

HOUSE HUNTING IN **BEACON FALLS**: A RANCH FOR \$402,000

Community living



The large kitchen, top, has a center island and additional space for a breakfast bar. Above, the sunroom features a sliding French door that leads to the back deck.

By MEG BARONE
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If the thought of living in a quiet gated community for active people over the age of 55 with no outdoor chores to do sounds appealing, the place to consider is Chatfield Farms at 639

Skokorat Road in Beacon Falls.

The community will have 233 single unit detached homes and a clubhouse when completed, but residents will hardly notice the number of neighbors they have because of the configuration of the streets in Chatfield Farms and the natural landscaping. Some of the various neighborhoods are completed, others are still in development, and all are surrounded by 140 wooded acres, including 70 acres of undisturbed conservation land providing stunning countryside views.

Chatfield Farms provides the best of both worlds — privacy in one's own home and smaller neighborhood or social activities in the Fieldstone Clubhouse, which is currently under construction and due to be completed next spring. The clubhouse will include an outdoor in-ground pool, tennis court, exercise room and separate aerobic room, bocce court, fire pit, lending library, card room, club room, hot tub and other amenities.

The complex also has a private lake and one mile of walking trails. Two more miles of trails are under construction. With all the amenities Chatfield Farms offers its residents, it's like being on vacation all year long. One person described it as "downsizing without downgrading." Sitting near the entrance to this private oasis is a charming 1,900-square-foot Andover style model home at 4 Chatfield Drive, which is available for purchase or to serve as an example of what a prospective Chatfield Farms resident could build. In all, the complex has three styles. The others are the Brookfield and the Cambridge, but there are no cookie cutter streetscapes. All three styles have enough variation and options that every house is different, and yet each one complements the other.

The Andover plan received the 2008 Best Design of 50+ Housing for a home



This decorative oval window is just a sample of the details found throughout the home.

of its size from the 50+ Housing Council of the National Association of Home Builders.

This home has an asphalt driveway to a two-car garage with an insulated coachman style door. A patterned brick paver walkway leads to the level covered front porch and zero step front entrance. The front of the house has stylish stone accenting on four bases topped by half pillars. The exterior is shakes-style in a taupe color with white trim and black raised-panel shutters. Half height or half story stone work accents the front facade of the house.

The porch has a bead-board ceiling and is surrounded by white railings. There is a "false" hipped-roof dormer, which gives the appearance that the house has a second floor. There is also a garage over the porch roof.

The attention to detail starts even before one enters the house. Above the front windows and doors is crown molding, a hint of what's to come inside.

The front door is mahogany with leaded glass windows and a transom. The entrance foyer is as attractively appointed as the rest of the house with the same solid oak hardwood flooring.

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