

SOUTH WALNUT CREEK *living*

OCTOBER 2024

MEET THE DEVINNEY FAMILY

*It All Begins and Ends with
La Famiglia*



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MEET THE DEVINNEY FAMILY

It All Begins and Ends with La Famiglia

BY CALLIE LATTANZIO

PHOTOS BY ADRIANE COSTA PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE DEVINNEY FAMILY

Craig and Jennifer DeVinney's history is a testament that if it's meant to be, it will be. They attended Bishop O'Down High School in Oakland where they were introduced by Craig's best buddy who is also Jennifer's cousin. Despite the flirtations, they did not date in high school, and even though they both coincidentally ended up at UC Santa Barbara, they did not date there either! It was not until - again, coincidentally - they both ended up in Los Angeles living a mere few blocks away from each other that they began hanging out as friends. Jennifer was dabbling in acting while in the early stage of her real estate career and Craig was a medical student at USC. Fun fact: Craig graduated highest distinction from USC Medical School (top 10% of his class). Craig and Jennifer's values, goals and dreams aligned and they soon realized they found their forever person. Both being deeply connected to their families, Craig and Jennifer married in 2003 in the Bay Area and didn't hesitate to move back

closer to their loved ones after they had their first child, Dylan (19). Craig has been serving our community as an ER doctor in the emergency department at John Muir Hospital for the last 18 years. He works on the ground daily with first responders like the police and fire department, caring for the community, homeless and mentally ill during some of their darkest hours. Through the experience he has gained as a team leader and player, and the unique lens he has on the needs of the community, he feels called to run for City Council of Walnut Creek. Craig has run a grassroots campaign since November of last year, meeting and talking to numerous small business owners and over a thousand residents of Walnut Creek. It has been a joy for Craig to meet with the community, listening to their wants and needs.

After graduating from UCSB, Jennifer got into advertising in San Francisco. The voice over work she did at work sparked an interest in acting so she moved to LA to pursue acting while practicing real estate to support this endeavor. After getting married to Craig in 2003 and having their first child, they moved back to the Bay Area to reside in Alamo and then Walnut Creek where they would be close to their families. They are fortunate to have their parents living 5 minutes away in Rossmoor and for that reason, they have never needed a babysitter because they have always been the very best! Their parents' involvement in helping to raise their children has enabled Jennifer to practice real estate full time for the past 15 years, allowing her love for selling real estate to benefit families of every shape, size and at all stages. One of Jennifer's favorite memories with Craig took place along the Napoli Coast in Kauai where they went on an adventure a little too late in the

evening. Being relatively competitive at heart, they thought they could make it back before dark, but dusk went to pitch dark around 6:00 pm that warm tropical evening. They were forced to slow their roll leading to a couple hours worth of sharing stories of their earliest memories together. Eventually, another couple who also got caught in the dark found them with a flashlight they borrowed from overnight campers. The four of them hiked out very slowly and made it back to their cars just before midnight. A harrowing experience turned treasured memory!

The DeVinney family have three sons. Dylan graduated from Las Lomas HS and is currently in his first year at Diablo Valley College. He is passionate about basketball and golf, and hopes to do either or both in the near future at UCSB where both his parents attended. Steven (17) is in his senior year at De La Salle. He is also an accomplished basketball player and golfer, and hopes to be a part of this year's De La Salle golf team. Luke (13) is in upper school at Tice Creek School. He loves backpacking and soccer, and is a talented pianist. The DeVinneys have two wonderful dogs, Musso and Molly, who play all day long and spend way more time in the family pool than they do!

The DeVinneys are a Catholic family and enjoy going to both St. Anne's Church at Rossmoor and St. Perpetua Church in Lafayette. The senior



parishioners at St. Anne's enjoy having children attend so Craig and Jennifer have rooted their sons in St. Anne's on Sundays. Church has created an opportunity for the DeVinney family to be together in reflection, in poignant songs and gratitude. They also enjoy volunteering as a family. All three boys have been members of Boys Team Charity which is an incredible organization providing young men with philanthropic opportunities. Craig is a member of and Trustee for the Walnut Creek Rotary and they are long time top level partners and supporters of the Walnut Creek Education Foundation (WCEF) and Sustainable Contra Costa.

Tice Valley Park and Community Gym is a special place for the DeVinney family and has connected them to the community for years. The outdoor play structure and sand pit has provided hours of entertainment for their sons when they were little as well as the indoor gym and soccer fields where numerous basketball and soccer games have been played. Jennifer has utilized the picnic area for annual events like Santa and Easter Bunny visits, egg coloring and pumpkin carving that she has hosted as a neighborhood realtor. Jennifer is also an original business Partner with Walnut Creek Education Foundation (WCEF) and has been a top level sponsor since the business partner inception. She believes better schools means better

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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property values and better opportunities for our local students!

Traveling is a big part of the DeVinney family. From Morocco to hiking along the Oregon Coast to the Canadian Rockies. Glacier National Park, Lake Louise, and Jasper are just a few of the innumerable pristine areas visited. Two favorite local vacation spots are Sea Ranch and Lake Tahoe. During the pandemic, the DeVinneys bought a trailer to live in while they did some remodeling, and it led to some memorable road trips to places that hotels could not beat. They

could park their trailer in the most beautiful spots. Having all five DeVinneys plus dogs in a trailer made for a very special and intimate experience. Unlike being in a home where everyone was spread out in separate rooms, a camper trailer kept everyone cozy and snug.

Jennifer exclaimed, "We love this magazine and the stories of our fellow Tice Valley neighbors and friends. This is such a great bonding experience for the community. I am so proud of my husband for running his grass root campaign for city council, and through



South Walnut Creek Living, our neighbors and community will get to know more about him and his family." Thank you, DeVinney family, for being our October Resident Feature!

Do You Have a Notable Neighbor?

Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at clattanzio@bestversionmedia.com.

PET CORNER

LOOKING FOR LOVE

BY CHELSEA BLACKBURN

Adopt a new best friend at Joybound People & Pets (formerly the Animal Rescue Foundation) in Walnut Creek! View available dogs and cats online or visit Joybound in-person: Monday-Sunday, 12-6 pm. Our team is excited to guide you in choosing a pet, share information about their history and behavior, and provide helpful resources.

joybound.org

HERE ARE A COUPLE OF OUR ADORABLE ANIMALS LOOKING FOR LOVE:

Abby is a soulful and reserved 9-year-old Siamese beauty with mesmerizing blue eyes and a sleek coat. While Abby can be shy at first, she shows affection in her own way once she feels safe. With time, this precious kitty bonds deeply with someone who offers her the love and patience she needs.

Berry is a tall and elegant gentleman with a smile that will steal away even the hardest of hearts. His sensitive soul will need someone to love who can provide patience and understanding for his boundaries. He loves playing with his favorite toys, getting a good brush, or splashing in water. *Bonus:* Berry's adoption fee has been sponsored by a generous admirer.



Do you have a pet that you would like to have featured in an upcoming issue?

Email clattanzio@bestversionmedia.com.

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