

# Fair Oaks

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NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD:

*Meet the  
Gnarr Family*

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Photography by Isabel Ollinger Photography



## New to the Neighborhood: Meet the Snarr Family

By Laura I. Winn

Photography by Isabel Ollinger and photos courtesy of the Snarr Family

When Matthew and Caitlyn Snarr were house hunting in early 2025, a quiet Fair Oaks cul-de-sac with an American flag flying at every home felt just right for the family of four. Matt, a physician assistant who served in the Army National Guard's medical unit, and Caitlyn, a registered dental hygienist, chose the Phoenix Field house for its central location, potential for remodel,

and to be a part of a close-knit community. Since moving into the two-story house in March with their children, Porter, 13, and Leighton, 10, Matt and Caitlyn have joined in the tradition of flying the flag to honor a widowed neighbor and her late husband, a colonel in the Army. "Everyone has been so welcoming and friendly," said Caitlyn of her new neighbors, many of whom have owned their homes

for the past two decades. "We are excited to be a part of the neighborhood." Before moving to Fair Oaks, the Snarr family lived a mere mile away in Orangevale, but it was a college class over 600 miles away that first brought Matt and Caitlyn together. Caitlyn, a California girl from El Dorado Hills, and Matt, bespectacled boy from Idaho, were assigned to grade each other's papers in a freshman English

course at Utah State University. Thinking back to that fateful meeting nearly 20 years, Matt said he remembered liking Caitlyn's laugh. Caitlyn remembered being impressed by his essay. "He was a great writer and really sweet," recalled Caitlyn. "And he had cute black glasses on." That English class sparked a friendship that ignited a romance. After dating for two years, the couple married and continued to pursue their respective educa-



tions. Caitlyn graduated from the Utah College of Dental Hygiene, and Matt obtained his master's degree from Rocky Mountain College in Montana. Matt currently works at an urgent care in Granite Bay and will open his own private concierge medical practice in Roseville come January. Caitlyn works two days a week at a dental office in El Dorado Hills. The rest of the time, she said she is "running kids around" to their various activities. Sports, home remodeling, and the kids' extracurriculars keep the Snarrs busy. Matt is an Ironman who golfs and tackles the smaller DIY projects around the house. He recently retiled the downstairs bathroom. "He's pretty handy," Caitlyn bragged. For her talents, Caitlyn is a baker who is working on perfecting the art of the sourdough. She also paddleboards at Folsom Lake, cycles on the American River Bike Trail and has competed in an Olympic triathlon. "But I will never do one ever again because I hate swimming!" she added. Leighton, a 5th grader at

Pershing Elementary, loves to draw, plays the piano and soccer, and hopes to join the Bella Vista cheerleading program next year. Porter, an 8th grader at Andrew Carnegie Middle School, has an ear for music. He plays piano, is learning the clarinet and dabbles in the accordion. According to his mom, he is also a whiz when it comes to animal trivia. "He knows something about every animal you can think of," said Caitlyn. Whenever the family can find time in their packed schedules – even if it's only a three-day weekend – they load up their travel trailer and journey to a new campground. Together, they have explored the beauty and wonders of several national parks, including Zion, Lassen, Yellowstone, Tetons and Sequoia. Joshua Tree and Death Valley are already on the calendar for 2026, with a goal of visiting every national park in California. The Snarrs said they enjoy camping not only for the financial savings, but also for the uninterrupted, quality time they spend together – roasting s'mores



around the campfire and peddling their electric bikes through new paths. "Camping allows us to unplug from our devices," explained Matt. "We want to camp while our kids are still young and want to hang out with us," added Caitlyn. Matt and Caitlyn have also started a special travel tradition to celebrate each child's 12th birthday – that last year before entering tricky teendom.

The birthday boy or girl can pick anywhere in the country to visit with mom and dad. For his big trip, Porter chose Washington D.C. and toured the famous museums. Little sister Leighton is considering exploring the hustle and bustle of New York City when it's her turn. "Life is busy, so we cherish taking time away from everyday life to spend time together," said Caitlyn. ■

*Isabel Ollinger*  
photography

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