

Dear Future 224 Gates Residents,

You are going to love your new neighborhood! We've loved every minute of living on Gates Ave, especially the neighbors, trick-or-treating, and the tranquility of a quiet tree-lined street. The best part about 224 Gates through the seasons:

❄️ Winter - the south-facing driveway and steps allows snow to melt very quickly (after you get in a few runs sledding down the driveway in the fresh powder)

🌸 Spring - the daffodils in the backyard pop up every March/April without fail and the colors of each flowering tree on our street are simply brilliant

☀️ Summer - the north-facing, shaded deck that looks out into a sea of trees, and colorful 9pm sunsets from the front windows

🍁 Fall - the patchwork of fall colors visible from all sides

We moved to New Jersey from California in 2021, and honestly, we weren't sure what to expect. What we found was something we didn't even know we were looking for — a real neighborhood, with real people, and a street that actually feels like a community. Gates Ave welcomed us immediately, and it has been home in every sense of the word ever since.

The neighbors here are something special. Our kids found their people on this block — same ages, same energy, same enthusiasm for a good time. Block parties that spill into the street, Halloween nights where the kids run in packs until they can barely carry their candy, and the kind of neighbors who just *show up* when you need them. When our old fridge broke a few years ago, I texted our neighborhood mom group chat and asked to borrow a few coolers for the week and within 30 minutes, I had 3 huge coolers delivered to my doorstep (thanks to Bev and Jillian!). We have the best neighbors and we will dearly miss them.

As for 224 Gates itself — we have poured love into every corner of this home. The kitchen renovation is the one we'll miss most deeply. We designed it to be the heart of the house, and it delivered on that every single day — morning coffee at the counter, holiday cooking that filled every room with something good, and more impromptu dinner parties than we can count. It is genuinely hard to leave a kitchen you love that much and that maximizes storage space with every cabinet.

The basement became something none of us planned for: our family's unofficial karaoke and hang space. Somewhere between the colorful plug-in lights, the sound system, and the sheer fun of a finished lower level, it turned into the room where the best memories happened. We hope it does the same for you.

What we want you to know, above all, is that this house has been exceptionally well cared for. A new roof, a completely new boiler and mechanical system with all new copper piping, a waterproofed basement with a French drain, new LVP flooring throughout, a new deck, a new retaining wall, and the kitchen renovation — all done with intention, not just to sell, but because this was *our* home and we wanted to enjoy it.

We are only leaving because the next chapter calls us somewhere new. But we leave knowing that 224 Gates Ave is ready for its next family — and that this neighborhood will welcome you just as warmly as it welcomed us.

With warmth,

Lisa & Ray Waweru