

Sellers' Letter: 58 Candace Lane, Chatham, NJ

Dear Prospective Buyer,

Welcome to 58 Candace Lane! For over 20 years, we have loved this graceful Colonial, raising our kids, growing our friendships and being part of a supportive, thriving community. True story: When we were married and moving out from NYC, we were deciding between two homes at the time – a charming (small) brick colonial in Summit and a beautiful (larger) Tudor home, directly at the top of Candace Lane. As first-time buyers, we decided to buy in Summit ... but five years and two kids later, we needed more space. So, we looked again and as fate would have it, we wound our way back to Candace Lane and our home today. To this day, we say we were destined to live on this street. Here are our “Top 10” reasons why we love our home.

- 1) **Our Neighborhood!** When you buy a home, you get neighbors too. And this is the main reason why we'll miss our home. When you move into 58 Candace, you'll be surrounded with incredible, social and supportive neighbors. When babies are born (and, lately, there have been a lot), there are meal trains to help support the newborn's family. At Christmas, there is a ladies gift exchange, and luminaries line the streets. There are block parties, bus stop chats, Friday happy hours, and kids in costume ringing the doorbell at Halloween (tip: stock up.) This winter, we even had a bowling night at Chatham Fish & Game. Anyone moving to Candace Lane is welcomed and added to the neighborhood email chain, where you can ask any question (Any babysitters available on Saturday? Any good painters? Any dentists and doctors you might recommend?) Oh yes, we'll miss our neighborhood.
- 2) **The Sweeping Views** – Nearly 20 years later, we remain astounded by the panoramic sweeping views, whether enjoying a glass of wine on our deck in the summer as an orange sunset fades to black, or the wintertime vistas stretching out over the Great Swamp to Morris Plains. We cannot count the number of times we raced inside to tell others to “come outside now,” to enjoy the view. Our most memorable sunset ever was on our honeymoon in Maui, but 58 Candace has provided an endless kaleidoscope of colors that come pretty darn close.
- 3) **Ground Floor Office** – When we were re-doing our kitchen, a designer recommended knocking down the walls to make an open floor plan. We decided against – and, boy, we're happy we did! We didn't know there would be a global pandemic and work from home would suddenly become a thing, but we're thrilled we kept the ground floor office. And, it will probably not surprise you, it's one of the most used rooms in our home!
- 4) **Springtime Peonies** - You can't see them now, because they're hiding. But the neighbors will tell you: 58 Candace has the most beautiful magenta and white peonies, lining the front walkway. In truth, we had our landscaper plant flowers that blossom at different times, so

you'll be treated to an ever-changing assortment of colors. The peonies are a true show stopper, but don't miss the double knockout roses at the end of the driveway in the summer. No work needed, just enjoy them – twice – as they bloom two times.

- 5) **Master Bedroom & Bath** – Before moving here, we shared one bathroom with our kids. We were, of course, thrilled to have such a special master bedroom and bath, with its elevated tray ceiling and bathroom skylight, making the rooms even more spacious. At the end of the hallway, we can close the door and find a quiet sanctuary at the end of each day.
- 6) **Backyard & Fire Pit** – We loved the backyard's size at first sight and the kids put it to good use, first with a giant swing set when they were very little and then a trampoline, placing on the stones. But when the kids got older and the pandemic came along, we swapped the teenage trampoline for an adult fire pit, so we could have our neighbors and friends over. Many a summer night have we enjoyed under the stars, playing the guitar and singing songs. Because of the backyard's natural beauty, we hosted our son's pre-prom with parents snapping photos from the deck with the teenage couples below.
- 7) **Fabulous schools** – If you're a family looking for some of the state's best schools, well, you came to the right place. Our kids both attended Chatham schools from elementary through high school, making dozens of friends who they still see when they come home from college or work. Our daughter was so inspired she is studying to be a teacher now at college, and even substitutes in the Chatham schools when she is back home on break. When she goes into the teacher's lounge, her teachers welcome her back – by name. It's a special place.
- 8) **Central convenience to Chatham, New Providence, Summit and Berkeley Heights** – Our home is in Chatham, but just cross River Road and you find yourself in New Providence, Berkeley Heights or minutes from Summit. We, therefore, find ourselves enjoying all four towns equally. On any given day, you can find us at church or working in Summit, visiting relatives in New Providence, commuting to the city from Chatham, or grabbing quick takeout from a restaurant in Berkeley Heights or picking up a prescription at Walgreen's. Four great towns for the price of one. What a bonus!
- 9) **3rd parking space** – When the kids started to drive, we realized it was going to be important to extend the driveway to get a third car. Very glad we did, as it has prevented years of backups and moving cars around to get out.
- 10) **Storage!** – You'll be surprised how fast you can fill up a large home, but when we finished the basement we decided to build both closets and extra work shelves in the storage room. Good decision! As you can tell, we put them to good use with seasonal decorations, party accessories and enough wrapping paper to cover the Statue of Liberty from head to toe! (One of us - who'll remain nameless - has trouble throwing things away.)