

GOURLEY/ A busy guy

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"This is where I want to raise my kids," he said. "My phone is listed. People can call me any-time. And they do."

Tina agrees. "Everybody kind of knows everybody in this area," she said. "Walking around town and seeing familiar faces — in a bigger city you are not necessarily going to get that."

Hammering and 'thinking time'

Matt's hobbies are limited by growing city life, a growing business and a growing family. He ran cross-country and track for North Salinas High School and ran triathlons until foot problems limited him to walking. He has managed to take on a new game and proudly said he has two full rounds of golf under his belt. Gourley declined to comment on his score, however.

In addition to swinging the golf club, Gourley is not afraid to swing a hammer. He said working in construction

around town not only makes him more approachable, but it gives him an outlet for some of his frustrations with city politics.

"Government is just so slow that when I do jobs in construction, I am able to see things happen," he said. "I am able to take out those frustrations on my job. I still get out there and swing a hammer or grab a jackhammer. It gives you a lot of thinking time."

In the Gourley household, such time is limited. But Tina said an active community life is more than just self-gratifying; it's an important lesson for their three girls. The lesson for her children is simple.

"In order to get things, and be somebody and feel good about yourself you need to be involved in all aspects of your community," she said. "And continue to thrive and be who you want to be.

"If we were just the type to sit back and be observers, that's what they are going to think life is about."

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