

REAL ESTATE

HOT PROPERTY

Swimming pool a focal point of Stamford ranch home

By Meg Barone

Ranch-style houses fell out of favor for a while. They're back in vogue not just with aging Baby Boomers but with younger generations of homeowners who like the concept of one-level living or anticipate bringing parents to live with them in the future.

Practicality aside, the 3,304-square-foot ranch at 43 Old Logging Road in North Stamford is attractive for its warmth, its setting, its proximity to the Stamford Museum and Nature Center and its comfort.

"It's not a showcase house. It's a country ranch. It's seen its share of snow-covered boots and muddy paws," said homeowner Lori Gunn. It's also "toasty warm in the winter and at the end of a hot day it's very refreshing to walk into," she said.

The heated in-ground pool offers respite from the heat of summer days, and makes a great place for entertaining, as does the yard within the 1.24-acre parcel.

"We have had six pre-prom celebrations in our backyard with at least 200 people each time and still had space to sit back and take it all in. Every birthday party, graduation party and summer holiday was centered around the pool, which is close to seven-feet deep on one end," Gunn said. The pool also features an auto cleaner and hot tub.

"At one point most of the kids in Stamford enjoyed the attached hot tub as well. This is the house everyone hangs out at," she said.

Built in 1960, this sprawling ranch includes a master bedroom suite, four additional bedrooms, and an office (or sixth bedroom if necessary). The comfortable living room has a stone fireplace and leads into the family room and steps down to the dining room. The house has hardwood floors throughout. The very large deck features a screened porch leading into the spacious eat-in-kitchen, where there is a brick fireplace.

"We've had many Thanksgivings by the fire in the kitchen,"



Donna Bruno Real Estate

The five-bedroom ranch-style home at 43 Old Logging Road in Stamford includes a heated in-ground swimming pool.

Details

Address: 43 Old Logging Road, Stamford

Price: \$799,000

Number of rooms: 11

Features: This sprawling five-bedroom ranch has a very large deck and screened porch leading into the spacious eat-in-kitchen with a fireplace. The house is located only minutes to the Merritt Parkway and close to the Stamford Nature Center and Observatory. There is attractive curb appeal and a circular driveway. Included on the level 1.24-acre property is a heated, in-ground pool; energy-efficient features include an attic fan.

Schools: Northeast Elementary, Turn Of River Middle, Westhill High School

also two delis just a walk away," she said.

Gunn marvels at the old farm history in her area.

"In fact, we still have one of the

original cow paths beyond our fence where the cows were led to graze and drink," she said, adding that their property yields bushels of the sweetest black-

berries every summer "and our fruit trees are producing two types of apples for the first time since we planted them 15 years ago." While living there the family has learned to make syrups and jams with the berries. Gunn called them "the highlight of summer because you can just eat them right off the vine then jump into the pool to wash off."

"There is so much you can do to this house if you want to, however, it's perfectly set up for a family as is," Gunn said.

Listing contact:

Donna Bruno,
Donna Bruno Real Estate,
(203) 359-9933,
donna-bruno.re@gmail.com

AGENT PROFILE *Wende Foreman*

Career built on sales experience

Wende Foreman's career in the real estate profession began 25 years ago, not as a Realtor, but on the financial side as a registered investment adviser and mortgage broker, from which she gained top notch sales experience and understanding of how financial trends directly affect real estate markets. Foreman owned and operated Cornerstone Capital & Real Estate Services, where she closed more than 3,000 real estate transactions.

She also provided clients expert advice on financing strategies, cash-flow analysis for investment units and growing their real estate portfolios. Her clients included prominent individuals, celebrities and professional athletes. Foreman doesn't originate mortgages anymore. She became a Realtor three years ago and brings that wealth of expertise and in-depth knowledge of the entire purchase and sale transaction to her diverse clientele, which continues to include professional athletes and the population at large.

"I've done everything from showing the property to helping the attorney with the final statement," Foreman said. "I love the business." She has received numerous achievement awards and consistently ranks as a top negotiator.

In 2012, Foreman sharpened her negotiating skills as a property price negotiator for the GSA's (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) short sale portfolios. Her clients gain a unique perspective from her multifaceted experience in the real estate industry. Her ability to understand her client's objectives, establish and execute a plan to accomplish those objectives while 100 percent engaged every step of the way is the key to any successful closing.

In her leisure time, Foreman can be found on the golf course. For the last 15



Business: William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Works: Stamford

Lives: Fairfield

Expertise: Preparing properties for sale, creating unique marketing plans that get results, property evaluations with pricing targets to maximize returns, relocation (particularly for pro-athletes who are traded to another team), covers all of lower Fairfield County

Contact: (203) 981-4550,
WForeman@WPSIR.com

years, she has been a true golf enthusiast, and constant promoter of women's involvement in the game.

"I am an advocate of golf for women." She also enjoys travel within the U.S. and abroad to France, England, East Africa, Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean.

Foreman is also "a super proud mom" of two daughters, one is a teacher and the other is a culinary prodigy. She has a miniature Australian shepherd, "who is not so mini."

Although she currently lives in Fairfield, Foreman is in the process of moving to Greenwich.

AGENT PROFILE *Sue Lapsien*

Inspired by visiting open homes

Sue Lapsien may have been destined to work in the real estate profession long before she actually became a Realtor three years ago.

"My parents were open house junkies so every weekend we would visit open houses in Germany. Even as a kid, I didn't mind. I liked it," said Lapsien, who grew up in Hamburg.

For many years, Lapsien had a successful career in the publishing field as bureau chief and photo editor for Stern, a German magazine, which she said is equivalent to Life magazine.

After living in Italy for five years and France for a while, curiosity and work for Stern took Lapsien to the U.S. 20 years ago. She made the career change because she has always loved real estate and feels she is now living her dream as a successful Fairfield County Realtor. The magazine work kept her confined to a chair and chained to a computer.

"I love to be outdoors, I love meeting new people and looking at different houses. I never get tired of looking at space no matter how large or small, run down or gorgeous. They all have something to offer," said Lapsien.

Lapsien covers all aspects of real estate in Fairfield County, with particular focus on Greenwich and Stamford. She said her listening skills are important in determining what buyers and sellers are hoping to achieve.

"Sometimes you have to listen between the lines," she said, adding that it is her pleasure to help home buyers find their



Business: NewBridge International

Works: Stamford

Lives: Norwalk

Expertise: Speaks multiple languages — English, German, Italian and French; negotiating skills, handles all aspects of real estate

Contact: (203) 822-3360,
suelapsien@gmail.com

real estate dream.

Her facility with languages — she speaks English, German, Italian and French — comes in handy as a Realtor in lower Fairfield County, which attracts people from throughout the world.

"It's very international," she said, and coming from Europe she said she can easily understand what foreign clients want. "It's second nature," she said.

For fun, Lapsien said she takes great pleasure in making cherry, blueberry, mango and apricot jams. They are all natural and sweetened with agave nectar. Lapsien hopes eventually to sell them.

THE LIST *Highest for sale*

Address	City	Price
163 Pear Tree Point Road	Darien	\$26 million
364 Laurel Road	New Canaan	\$15 million
218 Sleepy Hollow Road	New Canaan	\$14 million
203 Long Neck Point Road	Darien	\$14 million
141 Long Neck Point Road	Darien	\$13.495 million

Source: Town listings

ct house hunter
www.cthousehunter.com

ATTENTION
Real Estate Agents
and Brokers

If you wish be considered for a Hot Property, Agent Profile or to submit a press release, please go to www.cthousehunter.com/pr/ to be considered.