth had several mentors who taught and encouraged her. WCCO-TV anchor Amelia Santianiello spent three months with Elizabeth through a mentorship program at Apple Valley High School. Elizabeth's mother's cousin also worked in news and offered endless advice and help securing an internship for her at WMTV-15 in Madi-

son while Elizabeth was in college at the University of Wisconsin.

Having that experience was a great complement to her studies in journalism and political science during college. "Yes, I did contemplate a career in law in the back of my mind at one point," she mused, referring to the legal side of her academic curriculum.

When Elizabeth was anticipating her college graduation in 2003, the world didn't suddenly open every door for her. She had to find those doors and begin knocking on them, and she took to the task with enthusiastic drive and relentless determination. During her final semester of college, she put the forces in motion to set the stage for her career as a news anchor. "I started sending out tapes to stations all over the country," she recalled. "My apartment at the time was littered with VHS tapes back then."

Out of all of those tapes, a door opened, and she received a call from the CBS-affiliate station KDLH in Duluth. She must have greatly impressed the news director there, as he half-jokingly asked her, "Do you really have to graduate? We need a reporter now!"

Just one week after she moved the tassel from one side of her mortar board to the other, Elizabeth was working at the station in Duluth, and six magical weeks later, the morning anchor for that station left, leaving yet another door of opportunity open for Elizabeth. "At that time, the news director really wanted to revamp the show and breathe

"I just had a gut feeling that being an anchor was something I wanted to do and could do in my life."



**“I love live TV and have so much fun on this show,” she expressed. “I simply live in the moment and do the best I can do and remain open to what the future might bring my way.”**

new life into it,” she said. “They gave the show a new name and incorporated more personality into it.”

Obviously, Elizabeth was a significant part of that new personality. She also worked towards developing the station’s website to set the show apart from the competition and allowing for more viewer interaction. “We used the web site to share daily stories, interesting links, recipes and other things in which the viewers were interested,” Elizabeth said.

After working there for nearly two years, the station was bought out and entered into a shared services agreement with another station in town. Although she was sad to see the station shut down, she admitted she was ready for a change at that point and was excited to move on to something different.

Opportunity seems to follow this vibrant young lady around, as no sooner could one change the channel and Elizabeth found herself in a reporting position at WBAY in Green Bay, where she also became the weekend anchor for three years.

This was an exciting move for Elizabeth in that she is a huge Packers fan, something to which her dad lovingly and jokingly refers to as one of his daughter’s greatest accomplishments in life!

“At the time, being new to the station, I had to work Christmas Day, but that was the best part, as my family came to my place for the day, we got to go to the football game, and just have a blast,” laughed Elizabeth.

In 2008, Elizabeth made the move to the Twin Cities and became a reporter for 5 Eyewitness News and in June 2009, she transitioned

to her current position with *Twin Cities Live*, captivating, entertaining and delighting audiences, along with her co-host John Hanson. “I love being a part of this show,” she smiled. “It’s a great way for me to become involved in the city and showcase all of the wonderful things we have.”

When she is not tending to the airwaves, Elizabeth loves to spend time with her two younger sisters and visits them as often as she can. Katie, 27, lives in Chicago with her husband and works in the buying offices for Sears. Jenny, 25, lives in New York City and has a career in marketing for Shiseido, the cosmetics company.

A self-confessed foodie, Elizabeth loves to cook and is pretty proud of her culinary skills in the kitchen. Some of her favorite guests are celebrity chefs and she’d love to have Nigella Lawson or Jamie Oliver cook in the TCL kitchen someday.

“I recently made a butternut squash and bacon risotto,” she noted. “It was good but took forever to cook. I learned to bake first from my mom who makes everything from scratch. Her homemade biscuits are the best ever!”

Of course, there’s her adorable Westie, Henry (you know, the one who loves to travel via bicycle basket on warm sunny days with his mistress) and her love of travel that inspire her agenda. With friends all over the country, she is never at a loss for places to visit.

To stay fit, Elizabeth practices yoga in spurts, runs and enjoys workouts on the elliptical.

One of her proudest moments came in September 2010 when she purchased her first home, so a lot of her spare time is currently devoted to projects around the house. “My mom is an interior designer, so she has helped me out a lot,” she commented. “It’s an older home, so there is always a project at the ready.”

Elizabeth also enjoys the company of her incredible boyfriend, Jay, with whom she has been together for just over a year. The two actually attended college together but didn’t know each other back then.

Still, her career remains a huge focus in her life, and when not appearing on TV, she lends her talents to the Dirt Alert on My Talk 107.1 to dish on the latest in celebrity happenings. Three times each week day, she discusses the latest in gossip and news on high-profile individuals and enjoys the fact that she can read those celebrity news websites at work and not get in trouble for it. “Hey!” she joked. “It’s a part of my job! How cool is that?”

When contemplating her career, Elizabeth remains very steadfast in her commitment to what she is doing. “I love live TV and have so much fun on this show,” she expressed. “I simply live in the moment and do the best I can do and remain open to what the future might bring my way.”

She pauses for a minute and then adds, “My parents always encouraged us to do what makes us happy in life.”

From all appearances, it appears Elizabeth is delirious and that listening to one’s parents really pays off in the long run. ■

*For more information on Elizabeth and Twin Cities Live, visit them online at [www.twincitieslive.com](http://www.twincitieslive.com).*

