

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ... read on Page D12

Four generations on one block



Photos provided

The tract of homes on Ponderosa Lane was built in and around a walnut orchard in 1950. To this day, no matter how many times the road has been repaved, you can still see the sinkholes where the trees once stood.

By John T. Miller

Betty Crawford, who at 90 years old still lives in the Saranap home she and her husband Cal purchased in 1956, says she is truly blessed to have her great-grandchildren moving in just three doors down from her house.

Her granddaughter Kayla and her husband Wes Andrews purchased the home with the help of Kayla's parents, Tim and Donna Crawford.

The house, a complete fixer-upper, was rescued just a few weeks away from foreclosure with a last minute offer to the previous owner, whose husband had passed away eight months previous.

Tim, who retired in 2018 and sold his successful business – Unique Elevator Interiors – devoted himself full time to fixing up the house. In late July, Kayla and her family moved in.

Monopoly anyone?

The Crawfords already had a history on Ponderosa Lane, where in the late '70s, Betty

and Cal played a real life version of Monopoly, buying the house next door to them and renting to their daughter Jeanette and her husband Jim, and also buying the house across the street with Tim and his wife Donna moving in.

In addition, back in that same decade, this magical lane in Saranap boasted four sets of grandparents with their offspring living on the same block. The Babysitter's Union put up a protest, but there was no need to go outside family for coverage.

Jim and Jeanette raised three boys and then eventually bought and sold their house, moving all of five houses up the street. Tim and Donna did the same and moved a half-mile away on Freeman Road. However, they are only six houses down if you travel through their backyards and get a little muddy in Las Trampas Creek.

"It's wonderful to have the great grandchildren pop in and out," says Betty.

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The new kids on the block, from left: Nora, Lilly, and Harley, play King of the Hill on a mound of dirt in front of their new home. Their great grandmother, Betty Crawford, lives just three houses down the street.