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On the market: Life's a breeze in this shorefront home

Meg Barone

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One Westport family has called the Colonial house at 9 Owenoke Park home for four generations. It's on the market for the first time, giving another family a chance to start racking up years of memories at the shorefront property, where the current family has held countless clam bakes, cookouts, Thanksgiving dinners and New Year's toasts along the sun-drenched and moonlit waters of Long Island Sound. They even hosted a wedding on the lawn looking over the water and Cockenoe Island on a beautiful summer afternoon.

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ABOUT THIS HOUSE

TYPE: Colonial

ADDRESS: 9 Owenoke Park

PRICE: \$3,450,000

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 8

FEATURES: Water community, beach rights, private beach, 0.21 of an acre direct waterfront property, water views, private association, dead end street, easy walking distance to Compo Beach and Longshore Club Park, covered porch, new roof, new windows, freshly painted interior, front and rear stairs, one fireplace, vinyl siding, attic with pull-down stairs, four bedrooms, three full baths

SCHOOLS: Greens Farms Elementary, Bedford Middle, Staples High

ASSESSMENT: \$2,054,900

TAX RATE: 17.94 mills

TAXES: \$37,132

ASSOCIATION FEE: \$250

But it doesn't take a special occasion to enjoy this 2,338-square-foot house and 0.21-acre property. Residents can revel in the beauty year-round at their own property and in the nearby surroundings, which include Compo Beach, the Ned Dimes Marina and Longshore Club Park, all within easy walking distance.

Built in 1918, this house has eight rooms, many with water views, and a large covered porch on which to sit, relax and enjoy water views, sunrises, salt air breezes, passing sailboats, and al fresco dining. Build sand castles and take an invigorating swim in the Sound from your own private beach and launch your kayak from your backyard. Next July, watch the town's Independence Day fireworks from the comfort of the porch rather than fighting traffic and crowds at the public beach.

Owenoke Park is a private association, so the road that traverses the peninsula is not heavily traveled, except by residents and their occasional guests, providing a quiet setting for the local inhabitants. The other side of the peninsula faces Grays Creek.

Despite its proximity to the shore, this house has an attached two-car garage, as well as off-street parking, a bonus for those who live close to the water. There is no

swimming pool, but then again why would you need a pool when you have a giant natural "pool" -- Long Island Sound -- right in your backyard?

There are three rooms on the first floor. the living room, which has a fireplace with a black polished granite surround and three built-in shelves, the dining room and the updated kitchen, which has a

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small center island topped in granite, polished stone counters and a small eat-in area. Off the kitchen is a laundry room. The living and dining rooms have hardwood floors.

If there is any flaw in this house it is that the kitchen does not have a water view, but that could easily be remedied by removing all or part of one wall, which would open the kitchen to the dining room and, in doing so, provide a view of the ocean.

On the second floor there are five rooms, all with wall-to-wall carpeting and all of which could serve as bedrooms if needed. Currently one is used as an office. The landing is spacious and has built-in bookshelves. The master bedroom is en suite and has three double-door closets.

Above the garage is a large bonus room, which can be used as a family room, playroom, media room or a bedroom.

The yearly neighborhood association fee of \$250 includes road snow plowing and repair.

An open house is planned at the property Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

For more information or to set up an appointment to see the house, contact Joan Wright and Jeri Kelley of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty -- Wright at 203-247-5868 and Kelley at 203-856-0527.

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