

Dear fellow house-hunter,

If you're reading this, you're in the right place at the right time.

When we moved here, we didn't just choose a home; we chose a lifestyle. And it started with this location. You can't beat it. Coming from the city, we were nervous about commuting. But we quickly realized our lifeline to NYC was a five minute walk away (past a grassy field and babbling brook...not bad!). An express train gets us to midtown in about half an hour. That's less time than friends in Brooklyn and Queens. For ex-city folk (i.e. all your neighbors), that's huge. There's something really special about leaving the car behind and just strolling out the door for anything you need. The park, the library, groceries and restaurants...it's all right there.

We've spent so many late afternoons on the front porch with a glass of wine in hand, waving to families walking towards town, chatting with dog walkers, and watching the world go by. And then there's the backyard—our own little “enchanted forest.” Having town land directly behind the house means no rear neighbors, which is surprisingly rare in Maplewood. In the summer, the trees create this incredible canopy overhead with birdsong, and in the winter, once the leaves fall, you can see all the way to South Mountain. It's peaceful, private, and the perfect backdrop for childhood memories.

Inside, this house somehow manages to feel both cozy and airy. We've hosted dinners in the moody dining room, spent winter nights playing piano by the fire, and curled up on the window bench with books while rain tapped against the glass. The second-floor sunroom genuinely feels like being tucked inside a treehouse. And the third-floor office, with its view over chimney tops and treetops, makes work-from-home days feel zen.

Some of our favorite everyday moments are the simplest ones: chasing our dog around the backyard, ordering the weekly (unhinged) specials from Corner Slice pizza, or kicking a ball around with neighbors in the park. We've filled these bedrooms with visiting family and old friends, and this house has always seemed to expand effortlessly to hold everyone.

What makes leaving hardest is knowing how much there still is to look forward to here. We were especially excited for the reopening of the Maplewood movie theater and the grand opening of Paper Plane Coffee Co., both just a short stroll away.

We fell in love with this house a year ago. We started a family here. We made additions. We painted. We furnished it. This place gave us exactly what we hoped for when we left the city: community, nature, walkability, warmth, and a place where life feels just a little slower in the best possible way. It felt like a Norman Rockwell painting come to life, with all the perks of city life within easy reach.

Unfortunately, life throws you curveballs (job/family), and we've made the difficult decision to cut our time here short. But this house is very special to us. We'll miss it dearly and we hope the next people who live here turn it into the forever home it's meant to be. Your best chapter starts here!

Sincerely,

*Rachel, Steve, Billy (6 months), and Mia (woof!)*