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Townhouse steals the show for newlywed actors

Actors David and Michelle (Weissgerber) Tibble, who were married in January, casually began their search for a new home by driving north on Northwest Highway from Chicago. Along the way, they spotted a billboard for Lexington Park, a community of 149 townhouses in Northwest-suburban Des Plaines built by Chicago-based Lexington Homes (lexingtonchicago.com).

"We met in Arlington Heights when we were acting in a play together, so we were familiar with the Northwest suburbs," David said. "We just drove along the Metra train line and started looking at places. Our first stop was Lexington Park. We saw one or two other townhouses after that, but Lexington set the bar pretty high. We searched online, too, and didn't see any other homes comparable to what Lexington offered."

Lexington Park is located at 1238 Harding Ave., within walking distance of downtown Des Plaines and the Des Plaines Metra Station. The community offers three floor plans ranging from 1,605 to 1,913 square feet. Base-priced from the low \$240,000s, the three-story homes have two to three bedrooms, 2½ baths and attached two-car garages. The community is 90 percent sold.

The Tibbles, who previously rented an apartment in Chicago's Old Irving Park neighborhood, wanted more space and a move-in ready home. "Neither one of us are very handy people," Michelle said. "Renovating seemed like a nightmare we didn't want to go through."

Proximity to public transportation also was a top priority. "I work in the city every day, and we only have one car, so it's very important to be close to public transportation," said David, who does commercial acting in addition to his full-time job at a consulting firm in downtown Chicago. "It's a short walk to the train."



Newlyweds David and Michelle (Weissgerber) Tibble recently moved into a new townhouse at Lexington Park, a community of 149 townhouses in Des Plaines by Lexington Homes.

Lexington Park's location between I-90 and I-294 also helps Michelle quickly get to her suburban acting jobs. She has performed with the Broadway National Tour of "Mamma Mia!" and "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" Also, as owner of Chicago Balloon Twister, Michelle travels throughout the suburbs to tell stories, play guitar and twist balloons at birthday parties. "From Lexington Park, I can get anywhere fairly easily," Michelle said. "In the city, it would take me 20 minutes just to get to the highway."

The Tibbles selected the Coventry floor plan. The 1,913-square-foot home includes three bedrooms, 2½ baths and an attached two-car garage.

A tight budget left little room for upgrades, but "the nice thing about Lexington is all the bells and whistles you

get with your home," David said. "We felt like we were already getting upgrades just with the standard features."

The Tibbles added hardwood flooring on the main level; oak rails and iron balusters on the main staircase; a deluxe master bath with a separate tub and walk-in shower; and granite countertops and ceramic tile in the entryway and baths.

"The kitchen is our favorite area of the home," Michelle said. "There's a large island with tons of areas for storage and plenty of room to have friends over to relax on our island bar stools over a glass of wine. Also, there's a nice flow to the dining room and living area."

A treadmill and pinball machine are in the finished lower level of the home. "I am a pinball fanatic," David said. "We're going to eventually

create a theater room down there."

The couple said they were hesitant to leave Chicago, but now have no regrets. "It took a lot for me to decide to leave the city, but now I love that I don't have to find parking late at night when it's zero degrees," Michelle said.

Proximity to downtown Des Plaines also attracted the Tibbles. "I really like the neighborhood," Michelle said. "We can walk to Shop and Save grocery store, Panera Bread, Potbelly's and a great Italian restaurant. The library is awesome."

Des Plaines also delivers what the Tibbles need for the near future. "We want to have kids in the next couple of years and wanted to be in an area where our kids can go to school and be safe," Michelle said. "The elementary schools here are really good."

Maintenance-free living is another perk. "Because we both have full-time jobs, and we also do acting when we can on the weekends, we don't have time for yard work or shoveling snow," David said. "Living here, that's all included. We're going to stay here as long as we can."

All homes at Lexington Park include brushed nickel lighting fixtures; oversized private balconies; 42-inch maple cabinets and GE stainless steel appliances in the kitchen; and a dual-bowl raised-height vanity in baths. Buyers also can select options and upgrades, such as fireplaces and alternate bedroom

configurations.

Lexington Park offers three decorated models. Sales center hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through

Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. For more information about Lexington Park, call (847) 299-0500 or visit lexingtonchicago.com.