

At Home in the City

THE ST. CLAIRS of the HISTORIC EAST WAYNE DISTRICT

he St. Clair family packed a moving van last summer, though they didn't have far to drive. From Coquillard Woods, their home of 13 years, they moved to the Historic East Wayne District a mere eight blocks away.

Drawn to the character, history, and pulse of the neighborhood, David and Molly appreciate the bonus of having family-friendly amenities nearby, like the newly renovated Howard Park. "We love the area in general, the character of the homes, and the convenience of local amenities," David says. "Each home has a unique history and story to tell. Neighbors seem to embrace the history of the neighborhood which creates great conversation and a strong sense of pride."

David graduated from Riley High School in South Bend and Molly graduated from Marian High School in Mishawaka, both in 1999. Molly attended St. Mary's College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science of Nursing and is a Registered Nurse. David attended Glen Oaks College in Michigan, playing baseball for 2 years, and returned home to finish school at Indiana University South Bend. David met Molly during this time, and they married in 2007 at St. Anthony's Church, with a reception at the Palais Royale in downtown South Bend. "We are celebrating our 15th wedding anniversary this May," David says. "However, we have been together for 20 years which is funny to think about!"

In 2006, David started a management

company that led him to obtain a real estate license. After several years of brokering real estate with Weichert Realtors in South Bend, he started St. Clair Development, LLC, which is a boutique real estate development company. "We specialize in the broker buildout development model," David says. "This allows us to work with clients to purchase a home, business, or real estate investment 'as is,' but we design their dream and build it. Projects include large-scale remodels of historic buildings, new home construction, and general residential home remodels."

David and Molly's favorite memories together are being at home and watching their daughters Mia (11) and Callie (6) grow up. "Both girls are hilarious, and we couldn't be more proud of them," David says. "While their personalities are very different, they both love working on artwork. They participate on the Morris Park Swim Team during the summer and soccer during the fall. Callie is a 'ninja warrior' and does ninja training while Mia plays basketball, softball, and lacrosse for St. Joseph Grade School and East Side Little League."

The St. Clairs are parishioners of St. Joseph Catholic Church and members of the Morris Park Country Club. Both David and Molly are fitness enthusiasts whose hobbies include working out, playing golf, and attending concerts and sporting events, including Notre Dame Football games. "Molly is a huge Cubs fan and I am a big Yankees fan, so we have plenty of rivalry discussions during the season," David says. "As far as our family

culture goes, everything is a competition—whether it's going for a hike, a jog, or a round of golf. Even silly things like movie quotes can turn into a trivia competition!"

David says he and Molly have also had some great memories traveling the world together, and take advantage of any opportunity they have to hop on a plane and land somewhere unique. "We have the travel bug and each experience seems to enhance our perspective of life," David says.

But their desire to get away doesn't diminish their love for South Bend as a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. David's father, Phil St. Clair, ran the South Bend Parks and Recreation Department before his retirement. "St. Clair Park is named in his honor for his 25 years of service to the City of South Bend," David says. Living and working in the same region they grew up in, the St. Clairs look forward to sharing new experiences with their girls in a place that has meant so much to them.

The St. Clair household wouldn't be complete without 2-year-old Goldendoodle puppy Ernie. "His full name, as assigned by our daughters, is "Ernest Harold Cupcake St. Clair," David says. "He spends most of his days at my office at 402 W. Washington hanging out with myself, clients, and staff." Perhaps Ernie's energetic nature can help the St. Clairs live into the first part of their family motto, adapted from Teddy Roosevelt: "When you play; play hard. And when you work, don't play at all."

BY LINDSAY CONNER

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