

## 4608 LAUREL, Bellaire TX

This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> Bellaire home. We have wonderful memories and happy times raising our 3 sons in Bellaire for almost 40 years, the last 17 years on Laurel street. We bought 4608 Laurel in 2002 and did a substantial remodel from 1650 sq. feet to just over 3000 sq. feet. We intentionally designed and created a very open one- story space that has the feel of a very large townhome. We anticipated it being the perfect place not only to continue raising our sons who by then were approaching their teens, but also for our empty nest stage of life and onto that stage where we would not want to climb stairs.

We chose David Metzger as our contractor because of his outstanding reputation. We are fortunate to know the history of the house and great families who lived in it for many years preceding us. Originally, the substantial outdoor space and kitchen was set in a large wooden deck. It was important to us to preserve the 75 year old oak trees. About 5 years ago, when we needed to replace the wooden deck we redesigned it to include a covered roof, tying it into the existing roof and instead of wood used a tile hardscape – again taking care to preserve the beautiful trees. The resulting space is like an “extra room” enclosed on 2 sides with an outdoor kitchen/bar/tv and entertaining space that has hosted many great parties. Friends often joke that we should rent it out as a party room. We built the outdoor workshop/shed shortly after the original purchase. It is mostly hidden and is a great “lagniappe” space for a “he/she-shed”. We always appreciated that when in our backyard, there is no house that can really see into our yard. Our house is also the last house in the Crosspoint Church parking lot. There is a gate that is kept locked but is great access if needed. We have also loved that frequently the Bellaire police use that space near our gate as an evening parking space inside the loop. TxDot made some significant changes to the 610 loop a little over 20 years ago and at that time moved the exit off 610 loop so that exiting cars had to go to Bellaire to turn right and could not turn on to Laurel. When that happened it changed traffic patterns for the better and Laurel street became a quiet family street with limited traffic. Laurel has a reputation for being one of the most friendly community minded streets. We all share a working email group distribution. About 2-3 years ago, we all went into together to help purchase security cameras strategically positioned at the ends of the street/loop to better monitor and communicate with each other.

We have the most wonderful neighbors. It is our prayer and hope that the next family for 4608 Laurel will feel the warmth and love we have experienced in this home and also create their own wonderful new memories on Laurel Street.