

WINDSOR COMMONS

Distinctive townhomes neighboring Hope Valley

BY REBECCA R. NEWSOME
MIRM

Looking for the perfect townhome? Just ask Hope Valley residents Bill Ellenson and Kathy Brown their thoughts on the subject. “When we began searching for the ‘right-size’ home for our retirement, we knew we wanted a community that would meet all of our needs... Close proximity to stores and restaurants, a library branch nearby, convenient access to I-40 and I-85, a flexible floor plan with a first floor master, and a neighborhood that would be conducive to jogging and walking,” says Bill. “We found all of this and more at Windsor Commons. We were living in Hope Valley when we decided to check out Windsor Commons, and we loved knowing that we would have all of the conveniences we wanted in this location. The home plans are exciting because they offer everything we’re looking for, including the master bedroom on the main floor, a basement storage area, and beautiful brick exteriors. Working with the onsite agents and Paran Homes has been easy. We’ve found the builder/agent team to be very informative and we’re pleased to see that attention to detail and an emphasis on quality is a top priority.”

As Bill and Kathy have expressed, Windsor Commons is an elegant townhome community where access is quick and easy to Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill, Research Triangle Park, and countless shopping, entertainment, and restaurant options. Atlanta-based Paran Homes Owner David “Butter” Smith is pleased to announce that Phase III of this exceptional community is underway and thriving. “Customers are telling us that their attraction to Windsor Commons is based on our solid construction and excellent design,” says Butter. “We’ve

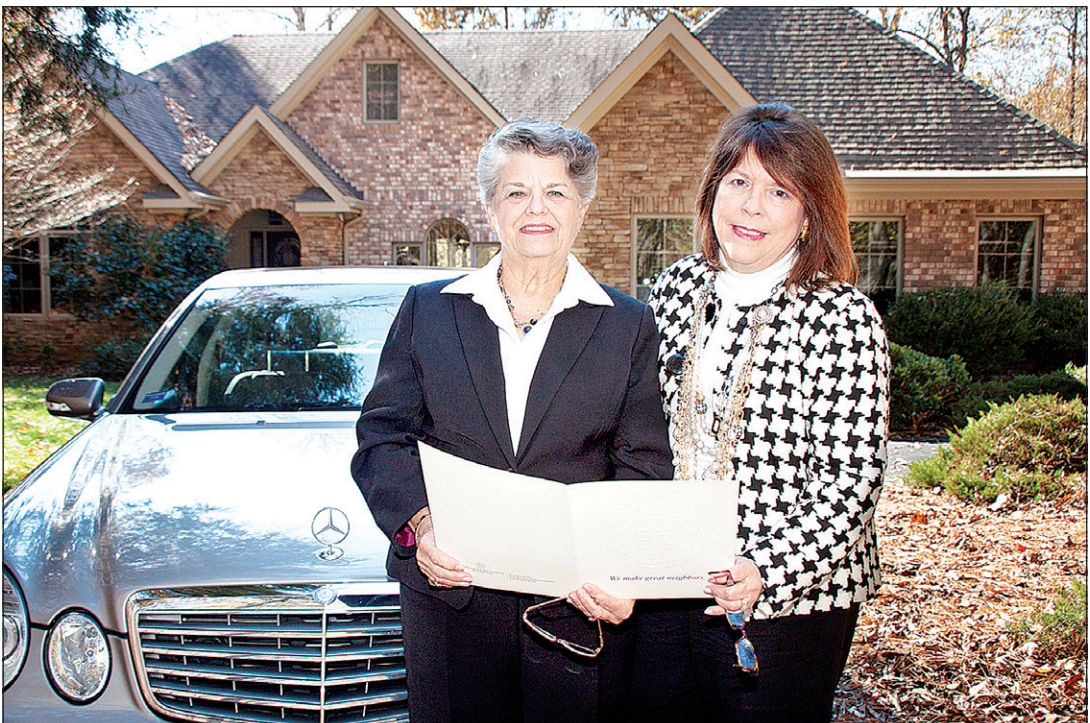


A recent photo shows a Windsor Commons building of three townhomes at twilight.

made a few floorplan changes and our Phase III homes offer more heated square footage, which has been well-received; five are already sold. We’re excited as Phase III of Windsor Commons unfolds... We’re very pleased to have entered the Triangle new homes market.”

Certainly the benefits of top quality construction and skillfully designed architecture in maintenance-free homes have played a key role in the success of this community. “Among an abundance of outstanding features, all homes include brick exteriors, street-front parking, and rear-entry garages,” say Marguerite Cameron and Patty Bridges, Real Estate Brokers with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services York Simpson Underwood

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Submitted

From left, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services York Simpson Underwood Agents Marguerite Cameron and Patty Bridges are shown.

Mystery Plant: ‘Confederate rose,’ ‘Cotton mallow,’ Hibiscus mutabilis

BY JOHN NELSON

Things change. It’s a part of nature...and in the fall, it’s not just leaves going from green to yellow, red or gold. In fact, plenty of different kinds of flowers change petal color as they age. This is due to a number of complicated physiological processes within their tissues, often signaled as a response to pollination. With many plants, once pollination in a given flower has occurred, there is no more “reason” in having a bee (or other insect) visit that flower, especially if there is no more pollen or nectar to be had, or ovules to be fertilized. The change in color may be a kind of signal, to the pollinator, that that flower is done with. (As an example, this sort of thing happens with Japanese honeysuckle. The fresh flower has a bright white corolla, but it gradually becomes yellowish with age.) Our mystery plant is native to China, but has been long cultivated in various parts of the world. This is a member of the mallow family, which of course would be the same as the hollyhock, cotton, or okra (YES!) family. (Botanists call the family “Malvaceae.”) This species belongs to a large,

mostly tropical genus, with about 300 related, but slightly different, recognized species. These species always feature five sepals, below which are a series of skinny bracts, and also five showy petals. This plant is commonly grown in much of the South, especially in the warmer parts, even to the point of being somewhat escaped and naturalized in Louisiana and southern Alabama. In cultivation, it requires lots of water and sun, and is fairly easy to grow. The farther north you go, though, it requires more protection, and probably plenty of mulching. Its leaves are alternate, and about the size of your hand, with five or so sharply pointed lobes. Flowers occur singly at a leaf node. The plants you see these days may be single or “double” flower forms...the latter with way more than just five petals. And, this is a plant whose flower color changes very dramatically during its “lifespan.” The change in the flower color of this species is rather remarkable. Generally, the petals start out pure white, but they gradually change to a deep rose-pink. It blooms from mid-summer up to the first hard frost, which in my

backyard is scheduled this week. (My gardening friends say it’s easy to root the plants from stalks just chopped off the growing plant, before it gets killed back.) The plant was given its scientific name by the father of plant taxonomy, Carl Linnaeus, in 1753, and there is an herbarium specimen upon which this name is based. Of course, when Linnaeus received the specimen, it was already pressed and dried...so he couldn’t have seen the flower color changing. Somebody had to tell him this interesting fact. Linnaeus, forever the clever botanist, must have been impressed by this, for he coined a scientific name, from a Latin word meaning “to change,” as an epithet for this plant’s name... John Nelson is the curator of the A. C. Moore Herbarium at the University of South Carolina, in the Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia SC 29208. As a public service, the Herbarium offers free plant identifications. For more information, visit www.herbarium.org or call 803-777-8196, or email HYPERLINKmailto:nelson@sc.edu



Photo by Ann Mitchell

A Confederate rose is shown at the home of Peggy and Charlie Geraty of Charleston.