

## 9 Dunnder Drive

What started out as a starter house became a home over the last 20 years. The house started as a 5 year home at 1600 square feet with a beautiful backyard. Our quality of life changed once we expanded the house in 2016. We used to be able to fit around 15 people in our house, now we entertain 50 people in our house and everyone huddles around the island. We now have Holidays at our house. We have Memorial Day parties in our backyard. We play Card against Humanity with the neighbors.

Summit is a wonderful place to raise a family. We moved here when we were pregnant with our oldest. At the time we were looking for houses, I remember thinking if we can have a grill in the backyard that would be amazing. The pool in the backyard has brought endless happiness and laughs. Our girls learned to swim in this pool when they were young, to inviting their friends for pool BBQ's as teenagers. The privacy and beauty outback have been a huge gift every summer but especially gave us an escape during covid. We have had many BBQs, pool parties and firepit smore's nights.

The Dunnder Drive/West End Neighbors are fantastic! We have made lifelong friends. This neighborhood is part of the Washington Elementary School, which is .6 miles away. When the girls were little, we had a Walking School Bus every morning in the Spring and Fall. Basically, a couple of parents walked to school with all the neighborhood kids and our dog Daisy (the unofficial mascot). There is a mom's night monthly, where once a month one Mom will organize a dinner or activity for anyone available. It was a great way to meet our neighbors and have an evening out especially when the girls were little. Halloween on our street is a favorite for the whole town, with parents and kids all getting into the action. There was a Haunted Garage done by one family and a chili tasting cookoff by another. Every June there is a block party, a Facebook Group called WEADUN Neighbors and another nice touch, a Welcome Committee of the local Moms to get new families introduced. In times of trouble (blackout, covid) our neighbors always come together to help each other. Even to this day, we have Block Parties that are on Facebook and on the WEADUN Facebook site. The men play golf together and have a neighborhood Fantasy Football league. This WEADUN block offers people who are down to earth, say hi to each other outside, is very dog friendly and all in all very protective of each other. If the adults want to get away, we often meet at the Elks Club in town. Check it out. There are plenty of members on the block and it is easy to become a member. They have a chic rooftop bar along with a second floor that offers a dive bar feel. You can play darts, pool, or just grab cheap drinks.

Schools –Our daughters flourished at CPC Nursery School, Wilson Primary Center, Washington School and LCJ Middle School. For High School, our daughters took 2 separate Public School paths.

Our youngest went to the Summit High School. She was active in the Theater Department all four years and was head of Costume Crew her senior year. She was also a star Speech and Debate competitor making it to the National Speech & Debate Tournament (NSDA) 3 years in a row, along with other prestigious competitions like Harvard, Yale, TOC (Tournament of Champions) and many local competitions. She is ranked number 2 in country and is invited to the 2023 NJ Governor's Awards in Arts Education. Without the options available at Summit High School, she would have missed these amazing opportunities. She is planning to pursue her education using her voice to make a difference in our legal system and is starting next year at George Washington University in DC.

Our oldest went to the Academy for Allied Health Sciences. AAHS is a part of the Union County Vocational-Technical High School that is ranked tops in NJ as well as Nationally ranked. It is FREE. It is a

full-time vocation public high school located in Scotch Plains, NJ. The UCVT has nine schools which include Academy for Allied Health Sciences, Academy for Information Technology, Academy for Performing Arts, Union County Magnet High School, Union County Vocational-Technical High School. UCVT is a by application only public school where about 30% of the applicants are accepted as Freshmen for the 4-year program. These highly competitive schools accept the brightest minds in Union County pulling together a diverse set of students. AAHS is a selective school with exposure to various health career skills and occupations with an emphasis on Biology and Chemistry courses. UCVT does not offer sports, so our daughter was able to tryout and make the Summit High School Volleyball team for all 4 years. All sports are done with the student's home high school. She fell in love with field of medicine and is pursuing it at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI.

We decided not to send our girls to Private Schools, although there are plenty in town (Kent Place, Oak Knoll, Oratory Prep). The reason we moved here was because of the public-school systems. As one of our kids plans are medical school and the other is law school, we felt the public schools did their job.

We are also foodies, and between walking to the restaurants in town, the Farmers Market on Sundays or just hopping on the train to NYC, the options were fantastic. Since there are two train stations within 1 mile of the house, we often went into the city on the express train. Our girls have become city girls, without living in the city.

All in All – 9 Dunnder Drive has been a wonderful place to raise our family. As empty nesters, we are off to find our next adventure. Hope 9 Dunnder Drives brings you as much joy and happiness as it has us.

Best of luck on your next adventure.

John and Christina Szabados