

The Rest of the Story...

We decided to put up a neon yellow "Caution Kids Playing" signs as the construction folks busy at work did not realize we were occupying our house either. The next day I went out and my neon sign had been run over and flattened by a concrete truck. We had raccoons playing in the houses under construction all around us at night time and coyotes were always on the prowl - we could hear them all around our house. Our first breakfast as a family in our new house was interrupted by a giant hawk killing and eating a bunny in our back yard right as we sat down to eat. We all lost our appetite immediately. It definitely felt a bit like wild kingdom, and I really missed my old neighborhood until other homes were completed and civilization started closing in around us. Once we had neighbors we fell in absolutely in love with Heritage Hills. We have met so many great people, and have enjoyed living in such a beautiful and lively community. My favorite time of year here is summer and I am always astounded at how beautiful our neighborhood is when everything is in bloom. I love hearing the pool behind us full of kids and laughter and seeing everyone out walking dogs, riding bikes, and coming out of hibernation.

I have a few nerdy hobbies- I am a big organic vegetable gardener and I love to grow 30-40 kinds of vegetables each season. Every year I try to grow one new type of vegetable- last year I grew popcorn, the year before it was an artichoke. I say "an" artichoke because I only got one tiny artichoke out of a giant prickly plant that dominated my garden and scratched me every time I went out there. I am one and done growing that vegetable- Costco sells three big ones in a pack and they don't cut your legs. :) I love to cook, so it is really fun to be able to work with the food we are growing. I also have been composting for years, and last year I tried

vermiculture. It was really pretty cool- although I would not touch the worms as they freak me out. We love to entertain and have our family and friends over for breakfast, lunch or dinner or all of the above. I feel like it is almost a hobby watching my kids' sports events and attending school events what feels to be non-stop. Although our family is getting a little smaller- Ben is now grown and working in Portland, and Meg is in school at Pepperdine- Kyle and Delaney definitely keep us running. This year Kyle played football, basketball, and track and Delaney plays basketball and track. Our favorite family hobby is that we travel quite a bit whenever the kids are out of school- and we often travel with family or friends. One of my favorite trips ever was a surprise cruise I planned for my husband's birthday. He knew we were going, but was shocked by 52 other people that jumped out and surprised him on the ship. After he recovered from the surprise, we had eight days of fun together in the Caribbean- and so many happy memories. I always say that I don't want or need fancy jewelry, designer clothes or a high end sports car- I just want to be on a beach with my family and friends and I am so very happy.

This year is a big year for me as I am taking a year off of work after years of having a super intense job running a large commercial insurance operation, and this is my first break from work ever since I graduated from college. I am so excited to have time with the kids, relax, and finally have time to do some things I have not had the time to do with as much travel as I had. If you see me wandering the streets of Heritage Hills with a wine glass in hand and a relaxed smile on my face, well, life is good!