

Embracing Community: Meet the Swan Family

By Marybeth Lewanski

The Swan family found their perfect home in the heart of Clarendon Hills.

Kevin and Venous Swan, along with their three daughters—Amelia (6), Rose (4), and Farah (1)—have quickly become integral members of this close-knit community since moving here in 2021. Their story is one of love, family, and active community engagement that epitomizes the spirit of Clarendon Hills.

A Serendipitous Beginning

Kevin and Venous's journey together began in 2009 at a house party in Kevin's tiny 300-square-foot Lincoln Park studio. Venous, visiting from Milwaukee, was charmed by Kevin's persuasive nature, leading to an exchange of phone numbers. After a "long and lengthy courtship," as they fondly recall, the couple tied the knot on June 27, 2015, at the Woman's Club of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

One of their most cherished memories is a trip to Iran, where Kevin met a significant portion of Venous's family, including her beloved grandmother. This experience not only strengthened their bond but also deepened their appreciation for Venous's rich Persian heritage.

Family and Career

The Swans have built not just a family but also a career together. They work side by side at United Senior Services, a family-run Senior Home Care Agency. Kevin serves as the Director of Operations, while Venous is a Senior Case Manager. Their work involves arranging caregivers to help at-risk seniors continue living safely and comfortably in their own homes—a mission they find deeply rewarding.

A House Full of Personality

Each member of the Swan family brings a unique flavor to their household. Venous, with her Iranian-American background, infuses their home with Persian culture. An expert in Persian cuisine, she often fills their evenings with the aroma of delicious traditional dishes, followed by impromptu family dance sessions to Persian music in their living room.

Kevin, a sports enthusiast and community organizer, has become a familiar face in Clarendon Hills. He co-founded, with Dan Schmieder, the Dads Run Club, which meets every Sunday at 7:50 am at the Prospect Park Pavilion for a 5K run, rain or shine—or even in -10-degree weather! The runs always conclude with coffee, donuts, and camaraderie at Tierra.

“We are a non-religious and non-partisan group and all dads are welcome!” encourages Kevin.

Their daughters are growing into their own personalities. Amelia, at six, is already an avid golfer, training with the PGA Jr. League at Cog Hill. Four-year-old Rose is the family's adventurous spirit, known for her surprising culinary preferences—she's been enjoying raw oysters since before her second birthday! Little Farah, at one, is just beginning to explore the world around her.

Community Engagement and Philanthropy

The Swans' commitment to community extends beyond Clarendon Hills. Kevin serves on the Board of Directors for Growing Home, a nonprofit in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. The organization uses urban farming as a vehicle for job training, helping individuals who have faced challenges get a second chance at building a career and a stable life.

“I've been with Growing Home for over 10 years and am inspired by the complete life transformation that people experience through the hard work of the program,” Kevin reflects proudly.

In Clarendon Hills, Kevin is actively involved in organizing community events. Kevin, along the Dads Run Club will be hosting SantaCon on the evening of December 6th. Dads will don Santa Claus costumes and march through town, distributing candy canes and spreading holiday cheer, and concluding downtown at the Clarendon Hills Holiday Walk. Kevin also coaches youth sports, finding great joy in fostering a love for athletics in children of all skill levels.

The Move to Clarendon Hills

The Swan family's decision to move to Clarendon Hills in 2021 was driven by a desire for more space and excellent schools as their family grew. They were immediately captivated by the welcoming neighbors, top-notch educational opportunities, and the perfect environment for raising their children.

As they continue to build their life in Clarendon Hills, the Swans have already found their favorite local spots, including Wasabi, Open Door, Tierra, and Vintage Charm. They express

gratitude to local businesses for their contributions to the community and emphasize their commitment to supporting these establishments.

Travel and Adventure

Despite their busy lives, the Swans prioritize travel and new experiences. They enjoy both regional trips to places like Mackinac Island and Northern Wisconsin, as well as international adventures to destinations such as Iran, Egypt, Aruba, and Martinique. Their love for the Caribbean inspires an annual winter getaway, and they recently embarked on a West Coast road trip with stops in Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver.

A Message to Neighbors

The Swan family's message to their Clarendon Hills neighbors is simple but heartfelt: they are always here for the community in every way possible. They love meeting new people, organizing playdates for the kids, or simply lending a helping hand to neighbors in need.

Their family motto, "Share the love with all of those around us," is evident in everything they do.

The Swan family delivers a heartfelt message, "We're so grateful to all of our friends in Clarendon Hills. Home-cooked dinners delivered when we had our baby, soups and supplies when we were sick, countless pick-ups from school... we feel so fortunate to raise our kids in a loving, supportive community like this."