

Fair Oaks

LIVING

January 2026



Cruising in the
Community with
*The Hart
Family*

POWERED BY
BVM
BEST VERSION MEDIA

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY
ISABEL OLLINGER PHOTOGRAPHY

Cruising in the Community with *The Hart Family*

By Laura I. Winn

Photography by Isabel Ollinger and courtesy of the Hart family



EVERY THURSDAY AT 8:30 in the morning, Drew Hart, 39, leads a roar of Cougar students as they bike, wheel or walk from Little Phoenix Park to Twin Lakes Elementary School. Once there, Kerri Hart, 39, scans in the students using a barcoded keychain, alerting parents that their children have safely arrived on campus. This husband-and-wife tag-team operation is the Cougar Cruise, a program the Harts piloted in the spring of 2023 to promote autonomy, confidence and exercise for their three children and their chosen community.

In fact, it was with those goals in mind that Drew and Kerri selected the Rollingwood neighborhood of Fair Oaks as

a "permanent landing spot" for their family. The Harts previously resided in Davis for 10 years after completing their degrees. Drew, a transportation planner for the city of Rancho Cordova, holds a master's degree in regional planning from Rutgers University. Kerri, a nurse at Sutter Medical Center, earned her nursing degree from Brigham Young University, which is where the couple first met and fell in love. They are parents to Kate, 13, Scott, 10, and Austin, 8.

"We've cultivated a bike culture in our family and wanted to move to a place where we didn't have to give that up," Drew explained. "We found that in Rollingwood and started the bike and walk pro-



"We enjoy riding our bikes to downtown Folsom and grabbing a treat and then stopping at Lake Natoma."

gram to share that with the other members of our community."

The ability to bike to school was a "non-negotiable" for health-conscious Kerri. She pre-

viously volunteered for a similar school bike program in Davis. But when the Harts first launched the Cougar Cruise through the school's PTA, some students



struggled with the physical demands of the route, especially pedaling up the big hill next to the Rollingwood YMCA. To motivate them to keep trying, the Harts said they would get each kid a milkshake the first time he or she got up the hill without stopping.

"It was so amazing to watch as the kids who had already done it would get off their bikes at the top to cheer on those still trying to get up," Kerri said. "It took weeks for some kids, but they didn't give up. Those moments of achievement are why we started the program."

This year, a quarter of the student body participates in the program, and the Harts continue to incentivize the kids with fun competitions among classes.

Promoting biking is a way of life for the Harts. Drew, who was initially interested in tourism before transitioning to transportation, is passionate about building communities. "A hallmark of a good community is one that has people out and about walking, biking and connecting with their neighbors," Drew explained. "I shifted from making other places great to visit to making places great to live."

For Kerri, who recently revamped her family's health and eating habits "much to their chagrin," biking connects to her focus on Functional Medicine – a holistic approach that addresses the lifestyle, diet, and environmental factors that contribute to a patient's health and well-being. Plus, she added, "Exercise helps

get energy out before class."

As parents, the Harts also said they take pride in knowing their children can get to sports practices at the park independently. This spring will be Kate's third year on the field with Fair Oaks Lacrosse, and Scott and Austin have played soccer since they were 4 years old. "You can find me pacing and yelling at the boys from the sidelines," Kerri said.

An adventurous bunch, the Harts engage in outdoor sports year-round. They paddleboard, wakeboard and even cliff jump at Lake Natoma and Folsom Lake during the summer. In the winter, they hit the slopes in Utah for a whole week of skiing and snowboarding. Back at home, they take their energetic pup, Finn, for daily walks along Mississippi Bar at Lake Natoma. The 2-year-old Vizsla also likes to go mountain biking with the family.

"We enjoy riding our bikes to downtown Folsom and grabbing a treat and then stopping at Lake Natoma," Kerri said. "The kids are known to convince their dad to give them each a dollar if they take a dunk in the water during the winter."

Through their bike rides around town and connections with neighbors they call friends, the Hart family has discovered new things to appreciate about the area. "We feel we lucked into this peaceful, quiet neighborhood," Kerri said. "Sometimes we feel like we brought chaos when we moved in with our three loud children, but we are so happy to be a part of this community." ■

Fair Oaks 9-Year-Old Captures Two USA BMX National Titles

SUBMITTED BY AMY LARSEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NICO VAN DARTEL



NINE-YEAR-OLD BMX racer Nathan "Arson" Larsen of Fair Oaks capped off an extraordinary season by capturing two national titles at the USA BMX season finale in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Racing against the top amateur riders in the country, he won the Race of Champions (ROC) in the 9 Expert class and the USA BMX Grand Nationals Championship in the 9-and-under cruiser division – a rare double-title accomplishment at the sport's biggest event.

The event, held November 27 through 30, is widely regarded as the most prestigious amateur BMX competition in the world, drawing thousands of the world's best racers. With his victories in Tulsa, Nathan secured a No. 1 national ranking for his age group and is currently ranked No. 23 overall among all male cruiser riders nationwide.

"I'm not sure what's more exciting," said Nathan. "Bringing home a trophy taller than my dad or getting to run the No. 1 plate on both my bikes next year."

Nathan's passion for riding began almost as soon as he could walk. He taught himself how to ride at age two and started BMX racing competitively at four. He joined Terrapin Technology Racing in 2020 as their youngest rider and has continued to rise through the ranks.

"Nathan has been a great representative for Terrapin at every level this year and a personal inspiration, showing what's possible with hard work, dedication, and consistent practice," said Terrapin Board President Brian Hood.

The BMX season requires extensive travel, with competitions nearly year-round. Nathan trains weekly with Kalani Hunter of Robby's 21Productions Elite Racing Team and continues to develop his skills on local racetracks, trails and bike parks. He is also active in baseball, soccer, golf, and mountain biking. Despite his busy schedule, Nathan maintains straight As. ■