

LOVE LETTER FOR: 66 Nestro Road, West Orange, New Jersey 07052

It is hard to believe that the time has come to say “Good-bye” to you, dear house. Our oldest son was just one when we moved in, 59 years ago. You have been the heart of our family life, and you grew to accommodate our needs. The memories made here evoke many smiles and not a few tears.

We were so blessed to have found you in a spot only a mile from the High School and less than a mile from Redwood elementary school. As a mom I enjoyed socializing with the other neighborhood moms while our kids happily played in the yards, climbed on our jungle gym, or set up soccer fields in the dead-end across the street. They had carnivals on the lawn, loved their birthday parties, and walked to school together. Many of the friendships formed then endure to this day.

When our second son was born, we added the two bedrooms and the bath upstairs, so we were able to convert the “nursery” across from our bedroom to an office/den/playroom. The kids, including son number three, were delighted with their upstairs domain, where they had their sleepovers, their games, and their fights. We were happy to have the downstairs to ourselves. As the children got older, we felt the need to add the family room over the garage. The easy-to-move furniture made it possible for it to become the site of our many parties and big, big family holiday dinners. What I almost forgot to mention is that, outside, there was just enough space for my husband to develop the garden so that there are always flowers as well as tomatoes and herbs to share with neighbors. Everyone who walks by regularly comments on the seasonal variety provided by the many bulbs and perennial plants.

As our sons grew, went off to college, and sporadically left an empty nest, we were once again grateful for your basic layout, with all we needed downstairs. However, the fun of entertaining never left us, and the joys of family celebrations inspired the addition of lots of space and storage to the new kitchen, the deck, the porch, and the central air conditioning. The deck has served us well with its natural gas grill and its awning. But my personal favorite is the year-round porch where we can be “outside” whenever the spirit moves us. You have truly been here for us, dear house, through all the years. Most importantly, you have not been a drain on us financially. Because of your essential affordability, our lives have been immeasurably enriched. We could afford to travel, educate our kids, and minimize stress.

Thank you, dear house, we all love you, are grateful to have found you, and will miss you every single day.