



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

The
ORCHARDS
Group

WINTER 2014

HOBBY FUN

**WINTER
ACTIVITY IDEAS**

**COMPLEMENTARY
HEALTH
APPROACHES**

SEASON'S GREETINGS

As we reflect back on a record setting 2013, The Orchards Group family wants to express our good wishes to each of our readers and homeowners for a prosperous 2014.

For many, the holidays and wintertime hold special traditions and favorite moments. This year, I asked some of our team to share their highlights of the season with readers.

Perhaps some of these are similar to yours.

Happy New Year to all!

The Orchards Group Team
Mitch Block, Sales and Marketing Director
mjblock@orchardsgroup.com

Cover: Photography provided by Atlanta Botanical Garden

Happy Chanukkah
Merry Christmas
Happy New Year



Watching my son Parker, all excited and playing with his new toys on Christmas morning.

- Jeff Boulard, Project Manager

Staying up all night cooking a Thanksgiving feast with my mother and sisters.

- Tina McElveen, HOA Coordinator



Thanksgiving with my kids always includes a street hockey game before the feast!

- Craig Smith, Sales Associate

Good news or bad news? Thanksgiving is the only time we get to eat rutabaga.

- Alan Dunbar, Quality Control Manager



As a kid, inviting friends over or being invited to their homes to enjoy leftovers from the New Year's Eve parties the night before.

- Mitch Block, Sales and Marketing Director

Growing up in Philadelphia and going to the Christmas Pageant at church with my family.

- Steve Winch, General Manager



We have always packed the car up and headed for the mountains to be with all of our family.

- Geri Beckmann, Sales Associate

WHAT ARE COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH APPROACHES?

Today, many people use complementary health approaches for a variety of diseases or conditions.

Complementary health approaches are medical and health care systems, practices, and products that originated outside of mainstream medicine. They include techniques performed by a practitioner (such as acupuncture, spinal manipulation, and massage therapy) and natural products (such as herbs, probiotics, and fish oil). Some approaches, including acupuncture and yoga, originated in Eastern countries such as China or India but are now used in Western countries as well.

Complementary vs. Alternative

When people talk about health care practices with non-mainstream origins, they often use the words “alternative” and “complementary” as though they mean the same thing, but the two words usually refer to different concepts.

- “Complementary” refers to use of a non-mainstream approach together with conventional medicine.
- “Alternative” refers to use of a non-mainstream approach in place of conventional medicine.

True “alternative” medicine is not common. Most people who use non-mainstream approaches use them along with conventional treatments.

Talk With Your Health Care Providers

If you’re using or considering any complementary health approaches, tell your health care providers. They need a full picture of what you do to manage your health. Keeping

them informed will help ensure that your health care is coordinated and safe.

How Popular Are Complementary Health Approaches?

Many Americans use complementary health approaches. The 2007 National Health Interview Survey, a nationwide government survey, found that 38 percent of U.S. adults reported using complementary health approaches in the previous year. The most common conditions for which people used complementary approaches were back, neck, and joint pain.

NIH Research and Information on Complementary Health Approaches

The lead agency at NIH for scientific research on complementary health approaches is the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). You can visit NCCAM’s Web site at www.nccam.nih.gov for an introduction to complementary health approaches, statistics on their use, and information on specific approaches and health conditions.

Source: NIH Senior Health





WHAT'S YOUR HOBBY?

There are many things you can do to help yourself age well, according to the National Institute on Aging. Keeping on the move and making healthier food choices are often on the top of “healthy aging” lists.

Experts at nihseniorhealth.org also state that research is showing “people who are involved in hobbies and other social and leisure pursuits may be at lower risk for (and less likely to develop) some health problems, including dementia. They might even live longer. In one study, older adults who reported participating in social activities (e.g., played games, belonged to social groups, traveled) or meaningful, productive activities (e.g., had paid or unpaid jobs, gardened) lived longer than people who did not. Researchers are exploring if participation in these kinds of activities can be the direct cause of positive health outcomes.”

Homeowner Bob East at The Orchards of Brannon Oak Farm has turned his interests into hobbies that keep him busy. Bob has a knack for taking “anything” apart and putting it back together again. This has evolved into a hobby of furniture repair and restoration. When he’s not sanding and hammering, Bob also spends time refurbishing train cars and the like at Duluth’s

Southeastern Railway Museum. For the last three years, Bob has been focused, working only Saturdays, on restoring a full sized caboose! For others who might be interested in turning train tinkering into a hobby, Bob says the museum offers tours and a short train ride. Why not head out for a visit?

The Orchards of East Cherokee is home to Joan Ireland who has shared her own hobbies of embroidery, counted cross-stitch, quilting, and knitting with others by creating East Cherokee’s own Craft Club. “I believe having hobbies has added enjoyment and relaxation to my life in many ways. It has also given me an opportunity to meet new people who have like interests. The pieces that I have made and given away have brought joy to others as well as to myself,” Joan says. “When I started the craft group I offered to teach folks how to knit; our first project was a scarf. We had lots of fun with that one!”

If you’re looking for ways to harness your love of an activity into a hobby, check out your local library, do an Internet search or simply ask your neighbors what they do for fun!



CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC PARK ICE RINK

Celebrating its 15th anniversary season in the fall, downtown Atlanta's only outdoor ice skating rink is an annual holiday tradition. Visitors enjoy covered observation seating, theatrical lighting on the real ice and holiday music. \$10 per person to skate (includes \$2 skate rental or bring your own skates), 90 minutes of skate time. Please check www.centennialpark.com for dates and times.

*Due to inclement weather, the ice skating hours are subject to change. Please call ahead to confirm hours of operation at (404) 223-4412.

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN'S GARDEN LIGHTS

Garden Lights, the third annual extravaganza featuring a million lights, sparkles with new imagination!

Several colorful figures from Imaginary Worlds join the magical holiday fun. Earth Goddess transforms into Ice Goddess – a vision of wintry radiance with twinkling lights weaving through her tresses. Red and white stripes turn the towering Cobras into hypnotic Candy Cane Cobras.

The Edible Garden sprouts a harvest of illuminated corn behind an arch of luminescent ladybugs. Look for other Brilliant Bugs like bright butterflies and ethereal dragonflies with shimmering wings. In the Fuqua Conservatory, the exotic Poinsettia Wall returns outside the Radiant Rainforest, along with the grand Poinsettia Tree and the adorable Bear Family in the Fuqua Orchid Center.

Come experience all of the spectacular light displays including the Orchestral Orbs, a one-of-a-kind topiary light show choreographed to holiday music on the Great Lawn, that have made Garden Lights Atlanta's favorite in-town holiday tradition.

Advance tickets recommended; limited admission each night. www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org

Photography provided by Atlanta Botanical Garden



PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN



THE ORCHARDS OF BRANNON OAK FARM



More New Home Starts



Rear Yard View from
Screened Porch



The Cypress Villa

The Orchards of Brannon Oak Farm. **ONLY 13 Opportunities Remain!**

That's right, out of 218 total homes, The Orchards Group is pleased to announce that as a result of our BEST YEAR ever at Brannon Oak Farm, we are down to just a handful of available homes. As of this writing, only one single-family home remains, plus five ranch condominiums and six "Master on the Main" townhome villas.

"Urgency has created a fire-storm of sales for us since last spring," said Craig Smith, sales counselor for The Orchards Group, adding, "We had buyers coming in from all over Atlanta and many parts of the country. The resurgence of the resale market everywhere has fueled our success."

Homeowners at Brannon Oak Farm are naturally looking forward to the completion of construction that should occur by late spring. "We have been building in this beautiful neighborhood for quite sometime. The construction team has tried its best to maintain a pleasant environment for all even though we were actively building. I would like to thank all of our residents for their patience," said Jeff Bouland, project manager.

If you are seriously considering making a move to a new "Orchards Lifestyle," and if you would prefer to be in a near built out neighborhood, then there isn't much time left. **Come out and see the selection of homes now before it's too late. Open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 – 5 p.m. Model Home: 678-513-8879**

FUN FACT:

This highest point in Georgia is Brasstown Bald at 4,784 feet.

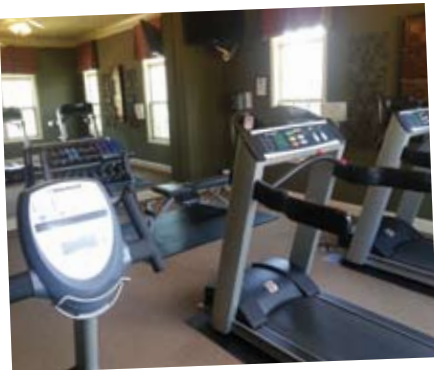
THE ORCHARDS OF EAST CHEROKEE

The Orchards of East Cherokee. 98 HOMES SOLD! “If you had told me last January that we would have nearly 100 homes sold (out of the 140 total in the property) in The Orchards of East Cherokee by the end of the year, I would have said you were NUTS,” joked Mitch Block, director of sales and marketing for The Orchards Group. But it’s true. This moderate sized community tucked away in an absolutely beautiful part of South-Central Cherokee County has seen rampant sales in 2013 – 35 to be exact. Only a handful of single-family homes on basement sites remain here. So if you need a detached home, you better hurry.

FUN FACT:

Georgia is the most extensive state east of the Mississippi River in terms of land area.

The Orchards Group is increasing construction volume of its award winning Southern Heritage Collection of attached ranch condominium homes at The Orchards of East Cherokee. Featuring four distinct floorplans, all with bonus room options and some with screened porch and sunroom options, this outstanding series of floorplans features full maintenance-free living at its best! Beautiful kitchens featuring maple cabinets, granite tops, full appliance packages and hardwood floors, not to mention the carefree lifestyle enjoyed at all Orchards communities make this property a fine choice for your new home. **Come see us soon. Open Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 – 5 p.m. Model Home: 770-345-5409**



Getting Fit at East Cherokee



The Ashewood Ranch Condominium



The Outlet Shoppes -
10 minutes away

WINTER TRIVIA!

Originally the Roman calendar ran only from March to December. Names for January and February were added later.

WARM UP WITH THESE WINTER MUGS

HOT SPICED WINE

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup sugar
 - 1/4 cup water
 - 10 whole cloves
 - 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 3 peppercorns, whole
 - 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg (to taste)
 - 1 orange, juiced
 - 1 bottle red wine
 - Cinnamon sticks (optional)
1. Combine all ingredients except wine in a pan and boil for five minutes.
 2. Reduce heat, add wine. Heat to the point where it is just before boiling. (Try to avoid boiling; the alcohol will begin to evaporate.)
 3. Strain into cups and serve hot.
 4. Garnish with cinnamon sticks, if desired. Serves four.

Source: Food.com



PEANUT BUTTER HOT CHOCOLATE

Ingredients

- 1 cup powder chocolate milk mix or powder cocoa mix
 - 8 cups hot water
 - 3/4 cup chocolate syrup
 - 1/4 cup peanut butter
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
1. Pour cocoa mix in a 3-4 quart slow cooker.
 2. Carefully stir in hot water.
 3. Stir in chocolate syrup.
 4. Cover and cook on low heat for 3-4 hours or on high for 90 minutes to 2 hours.
 5. Whisk in peanut butter and vanilla until smooth.
 6. Ladle cocoa into mugs.
- Serves nine.

Source: Food.com

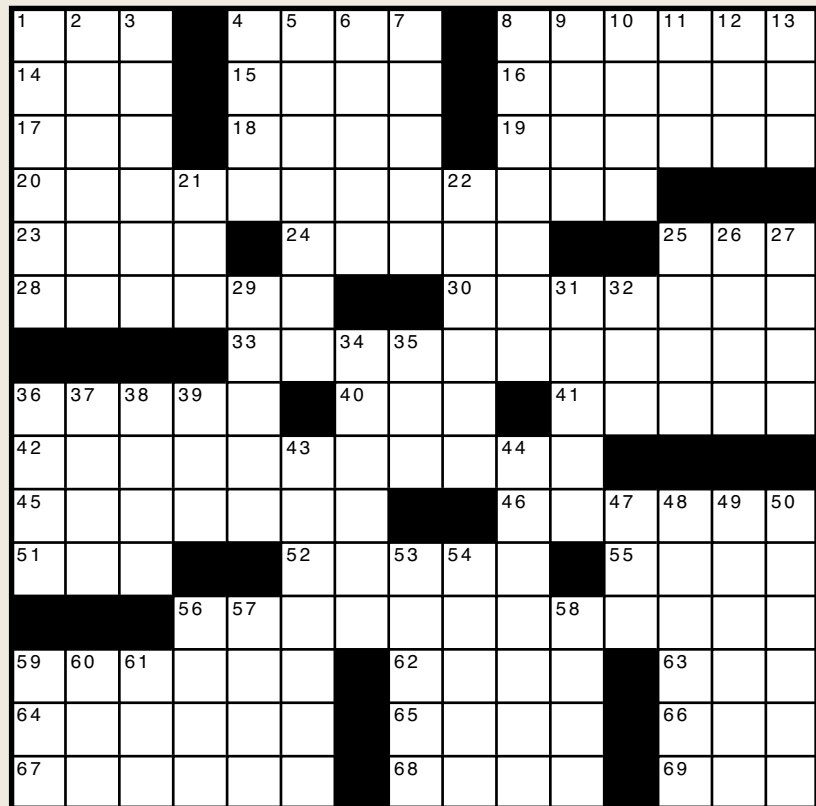


Across

1. Takes too much
4. Intend
8. Allege
14. Vietnamese New Year
15. He sang about Alice
16. Planks
17. The 19th letter of the Greek alphabet
18. River sediment
19. One who enjoys inflicting pain
20. Loving
23. Woven fabric
24. Pertaining to the kidneys
25. Numbered rd.
28. Whatever person
30. The act of twisting
33. Hodgepodge
36. Butler's love
40. Feeling of self-importance
41. "Lovergirl" singer ____ Marie
42. Means of supporting life
45. Make sure
46. Valuate
51. Summer drink
52. Fluff, as bangs
55. Ditto
56. Characteristic of journalism
59. Spot on the skin
62. Inter ____
63. Hot time in Paris
64. Accept as true
65. The wolf ____ the door
66. Skin color of Washington football players!
67. Wager
68. Alley
69. Wind dir.

Down

1. Capital of Canada
2. Destroy hearing
3. Poorly ventilated
4. Not fem.
5. Asmara is its capital
6. Kate & ____
7. ____ your life!
8. Third son of David
9. Layer of paint
10. Mediterranean juniper
11. Altdorf's canton
12. Radical '60s org.
13. Superlative suffix
21. DDE's command
22. Country
25. Teeming
26. Ripped
27. "Only Time" singer
29. Marsh of mystery
31. Gives a 9.8, say
32. Litigate against
34. Mailed communique
35. Bigger than med.



36. Greek peak
37. Colored
38. Busy as ____
39. Queue after Q
43. Locate
44. Southeasternmost hill of Rome
47. Draft org.
48. Diners
49. Strikes
50. Pull out
53. For want of ____...
54. Chip dip
56. Martial art
57. Actor Ken
58. Must've been something ____
59. AT&T rival
60. Upper limb
61. Large, brown-capped mushroom

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Jan. 9-12

Atlanta Boat Show

Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta

Browse the latest and greatest in boating plus enjoy fun for all ages with daily seminars, hands on activities and more.

Tickets: \$12

Ages 15 and younger, free with paying adult.

Purchase tickets online at www.atlantaboatshow.com and receive \$2 off each ticket through Jan. 8.

Jan. 25-26

Callanwolde Arts Festival, Atlanta

In historic Atlanta, this indoor arts festival features demonstrations, live music and gourmet food trucks in addition to booths from sculptors, painters, photographers, jewelers and more.

www.callanwoldeartsfestival.com

Feb. 21-23

North Atlanta Home Show

Gwinnett Center, Duluth

This winter's show includes a fantastic line-up of experts such as The Georgia Gardener - Walter Reeves, HGTV's Tonya M. Williams and one of Gwinnett's most popular beekeepers!

www.atlantahomeshow.com

Tickets: \$7; ages 65 and older (with ID), \$6

Ages 12 and younger, free.

March 15-16

Model Train Show

Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta

More than 250 vendors, displays, door prizes and much more.

www.themodeltrainshow.com

Tickets: \$8; ages 12 and younger, free.



SCENE AROUND THE ORCHARDS

Basement Home Under Construction at East Cherokee



A record breaking year has resulted in continuous activity in all of our communities.



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	O	2	D	3	S		4	M	5	E	6	A	7	N		8	A	9	C	10	C	11	U	12	S	13	E
14	T	E	T			15	A	R	L	O					16	B	O	A	R	D	S						
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23	W	E	F	T			24	R	E	N	A	L					25	R	26	T	27	E					
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36	O	37	H	38	A	39	R	A		40	E	G	O		41	T	E	E	N	A							
42	S	U	B	S	I	43	S	T	E	N	44	C	E														
45	S	E	E	T	O	I	T				46	A	S	47	S	48	E	49	S	50	S						
51	A	D	E				52	T	E	A	54	S	E		55	S	A	M	E								
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59	M	60	A	61	C	U	L	A		62	A	L	I	A			63	E	T	E							
64	C	R	E	D	I	T				65	I	S	A	T			66	R	E	D							
67	I	M	P	O	N	E				68	L	A	N	E			69	S	S	E							





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RESALES & LISTINGS...



FOR SALE. THE ORCHARDS OF ROSWELL - GATED COMMUNITY

2402 Village Lane. Beautiful three-bedroom Canterbury floor plan. This home has hard surface countertops in the kitchen. Upgraded plumbing fixtures and light fixtures also stand out in the unit. Large sunroom faces north. Great location within the community.

3301 Village Lane. Sought after two-master Abbey floor plan now available. Located in the inner circle of Roswell next to the pond. A great value and a terrific location.

SOLD

1702 Village Lane — 2200 Village Lane — 3901 Village Lane

FOR SALE. THE ORCHARDS OF WINDWARD - GATED COMMUNITY

2953 Oakside Circle. Elegant three-bedroom Vanderbilt floor plan from the Orchards Traditional Series. Ten-foot smooth ceiling with deep crown molding. Warm hardwoods in living areas. Trey ceiling in the large dining room. Chef's kitchen with solid surface countertops, glass backsplash and additional cabinets. Built-ins in great room. Huge master with extra large California Closet.

2913 Oakside Circle. Two-bedroom Abbey floor plan. Best priced home in the complex. This home will not last long at this price. Best selling two-bedroom floor plan. Open kitchen with large great room. Warm sunroom faces south east. Both bedrooms are extra large.

FOR SALE. THE ORCHARDS OF SUGAR LOAF PARC

Villa 702. Canterbury floor plan with den conversion. This one has hardwoods in all the living areas. 42-inch cherry cabinets in the kitchen with hard surface countertops. Top of the line appliances included. Bathrooms have raised cherry cabinets and granite countertops. Move in today!

FOR LEASE. THE ORCHARDS OF CRABAPPLE

4482 Orchard Trace. Three-bedroom Canterbury floor plan. Hardwoods in living areas. Great lot in the back of complex.

SOLD

The Orchards of Duluth. 3061 Orchard Ridge Circle.

COMING SOON TO THE ORCHARDS OF DULUTH

Two bedroom Abbey.

DEAR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS,



Dear Friends and Family,

Happy New Year! I sincerely hope that everyone had a great and safe holiday season. Sales were great in the Orchards properties in 2013. Due to the shortage of homes available, it is a seller's market and the sales prices of homes sold recently has increased.

The forecast for 2014 first quarter remains positive. The market will react to government policies, but at this time interest rates are not predicted to rise over 1%.

Regardless of what's going on in the economy there are always people moving and needing homes. The best way to prepare your home to sell is to maintain it properly and consider updating it to market standards.

Homes will sell faster and get a higher price if they are "move in ready" and require no work. Visit a model home to see how your home should be presented. Stage your home. If your walls are dirty and tired have them painted. If the carpet is soiled and old have it cleaned or replaced.

Declutter your home. The active adult market is a little different than mainstream real estate: Most buyers do not want to have to bother with remodeling before moving.

I am looking forward to selling in The Orchards Group neighborhoods in 2014. Please call me if you have any questions or would like a free marketing analysis.

Geri Beckmann, Orchards' Resale Specialist

404-290-2330 Direct, 678-795-0200

gbeckmann@orchardsgroup.com

Visit my website www.orchardsgroup.com/resale/

Special Offer to New Orchards Customers. If you are interested in one of our two currently marketed 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.**