

Our home

The house at 30 Tooker Place was part of a development on Hawthorne Avenue built in 1953 for returning Korean War veterans. There were only two styles of homes in the development, a 2-bedroom ranch and a 3-bedroom split level. My aunt and uncle bought this house in 1958. I grew up in Union on Balmoral Ave and would walk to the top of Balmoral and then walk the railroad tracks to my aunt and uncle's home. Back then the railroad ran once a day in each direction. Not sure exactly when the railroad stopped running but I am thinking it was the early seventies. The Magnolia tree by the shed was planted by Dr. Haley on a home visit when my aunt was sick. That was the doctor who delivered me. I have many fond memories of playing in the park as a boy and playing tennis across the street as an adult. You may see parents teach their children to ride bikes in our dead end as that was what we did because it is very safe.

I bought the house in 1986 and in 1988 I married my wife. In 1990 we added 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on the second floor in anticipation of raising a family. Every piece of sheetrock and insulation was replaced, using thicker insulation and ½" sheetrock. We live in a quiet neighborhood but those changes resulted in minimal noise from the park and tennis court and a very efficient house. Our electric bills have indicated that we are in the top 6% for efficiency in the State of New Jersey.

We enjoyed raising our daughters in this quiet neighborhood. I put a patio in the backyard so I could set up a Gazebo allowing my daughters to hang out with their friends on the weekends while keeping an eye open from our bedroom window. As they got older we added a second patio as the parties we were having grew larger. I once cooked for a graduation party and we entertained 65 people in our yard.

I have very fond memories of Jewish and Christian holidays cooking for our family. Thanksgiving was a tradition in our home, 35 years of celebrations with as many as 27 people attending. We will miss celebrating those holidays in our home, but cherish those memories.

We have wonderful relationships with our neighbors and will miss them. I will also miss the wildlife; deer, bunnies, squirrels, chipmunks, and occasionally turkeys and an owl. We did not eat those turkeys!

For most of my years, I commuted into New York. I was able to walk a short distance and get a bus to New York (Port Authority) or Newark (PATH to the World Trade Center). I had access to Mid-Town Direct trains in Summit, Millburn, and Maplewood in 8 to 12 minutes driving time.

Local restaurants are also within walking distance.

We hope you enjoy the home as much as we have.