

# Real Estate

STAMFORD ADVOCATE | STAMFORDADVOCATE.COM | Friday, March 30, 2018 | Section R

## HOT PROPERTY

# Hilltop home with history in film

Davenport home housed actors in 2009 comedy 'Old Dogs' R2



William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

A luxurious hill top setting provides the backdrop for this stately Farmhouse-style colonial that is not only the envy of the private Davenport Farm community, but also the site of a movie starring Robin Williams.

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Keller Williams Prestige Properties

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## AGENT PROFILE

Agent focuses on getting clients the best market information



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## REAL ESTATE

## HOT PROPERTY

## Hilltop home features updated kitchen, backyard pool

By Robert Storace

A luxurious hill top setting provides the backdrop for this stately Farmhouse-style colonial that is not only the envy of the private Davenport Farm community, but also the site of a movie starring Robin Williams.

The 6,800-square-foot home, located at 125 Davenport Farm Lane West in north Stamford, was home for five days in August 2007 for the comedy "Old Dogs." The movie — which debuted in 2009 — had an all-star cast. In addition to Williams, it also starred John Travolta and his wife Kelly Preston and their daughter Ella Bleu, Bernie Mac, Seth Green, Matt Dillon and Rita Wilson. Williams, Preston and Ella Bleu were the only actors at the home during the shooting. All three made a positive impression on homeowners, John and Karen Smyth.

"Watching him (Williams) do the scenes was like watching a comic genius," said John Smyth, who noted that most of the Disney film took place in the outdoor pool. "We got to talk to him, spend time with him and he got to talk to our family, friends and relatives. We got to pick his brain about his favorite movies. He was iconic, but also a relative guy."

The 30-year-old home — which sits on 1.03-acres — opens with an elegant two-story entrance hall that leads to a generously scaled dining room and living room. Smyth's favorite part of the home, though, is the one-of-a-kind kitchen, which was redone in 2003.

The kitchen, Smyth said, has all new appliances, a six-burner Wolf gas stove, two Wolf double ovens, a sub-zero refrigerator, microwave warming drawers, two refrigerator drawers and a sub-zero wine cabinet. The counter space seats four and you can sit six at a 60-inch table in a big open area under a chandelier.

The first level also boasts the master bedroom suite. The master has dual bathrooms, cathedral ceilings, a walk-in closet, hardwood floors and ceiling fans. In fact, all five bedrooms offer ceiling fans, Smyth said.



William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

**Above:** The 6,800-square-foot home, located at 125 Davenport Farm Lane West in north Stamford, was home for five days in August 2007 for the comedy "Old Dogs." **Below:** The 30-year-old home — which sits on 1.03-acres — opens with an elegant two-story entrance hall that leads to a generously scaled dining room and living room.

## Details

**Address:** 125 Davenport Farm Lane West, Stamford

**Price:** \$1.599 million

**Rooms:** 12

**Features:** Classic updated kitchen with top-line appliances; expansive basement with more than 1,000 extra square feet for storage; and a great room over the garage.

**Schools:** Davenport Ridge Elementary, Turn of River Middle, and Stamford High School.

The first level also includes a family room and mudroom.

The main second level has three nice-sized bedrooms and two full baths. Off the main second level is the great room which was added over the home's three-car garage. Smyth said.

"The great room has that ski lodge feel to it," he said. "It can also be used as an au pair suite because there is a bedroom up there with a full bath."

The basement, Smyth noted, has 1,000 extra square feet of room that is great for storage. In

addition, the basement is carpeted and tiled and is great for entertainment, he said.

"There is a 5-inch TV there with couches and built-ins," he said. "There is also a full bath and shower in the basement."

The home is located on the Stamford/New Canaan line and is convenient to downtown New Canaan and the Merritt Parkway.

**Listing Agent:** Robert Blosio, William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, (203) 249-7164, RBlosio@wpsir.com.

AGENT PROFILE *Lisa Hawley*

## Providing attention and focus

Known as a consummate pro who knows New Canaan like the back of her hand, Lisa Hawley provides attention to focus and knowledge of the housing industry to her clients.

A Stamford native, Hawley had a brief stint living in New York City where she worked in advertising and then moved to New Canaan more than 30 years ago. A Realtor working out of New Canaan first for William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty 20 years ago, Hawley moved over to Country Living until it was purchased about eight years ago by Halstead Property Connecticut.

Hawley, whose specialty includes high-end residential and new construction, said New Canaan has something for everyone.

"The town stands out because it's like a little Norman Rockwell town," she said, adding, "It's off the beaten path. It does not have I-95 or the Post Road and it does not have a lot of thoroughfares running through it. It's a tight community and the residents are very focused on the schools. There is also the commutability factor to New York City. The trip is about an hour by train."

While Hawley gives the same quality of service to all clients no matter price-point, she does have many properties in the \$2 million range on the market. They include a 7,000-square-foot colonial at 1325 Smith Ridge Rd. in New Canaan that goes for \$2.795 million. "It's a gorgeous pristine home that truly does look like a park in the backyard. It's got flow and is in beautiful condition. It's traditional yet has all the modern amenities."



**Business:** Halstead Property Connecticut

**Lives:** New Canaan

**Works:** New Canaan

**Experience:** High-end residential, new construction and new buyers

**Contact:** (203) 434-0744, lhawley@halstead.com

Hawley, whose father and two brothers were and or are in real estate and construction, said working for Halstead has made her job easier.

"I love working for the company because it has unsurpassed marketing," she said, adding, "The people in the New York City and the people in our New Canaan office have great synergy. They both have a great eye for visuals."

Hawley also compliments here office manager, Sharon Maasdorp, whom she has worked with for 18 years. "Sharon is totally available. There is nothing that Sharon has not seen or experienced in the real estate world."

AGENT PROFILE *Liz Parks*

## Agent has a strong work ethic

While she has only been a Realtor for seven weeks, Liz Parks has extensive knowledge of the Darien area and comes from a family of Realtors.

Parks joined Halstead Property Connecticut on Feb. 9 and learned a lot about drive, communication and patience in the real estate field from her father, Ted Lane.

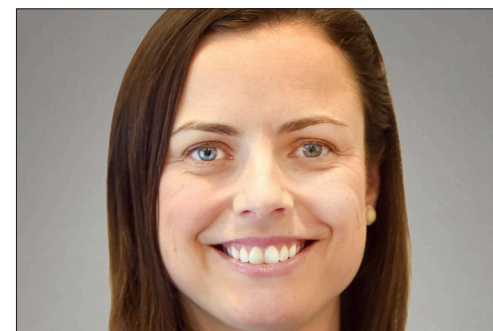
Of Lane, who was in commercial real estate for about 40 years, Parks said, "He is a big reason why I became a Realtor. My dad had a strong work ethic and knew about the importance of being dependable and having great communication skills." Like the reason why she left the world of public relations, Parks said her father "never missed sporting events for his family. He was always there for family functions because of the flexibility of the job."

Park, whose aunt Susan Shriner is also a Realtor, said, "I wanted to get back into working, but doing something with a flexible schedule. I thought it would be great to consider real estate and take a class while my son was in school."

Parks, who grew up in Darien, primarily covers Darien and Rowayton with 75 percent of her focus on Darien. The small community, she said, sells itself.

"It offers excellent schools, two beautiful public beaches and the Darien downtown has improved a lot in the last several years," she said, adding, "They've put in more restaurants and retail and that has attracted more young people and families."

Parks, who is known as a consummate pro who gets back to her clients immediately, said working for a company like Halstead gives her an edge.



**Business:** Halstead Property Connecticut

**Lives:** Darien

**Works:** Darien and Rowayton

**Experience:** Runs the gamut from first-time home buyers to high-end

**Contact:** (617) 512-1618, lparks@halstead.com

"The company has such a great presence in both New York City and Connecticut," she said. "They offer great management staff and a lot of guidance through their executive team. They have a huge marketing library you can access. They also offer brochures, property videos and agent videos."

Parks added: "Halstead has great companies they work with that can take wonderful aerial photos. They also offer incredible videos, which is great for a large property."

Parks' interest includes spending time with her husband Gavin and children, cooking and walking her pug, Emmitt.

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