

NORTH VALPO

NEIGHBORS

DECEMBER 2024

Inside This Issue

Basketball Schedules
Homeschool Sports
Volunteerism
Year-End Financial Moves
Tree Care Mistakes

ON THE MOVE
with Steve Lawson and
Chrys Davis-Lawson

Cover photo by Angie Januchowski, Aspen Studios

POWERED BY

BVM
BEST VERSION MEDIA

PHOTOS BY ANGIE JANUCHOWSKI, ASPEN STUDIOS

■ BY CHERYL WOOTEN-WILCOX

For Steve Lawson and Chrys Davis-Lawson, life's best memories are made on the move. Whether they're racing side-by-side in marathons, hiking the rugged trails of national parks and forests, or soaring through the skies in a single-engine airplane, this interesting couple is rarely at rest. Read on to discover what fuels their adventurous spirit and keeps them from ever letting the grass grow beneath their feet.

Although Steve and Chrys come from opposite sides of the state—Steve from Chesterton and Chrys from Elkhart—their lives came together here in Valparaiso.

Steve graduated from Chesterton High School then attended Sawyer Business School in Merrillville where he earned an associate's degree in computer accounting. He currently works at Northern Trust, an asset management company in Chicago and has been there for 24 years. "I'm a product consultant and most of my work is behind the scenes in operations where I test financial products in our technology group," he explains. Several times each week, Steve commutes via the South Shore into Chicago, but also enjoys the flexibility of working from home on alternating days.

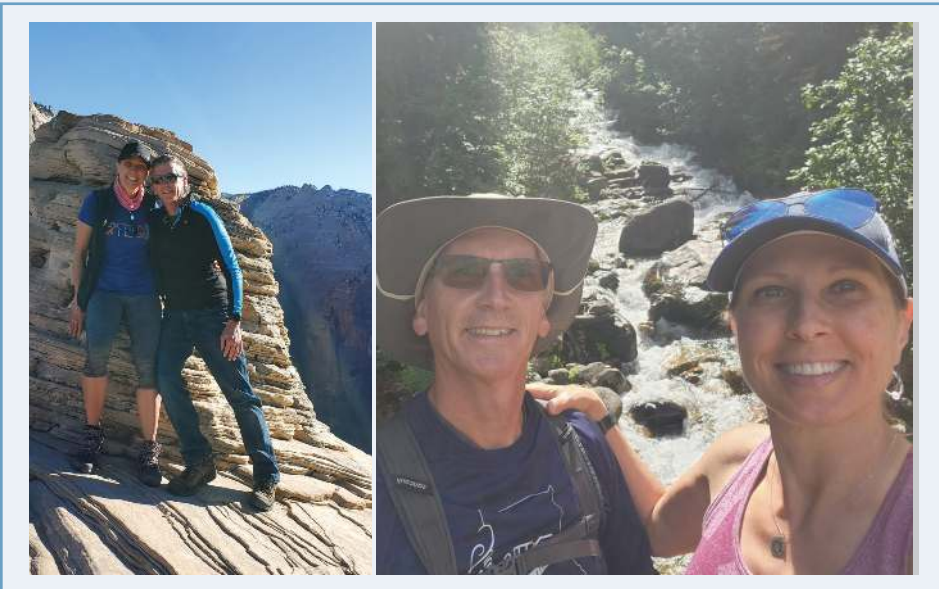
After high school, Chrys—short for Chrysanthemum—came to Valparaiso in the 1990s to attend Valparaiso University's College of Nursing. "I earned my BSN, MSN and Nurse Practitioner degrees there," she shares. "I then earned my Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2020." Chrys works as a Nurse Practitioner in obstetrics and gynecology at Powers Health/St. Mary Medical Center and at the High Risk Breast Clinic. "I'm passionate about empowering women by educating them about important health topics," she shares.

In 2009, Chrys decided to put her roots down in Valpo and purchased a home in Olde Orchard Estates. "I fell in love with Valparaiso and really enjoy living here," she says. "I liked the idea of living in a cul-de-sac and my neighbors are amazing. We look out for each other and enjoy spending time together. And the location is ideal and very convenient to downtown and the highways."

Both dog lovers, Steve and Chrys were introduced by Steve's brother-in-law, Dr. Steve Violanti, a veterinarian at McAfee Animal Hospital. After a brief courtship, the two were married in the Violanti's beautiful yard in 2017. At the time, Steve had a house in Chesterton but lost the coin flip and came to Valparaiso. According to Chrys, "I have a coin that has two heads on it!" Now, two of Steve's three siblings live in Valparaiso as do his parents.

ON THE MOVE

with Steve Lawson and
Chrys Davis-Lawson



STEVE AND CHRYS LOVE TO HIKE.



PICKLEBALL...A NEWFOUND HOBBY.

The Lawsons enjoy all that Valparaiso has to offer and especially enjoy the YMCA, Central Park Plaza, ice rink, and biking around town. They also like to paddleboard on Long Lake and Flint Lake where on one serendipitous day they spotted a bald eagle. "It flew over our heads with a fish in its talons," recalls Chrys. "It was like a National Geographic moment!"



Steve and Chrys have many hobbies. Together, they enjoy playing pickleball. "We just started playing about two years ago when my brother-in-law and sister (Steve and Catey Violanti) came back from a trip to Florida and told us we had to try it," recalls Steve. "We loved it and have been playing ever since." The Violanti's have a court in their driveway so that's where the Lawsons most often play, but they also play at Chesterton's parks, Tower Park and indoor at the YMCA. The couple attends Valparaiso Nazarene Church and enjoys watching their favorite Chicago sports teams.

Being outdoors is a priority for Chrys and Steve and they've made it a goal to birdwatch and hike in as many national parks and national forests as possible. Their favorite location so far is Utah's Zion National Park. "We hiked the infamous Angels Landing trail which is very steep and one of the most dangerous hikes in the U.S.," says Chrys. "We didn't realize how challenging it was until we started doing it." But the panoramic views of Zion Canyon from the top made it worth the effort. On that same trip, they visited Bryce Canyon National Park known for its spectacular array of spires, fins, and pinnacles known as hoodoos. "It's amazing to see how different the geology of the two parks is since they're not that far apart."

Another memorable hiking trip was to the Cherokee National Forest in southern Tennessee. They drove the Cherochala Skyway and stopped to hike roadside trailheads including East Rattlesnake Trail which had a beautiful waterfall. "We had it to ourselves for about 45 minutes before other hikers came along," says Chrys.

Although mountain top views are stunning, nothing beats the view from inside the cockpit at 5,000 feet. Steve earned his pilot's license about 25 years ago but quit flying after five years. Fast forward to 2022. Steve mentioned to Chrys that he might like to get a Harley, but she said, "I'd rather see you fly again." That was all Steve needed to hear, and he went back to the airport and recertified as a pilot. "Flying goes

Steve has two children from his previous marriage: Ashley and Jeremy, both Chesterton High School graduates. Ashley works at Stacks and is a true animal lover. "She's quick to help search for lost animals and this past summer helped catch an injured Cooper's hawk and took it to Humane Indiana to be cared for," says Steve. She and her boyfriend, Brandon, enjoy playing pickleball.

Jeremy lives in Florida and like his sister, Ashley, works in the restaurant business. "He's been down there about seven years in the West Palm Beach area," says Steve. "He's passionate about weightlifting and fitness."

The Lawson's have a quartet of pets: three golden retrievers and a tabby cat named Spencer (8). Tucker (12) is a red golden retriever. Then comes Trooper (3 1/2) and Ranger (1), both old English cream golden retrievers. Chrys laughs, "We're often seen walking our three goldens in our neighborhood which can be quite the sight! Sometimes we take them to doggy daycare at Royal Acres Pet Camp where they get really worn out."



CELEBRATING CHRYS' DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE.



Trusted Insurance Solutions
LLC

Medicare
INSURANCE

219.369.2564

cynthia@trustedinsurancesolutions.com



Cynthia
Finelli
Medicare Insurance
Representative



501 Lincolnway Suite B
cynthia@trustedinsurancesolutions.com



This Holiday Season

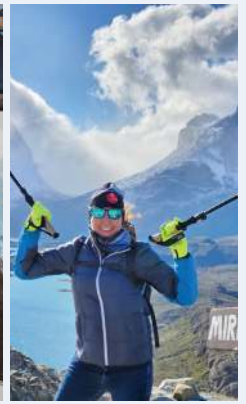
Give the gifts of Joy, Music, Confidence,
Friendships, a Healthy Hobby, and

Dance

 **FRED ASTAIRE**
DANCE STUDIOS

107 Lincolnway • Valparaiso, IN 46383
219-510-0123
www.fredastaire.com/valparaiso

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE



RUNNING AND HIKING IN PATAGONIA.

back to my high school days," Steve shares. "Being up in the air and having that freedom in the sky is what I enjoy the most." He and Chrys have flown over Chicago's skyline, to West Lafayette to visit her brother, and taken many other daytime flights. He's working on his instrument rating at Region Flyers.

locally, she enjoys group fun runs that are held by Extra Mile Fitness Company. She also helped put on the Whisker 5K in August that supports the Hobart Humane Society and is part of the Race the Region series. Steve also enjoys running and has competed in 15 marathons of his own, but now just runs for his health.

Chrys may be Steve's frequent flyer, but she's most comfortable on the ground with a pair of running shoes on. An avid cross country and track runner in high school, Chrys participated in the 800 meter race at state her senior year. That was just the beginning and now she describes running as "an important part of who I am." Chrys usually gets up at 4:00am to run with a group of 12 friends who are supportive and provide accountability. Chrys runs 5Ks, 10Ks, half and full marathons and has several running goals, one that she just recently achieved. "Before I turned 51, I wanted to complete my 51st marathon which I did when I ran in Patagonia."

Each year, the Lawsons embark on a family trip packed with pickleball matches and a race that offers something for everyone—whether it's a full or half marathon, a 10K, or a 5K. Each family member chooses their own race distance, making it a fun and inclusive tradition. "We've visited Arizona a couple of times, but with my quest to complete a marathon in every state, we're mixing up our destinations," Chrys explains. "In February, we're off to North Carolina for the 2025 Run Oak Island Marathon. We always have a great time." It's just another example of how Chrys and Steve are constantly on the move and heading towards something great!

Two other running goals that Chrys has are to run a marathon in each state—she's completed 24 states so far—and run a marathon on each continent. "To date, I've done four continents: North America, Europe, Asia and most recently South America in September with a quick side trip to Valparaiso, Chile." Tokyo, Portugal, Spain, Chile, Washington DC, Boston and Chicago are just a few of the places Chrys has been. More

DO YOU KNOW A NEIGHBOR WHO HAS A STORY TO SHARE?

NOMINATE YOUR NEIGHBOR TO BE FEATURED IN ONE OF OUR UPCOMING ISSUES! CONTACT US AT CWOOTEN@BESTVERSIONMEDIA.COM.



Full service auction company specializing in

Collector Cars - Antiques - Collectibles - Estates
Business Liquidations - Farms - Coins - Firearms
Knives - Jewelry - Watches - Fine Art - Motorcycles -
Heavy Equipment - Vintage Advertising
And YOUR Auction!

Locations in Crown Point, Valparaiso, Walkerton,
Michigan City, DeMotte, Kouts, Wanatah,
and Syracuse.

KraftAuctions.com - 219-973-9240



Tudor Floors & More Kiba Studios | KITCHEN & BATH

*May the magic of the holidays
fill your heart with joy
& your home with love.*

219.462.8026
www.tudorfloors.com
401 US-30 Valparaiso, IN
Tudor Floors & More | Kiba Studios