

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



The
ORCHARDS
Group

DECEMBER 2011/
JANUARY 2012

**SUSAN G. KOMEN
3-DAY UPDATE**

**RINGING IN
THE NEW YEAR**



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This past year I have been thankful for a lot. The year 2011 brought good times and bad, but the good far outweighed the bad. It is nice to be able to take the time to reflect on the months gone by, remember all the events in our lives, learn our lessons and take that perspective with us into the next year while having memories to look back on fondly. Everyone should take the time to do this at year end; it will make you smile and be thankful for all of the good memories you may have forgotten about.



Stacy and Isabelle

My family is doing well. Isabelle is thriving and becoming a sweet young lady. After our trip to Wyoming she is showing an interest in taking horseback riding lessons, so hopefully this spring she'll be able to pursue that interest. Jackson is all about baseball, and his team this fall actually made it to the championship game. He has no desire to investigate any other sports; it's baseball or bust!

All of our communities hosted various events in The Orchards' community clubhouses during the holidays. Habersham Grove had a Ladies' Cookie Exchange (FUN!), and they are busy planning their New Year's Eve celebration. Brannon Oak Farm hosted its annual ladies luncheon at the clubhouse, and homeowners are planning a quiet New Year's Celebration there as well. In their clubhouse, East Cherokee celebrated with a holiday dinner complete with all the trimmings, and homeowners are also planning a New Year's Celebration.

Everyone at The Orchards Group wishes you and your families a safe and happy holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

As Always, Happy Reading!

Stacy Wheelus
678-795-0200 ext. 210

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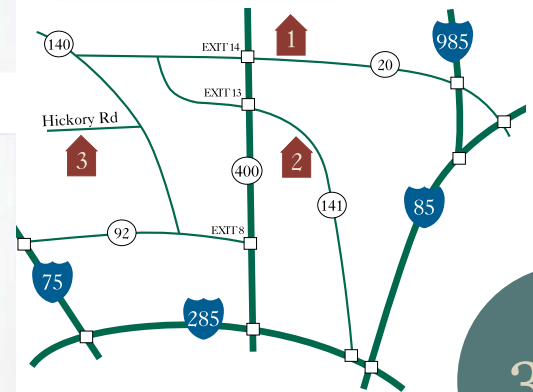
The Orchards of Habersham Grove. JUST 2 REMAIN at \$199,900! Villa 1903 and Villa 1403: Both Ashewood plans with bright and airy sunrooms and true walk-up storage. Many options are included in these super LOW prices. Come take your pick as we expect them to be gone soon. And don't forget to tour the trademark of all The Orchards neighborhoods: The Grand Clubhouse, which provides the focal point for dinner parties, games and cards nights and so much more. Close to shopping, restaurants, Northside Hospital (Forsyth) and everything else you could ever need. Just 1 mile from Ga 400, Exit 14. (Ga. Hwy 20). Call today before it's too late. **Sales Information: 678-513-8879**



*The Orchards of Habersham Grove
Ashewood with Sunroom*

2

The Orchards of Brannon Oak Farm. 4 Brand New Condos! We are excited to showcase our most recently completed Ranch Condominiums in Building 1000. Offering two of our popular Ashewood plans, plus a Charleston and Beaumont, this unique opportunity also includes two of the four with walk-up storage in lieu of the finished bonus room. Prices start at \$239,900. We've also recently finished a brand new Haverford single-family Gallery Home on a full daylight basement for you to tour. If your taste is more toward a "Master on the Main" Villa, you must see our fantastic Birch, Dogwood and Cypress models. Less than 2 miles from The Avenue shopping center and Georgia 400. **Sales Center: 678-513-8879**



*The Orchards of Brannon Oak Farm
Reading Library in Clubhouse*

3

The Orchards of East Cherokee. More Sales = More Construction! We are truly excited with the recent upswing in sales activity at The Orchards of East Cherokee, and with that increased sales pace comes increased new construction. We are proud to announce the recent startup of three brand new single-family detached homes. The Belmont Courtyard on Homesite #100, the Winston on Homesite #112, and the popular Piedmont on Homesite #111. With prices starting in the \$240s, this is an excellent time to come out to explore these fantastic new homes. The Orchards of East Cherokee is located in beautiful historic Hickory Flat and is less than 15 minutes from Roswell, Alpharetta, Woodstock and Canton, making this an ideal location. Easy access to I-575 and the North Georgia mountains. Come out to visit. **Model Home: 770-345-5409**



*The Orchards of East Cherokee
The Belmont: Landscaped Side Courtyard*

Forgetfulness: Knowing When to Ask for Help

Many people worry about becoming forgetful. They think forgetfulness is the first sign of Alzheimer's disease. Over the past few years, scientists have learned a lot about memory and why some kinds of memory problems are serious, but others are not.

Age-Related Changes in Memory

Forgetfulness can be a normal part of aging. As people get older, changes occur in all parts of the body, including the brain. As a result, some people may notice that it takes longer to learn new things, they don't remember information as well as they did, or they lose things like their glasses. These usually are signs of mild forgetfulness, not serious memory problems.

Some older adults also find that they don't do as well as younger people on complex memory or learning tests. Scientists have found, though, that given enough time, healthy older people can do as well as younger people do on these tests. In fact, as they age, healthy adults usually improve in areas of mental ability such as vocabulary.

Keeping Your Memory Sharp

People with some forgetfulness can use a variety of techniques that may help them stay healthy and maintain their memory and mental skills. Here are some tips that can help:

- Plan tasks, make "to do" lists, and use memory aids like notes and calendars. Some people find they remember things better if they mentally connect them to other meaningful things, such as a familiar name, song, book, or TV show.
- Develop interests or hobbies and stay involved in activities that can help both the mind and body.

- Engage in physical activity and exercise. Several studies have associated exercise (such as walking) with better brain function, although more research is needed to say for sure whether exercise can help to maintain brain function or prevent or delay symptoms of Alzheimer's.
- Limit alcohol use. Although some studies suggest that moderate alcohol use has health benefits, heavy or binge drinking over time can cause memory loss and permanent brain damage.
- Find activities, such as exercise or a hobby, to relieve feelings of stress, anxiety, or depression. If these feelings last for a long time, talk with your doctor.

Source: *National Institute on Aging*,
<http://www.nia.nih.gov>





*The Ashewood
The Orchards of East Cherokee
Homesite #1703*

This extraordinary 2-bedroom, 2-bath Ranch Condominium comes complete with many model home upgrades including 5-inch plank hardwood flooring, custom built-in cabinetry adjacent to the fireplace, solid panel 42-inch maple kitchen cabinets, stainless steel appliance package with French door-style refrigerator, hutch option and granite vanity tops in the bathrooms. Enjoy the 120-square-foot covered porch that creates a wonderfully inviting sitting space protected from the elements. This home also features an upstairs finished activities suite. Attractively priced at \$229,900 with year end incentives if the home is closed by Jan. 31, 2012.

Call 678-513-8879 for all the details.

Thank you, The Orchards homeowners for giving to the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure walk in October!



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From Oct. 21-23, I was privileged to walk in the Atlanta's Susan G. Komen 3-Day for a Cure in order to raise funds to help research a cure for breast cancer. I signed up early in the year, and thanks to our Orchards homeowners, raised more than \$2,500.

Many of the Orchards homeowners have been asking about the event, so I wanted to show photos and share a little about my experience. I had to be at Stone Mountain that Friday at 6:30 a.m. If you recall, we had some chilly

mornings at the end of October; this day was no exception! It was a chilly 38 degrees, and I did not want to wear too many layers because I knew as the day warmed up it would be in the mid-60s. So shivering I waited for all to check in and for the event to start.

We began around 7:30 a.m. with stretching and a general "get pumped up speech." And then we were off! I met three really nice girls who I ended up walking with all three days. The first day was fairly easy, just under 20 miles. I did end up with two blisters. That night one of the girls showed me how to properly tie my shoes so they wouldn't rub on my feet and also how to protect those blisters and wrap my feet so I wouldn't get anymore. Who would have guessed my feet would be completely bound in purple duct tape for day two!? Yep, duct tape is the trick! Duct tape really is a multi-purpose tool! We "camped" inside the Georgia World Congress Center, and organizers brought in semi trucks for showers. We had a hot dinner that was actually really good. I hadn't realized how hungry I was!

Day two was the hardest day. I really think we



walked more than 20 miles that day. The reason it was so hard was the route took us along old residential areas of Atlanta, through Buckhead and downtown. The walking surface was very uneven and there were a lot of holes, crevasses and roots to dodge. We saw at least four people injured along the route.

At the end of day two, we attended a big dance party. Yes, all of us were still able to dance! Everyone returns, has dinner, showers and gets into their PJs. It was a lot of fun. Just imagine a huge slumber party of 2,400 women!

Day three was the last stretch – the last 15 miles out of 60. We walked from The World Congress Center to Turner Field for the Closing Ceremonies. This was an emotional event which honored all the walkers and most importantly,

walkers who are also breast cancer survivors.

This was a moving overall experience for me. I was proud I walked the entire 60 miles. This is an experience I will never forget, and I made three new girlfriends. I hope you enjoy the pictures and thank you again for all of your donations to find a cure for breast cancer!

susan g.
Komen
FOR THE
cure®

According to The History Place, an online compilation of interesting historical events, here's the important stuff that happened in Decembers past:

December 1, 1955 - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Ala., for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.

December 2, 1982 - The first permanent artificial heart was implanted in 61-year-old Barney C. Clark by Dr. William De Vries at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City. Clark, who was near death at the time of the operation, survived 112 days after the implantation.

December 5, 1901 - Walt Disney (1901-1966) was born in Chicago. Disney moved to Hollywood and in 1928 produced *Steamboat Willie*, starring Mickey Mouse, in the first cartoon with synchronized sound. In 1937, he released his full length animated film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. He opened the Disneyland amusement park in Anaheim, Calif., in 1955. Five years after his death, Disney World opened in Florida. The company he founded has since grown into a global entertainment empire.

December 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.

December 10, 1948 - The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

December 16, 1773 - The Boston Tea Party occurred as colonial activists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships anchored in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 containers of expensive tea into the water.

December 21, 1988 - Pan American Flight 103 exploded in midair as the result of a terrorist bomb and crashed into Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 passengers and crew members along with 11 persons on the ground were killed.

December 25 - Christmas Day, commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Although the exact date of his birth is not known, it has been celebrated on December 25th by the Western (Roman Catholic) Church since 336 A.D.

December 25, 1899 - Film actor Humphrey Bogart (1899-1957) was born in New York City. Best known for *The African Queen*, *The Maltese Falcon*, *Casablanca* and *To Have and Have Not*.

December 31 - New Year's Eve, the final evening of the Gregorian calendar year, traditionally a night for merry-making to welcome in the new year.

December 31, 1879 - Thomas Edison provided the first public demonstration of his electric incandescent lamp at his laboratory in Menlo Park, N.J.

Peach Drop

This year marks the 23rd Annual Atlanta Peach Drop. Beginning with family friendly activities, Underground Atlanta will buzz with fun for the entire family! As 2012 nears, the main stage will light up with live performances with headliner legendary rock band Kansas. The 800-pound Peach will begin its decent just before the clock strikes midnight.

Packed full of excitement, the Peach Drop is Atlanta's favorite way of ringing in the New Year!

Plan Your Visit

Underground Atlanta
50 Upper Alabama St SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 523-2311
<http://www.peachdrop.com/>

ASO New Year's Eve

With the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Michael Krajewski rings in your New Year as only he can, with sparkling music evoking the first couple of song and dance, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. London and Broadway stage stars Joan Hess and Kirby Ward rekindle the golden era of top hats, tuxes, and shimmering gowns as they frolic to big band classics by Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin and Jerome Kern.

Plan Your Visit

Atlanta Symphony Hall
1280 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30309-3552
(404) 733-4900
Tickets: \$30-\$68
www.atlantasymphony.org

THE ORCHARDS GROUP REMODELING DIVISION EXPANDS

Having completed more than a dozen remodeling projects in The Orchards' exciting neighborhoods, our remodeling division is now growing.

That's right! In addition to providing the most trustworthy and professional remodeling services to our current and past buyers, The Orchards Group Remodeling Division is expanding and offering its services to friends and family of The Orchards Group community homeowners. If you or someone you know desires to improve their existing home or is in need of remodeling services prior to putting their home on the market, we encourage you (or them) to give us a call.

- Trustworthy
- Dependable
- Respectful
- Competitive Pricing

We have the testimonials from satisfied clients. Give us a call today!

Call Stacy Wheelus
678-795-0200 ext 210

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AFTER BACKSPLASH



BEFORE BACKSPLASH

**NEW YEAR,
NEW LOOK!**

The Orchards Group offers any of The Orchards homeowners a place to list classified ads for free. We will advertise personal items only; no real estate sales, please. This section will be offered on a first come, first served basis. We will need to know the item for sale, your asking price and your phone number. Due to production deadlines, we will need your information by the first of each month. Then your ad will appear in the subsequent month's new letter. It's easy! Just call Stacy Wheelus at 678-795-0200 ext 210. Or, if you prefer, you can e-mail your ad to swheelus@orchardsgroup.com.

In order to keep interest in the classified ad section, we will only keep an item in for 3 issues. After it appears in the third issue the ad will be pulled.

FOR SALE

Mitsubishi TV with stand 621N, brand new lamp. Like new. Paid \$4,500. \$650 OBO. Call William at 678-373-1179.

Plaid couch (gold, navy, and red tones) \$400. Two navy club chairs \$125 each. Purchase all for \$575. Call JoAnn at 678-923-5739.

Limited Edition Collectible Steiff Teddy Bears. Teddy Rose Replica 1925. Pink mohair 16" long with rare center seam. 1879/10,000. Bought new in 1988 for \$400. Asking \$300. Jackie Replica 1953. Cream mohair 9" long. 2189/10,000. Bought new in 1987 for \$300. Asking \$225. Call John at 770-889-6601.

"Relax your back" chair. Bought locally 1 year ago, specifically made to ease discomfort with back. Paid \$2000. Asking \$975. Call Joanne at 770-664-7172.

Dining Room Table and 4 chairs. Cherry color with distressed look, rectangular shape. TV Stand-Glass top/black. Both only a few years old. Call Caroline at 678-349-2206.

Gently used sofa and oversized chair (from Haverly's) soft plaid (red, yellow, green). \$500. Will sell separately Sofa \$300. Chair \$200. Sofa 85" across, chair 4' wide. Call Pat or Anne 770-753-4367.

Bathroom Faucets. Delta Innovations - Brushed Nickel/Brass. (1) w/2 handles & (1) single lever. Orig. \$190 each / Asking \$60 each. (9) Brass Decorative Cabinet Knobs - \$2 each. Call Sharyn 678-242-0251

Barco Lounger - Like New! Navy small print with pop-up head rest. Small matching neck pillow. MUST GO - \$350. Call 770-343-8075

Moving Sale. 5 piece Wicker/Upholstery set - \$575; TV Cabinet - \$199; Queen & Twin Mattress/Bed Springs, Kitchen Buffet - \$99; Highboy Tall Chest of Drawers, End Tables, Sofa Table, Lamps, Pictures, Oriental Rugs, Chairs, twin brass headboard, mirrors, drop leaf table and chairs and more! Great condition. Call Karen at 404 819 8231 or 770 643 0933

Pride Mobility Jazzy Select. Gently Used. \$1,500. Call Rose 678-277-9900.

Five Dolls for sale. Three are very old with hand crocheted dresses. Call Elaine at 770-205-9134 and make offer.

Queen bed comforter set in burgundy. Includes skirt, sham reversible like new paid \$350 asking \$75 OBO. Call William 678-373-1179.

New 9 piece dining group - counter height (table and 8 chairs). Solid wood construction with veneers; hidden butterfly leafs which extends to accommodate 8 chairs. One yr old. New paid \$750.00. Asking \$375.00. Call Arlene at 678-771-5081.

WANTED

Good used lawnmower. Call Pamela at 770-754-4717.

Used 'Vespa' with low mileage. Good condition. Call Pamela at 770-754-4717.

ELAINE'S CHILI RECIPE. BY: ELAINE MILILLO

2 CLOVES GARLIC

1/2 OF A LARGE SWEET SPANISH ONION CHOPPED

3 STALKS CELERY CHOPPED

1/2 GREEN PEPPER CHOPPED

1 1/4 TO 1 1/2 LBS. GROUND CHUCK

2 CANS WHOLE TOMATOES CHOPPED OR SMASHED

2 TBSP CHILI POWDER

1/2 TBSP HOT CHILI POWDER (LESS IF YOU DO NOT LIKE HOT)

PINCH OF CEYENNE PEPPER

1 CAN DARK KIDNEY BEANS DRAINED AND RINSED

1 CAN LIGHT KIDNEY BEANS DRAINED AND RINSED

1 CAN PINTO BEANS DRAINED AND RINSED

SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE

Sautee garlic and onion. Add chopped celery. Salt and pepper to taste. Add green peppers and sauté. Add ground chuck cook until meat loses its red color. Add chili powders and cayenne pepper. Pour into heavy pot or crock-pot. Add tomatoes and simmer about an hour then add the beans that have been rinsed and drained. Cook about 10 or 15 min. longer. Serve with green onions, shredded cheddar cheese and corn chips. Enjoy!



11660 Alpharetta Hwy
Suite 515
Roswell, GA 30076

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DECEMBER/JANUARY RESALES & LISTINGS...

**ALL OUR HOMES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ONCE A MONTH.
CALL 678-795-0200, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COMING TO
AN OPEN HOUSE.**

FOR SALE

Orchards of Habersham Grove. Former Charleston Model with all the bells and whistles. Wide plank hardwoods, designer colors, all the options you could want. For lease \$1,600/month.

Brannon Oak Farms. 1975 Brannon Commons. Beautiful townhome with a finished room in the basement. This spectacular home has barely been lived in. Hardwoods grace all living areas. Beautiful granite and warm wood cabinets are featured in this chef's kitchen. Huge master with sitting area. Loft, two bedrooms and office are upstairs. All on a beautiful lot that borders greenbelt. \$380,000. Also available to lease.

Orchards of Windward. 2925 Oakside Circle. True 3-bedroom Canterbury floor plan. Great lot close to clubhouse and overlooking neighborhood. This home features a chef's kitchen including all appliances and Silstone countertops. Beautifully maintained and decorated with designer colors. \$232,500.

Orchards of East Cherokee. 162 Owens Farm Lane. Courtyard home. Hardwoods throughout home. Granite countertops, maple cabinets in this huge kitchen. Great corner fenced lot, largest in neighborhood. \$250,000.

Orchards of Sweet Apple. 1802 Sweet Apple Circle. Two bedroom Abbey. Designer paint, hard surface countertops, beautiful carpet and great location in the community. \$217,900.

UNDER CONTRACT!

2647 Grapevine Circle
106 Sweet Apple Circle

SOLD!

3097 Orchard Ridge Circle

**WE WELCOMED SIX NEW FAMILIES IN THE ORCHARDS'
RESALE HOMES IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS. I HAVE BUYERS
WAITING FOR THE RIGHT PROPERTIES! PLEASE CALL ME IF
YOU ARE THINKING OF LISTING.**



DEAR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS,

I hope everyone had a fulfilling Thanksgiving holiday. I know that several of The Orchards' communities celebrated with parties and brought the season in with style.

Having a home on the market during the holidays can be a challenge. Here are some tips that might make the process a little easier.

1. Keep all pathways clear of obstructions. Keep decorations free from passageways.
2. Do not have valuable gifts on display during showings. Agents try to watch their clients but sometimes are not able to be with them all the time.
3. Decorate, but do not distract from the features of the home. Remember, the clients are looking at your home, not your decorations.
4. Even decorations collect dust. Be sure to dust prior to showings.
5. Use candles or Potpourri to make your home smell festive.

Happy holidays to everyone and a very special New Year.

Keep your home smelling fresh for the holidays:

SIMMERING POTPOURRI

5 to 6 cinnamon sticks, broken
1 tbsp. lemon peel
1 tbsp. orange peel
1/2 c. whole cloves
1 tbsp. nutmeg
1/4 c. whole allspice
1 tbsp. bay leaf pieces
2 slices dried apples, optional

Combine ingredients. Add water to simmer on stovetop or in potpourri pot.

Best Regards,

Geri Beckmann, Orchard's Resale Specialist
404-290-2330 Direct, 678-795-0200
Visit my website @gbeckmann@orchardsgroup.com

SPECIAL OFFER TO NEW ORCHARDS CUSTOMERS. If you are interested in one of our three currently marketed new The Orchards neighborhoods and have a home to sell that is NOT currently on the market, contact me immediately to discuss our Special Listing Incentive Program designed for sellers just like you. **Call today: 404-290-2330.**