

1474

## WHITECLIFF WAY, WALNUT CREEK

Dear Prospective Buyer,

In the early 2000s, shortly after Mike and I got married and just before we had kids of our own, we discovered the Rudgear Estates when I drove my daughter to her friend's birthday party in the area. "The neighborhood is tucked in along the foothills of Mount Diablo", I told Mike that evening. "There are lush green lawns, a community pool and a huge park and playground." We had recently moved to Walnut Creek and were still getting the lay of the land, but when we drove those streets together, we knew that the Rudgear Estates was the place we wanted to raise our kids.

By the time we were ready to make our move into the neighborhood we'd never stopped thinking about, our family had grown by 2. These homes rarely came on the market and when they did, it was only briefly, so we were thrilled to see the listing for 1474 Whitecliff Way. We were drawn to the versatility of the large floorplan and the amazing view beyond the back lawn which was perfect for our littles and their swing set. It was kismet when we learned that our sellers--the original owners--had also raised three daughters there. The home was obviously well-loved from the very beginning; we could see it in the custom-made banister and well-tended garden.

After we moved in, we started adding our own touches and finishes. We terraced the back yard to open up the view and add more gardening spaces alongside the prolific lemon tree and calla lilies; we updated the fireplace and later added a gas insert and redid the bathrooms and kitchen. The house is already pretty well insulated from summer heat, but we found we could keep things cooler, longer when we installed the whole house fan (which, between April and July, draws in the sweet scent of jasmine from the thriving vine on the back patio).

Over the years, we hosted Thanksgiving dinners with upwards of 20 people and offered plenty of sleeping accommodations for out-of-town guests. We appreciated the trick-or-treat-friendly sidewalks and streetlamps on Halloween and taught our kids to ride bikes in the parking lot of Murwood Elementary where they went to school. We threw birthday parties at the pool and playground and took our dog on countless hikes around and beyond the twin loops trail at the end of the street.

It's funny how a house can become like a member of the family--related by the love given and received under its shelter. There's a bittersweetness around our move away from Whitecliff. But now that the kids are making their way out of our beloved nest and Mike is approaching retirement, we are ready to embark on life's next great adventures.

The neighborhood is trending younger these days. We see young couples pushing strollers and pulling wagons with little kids in tow, and we are so thankful for our dozen years in these Rudgear Estates. We know what these new families have to look forward to as they raise their kids. And we know they could not have chosen a better place to do it.

Warmest regards,

Katie & Mike Messina