



WELCOME HOME

1355 Excelsior Ave

Dear Future Excelsior Avenue Homeowner:

Wow! It's hard to believe that we have lived in our amazing (and first) home for over six years. In that time, we got engaged, married, and had our daughter, who is now 4. It has seen us through so many transitions, good and bad times, and of course, an ongoing pandemic. We searched for quite a while before finding this home - and this neighborhood - and we feel so lucky to have been able to experience life here during these last several years.

As soon as we walked into the house, we appreciated the open and accessible layout. We didn't realize at the time how flexible it would be as well. During our time in the home, we've changed how we use most of the rooms several times depending on our needs, even making the guest room into a partial office to accommodate having to work from home full time once COVID hit. We do a lot of cooking and baking and it's nice that we can keep an eye on our daughter from the kitchen's central location. Since we've lived there, we purchased a new stove (with a double oven, one is convection), a new french door refrigerator, and added a microwave. The washer and dryer were also replaced with energy efficient ones.

All of the house gets the sun, depending on the time of day, of course. The front of the home gets the morning sun, so we installed custom blinds in the front rooms and the middle bedroom that open from top and bottom so you can get light without the glare. The back of the home gets more of the afternoon and evening sun, which makes for lovely evenings in the backyard year-round. We always spent some time every day in the back, but with the pandemic, we were able to adapt it into a playground, yoga studio, craft station, pool deck, dining room, campground and more. When our daughter was born, we also added a shed out back for extra storage, which we'd be happy to leave if you would like it.



We loved living in the Glenview neighborhood. It's incredibly walkable, with shops, neighborhood grocery stores, restaurants, a park, a library, and more. We spent many weekends walking to the Grand Lake farmer's market or grabbing some breakfast sandwiches from The Hive on MacArthur and enjoying them at Dimond Park. In the evenings, we relished being able to walk up to dinner at Paulista (the local Brazilian restaurant whose owners live right here in Glenview) or Park Burger, both of which are super family friendly. During the pandemic, all the restaurants on Park have remained open and we've been able to support them in different ways, like lots of take-out, meal kits, and even getting our weekly CSA (community supported agriculture) box from Bellanico, a lovely Italian restaurant with a great wine selection.

The house also comes with a spectacular group of people around you. The neighbors on one side have been year for over 20 years and it's been a gift to get to know them and get some parenting tips every now and again. We've been able to greet other neighbors as they've moved in over the past 6+ years. And somehow we've been able to grow closer to some folks over this last year of quarantine, shelter-in-place, etc. Talking over the fence or from our porches has become part of our "new normal," and it's been a comfort to know we have people nearby, if and when, we need them. This group of people also includes those who work here, like the firefighters from Station 16 or the teachers and other staff from Edna Brewer Middle School. One of our daughter's favorite activities is being able to walk up the street and explore the fire station and the trucks. And don't worry about the noise, we learned quickly after moving in that they never turn on the sirens until they turn off the street =).

Writing this letter has actually been difficult as we reflect on how much this house has meant to us. Maybe that's how we all feel leaving our first home and the one we brought our baby home to, or maybe we did find something truly special.

We are so grateful to have found this house and to have been a part of its history, which will now include you.

Good luck on this next chapter!

Nicolette, Mike, and Maya

