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Lake Brewster: A welcoming neighborhood



PHOTOS | JACK UPTON

Above, the exterior of Carrie and Chad Cooper's Lake Brewster home. Far left, the fireplace in the Coopers' living room. The doors lead to the backyard and deck. Left, the Coopers, with their dog, Max.

By Elizabeth King Humphrey
Special Publications Coordinator

The homes at Lake Brewster are tucked away, accessed by a road behind the RuckerJohns Restaurant at Monkey Junction. The location is convenient for residents who travel this area, especially those traveling to and from Carolina Beach or downtown. The streets—and sidewalks—are neatly laid-out alongside the 135 welcoming homes. The prices range from \$213,000 to \$250,000 for homes from 1,500 to 2,200 square feet.

Nora Ruehle says that many of the homes that she and Peggy Holding co-list for Lake Brewster are three-bedroom, two-bathroom homes. (Ruehle and Holding are available through Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Realty, 910/686.6855. Southeast Custom Homes is one of the builders involved in this development and built the home of Carrie and Chad Cooper, as well as their neighbor Kerry Earnhardt, who works for Southeast Custom Homes.

The Coopers bought their home in Lake Brewster and found the homebuilders "accessible and friendly."

Carrie, who works for Wachovia Corporate Mortgage, mentions the pleasant relationship they have with the builder and that it "didn't end at closing," even though they were not part of the construction process. It is the Coopers' third home. They moved from Sunset Park in July 2006 with their five-year old dog Max.

The Coopers looked for two years for a home that would suit them.

"We looked at a lot of places, especially in the southern end of the county," Chad says.

"We found the northern area to be too congested. We wanted to find space...we were looking for our three 'F's': a fence, a FROG [finished room over the garage], and a fireplace. Everything we wanted was here," Carrie adds.

Chad, who attends Cape Fear Community College to enter the teaching profession, repeats, "Everything we wanted was right

here," adding emphasis to the words. "We never got a gut feeling about any of the places we looked, until we found this one."

"The community is friendly and convenient. It is unique in that you forget you are in Wilmington, yet you are minutes from stores and shopping. It is quiet and safe. A great place to raise a family...and dogs," Carrie says.

Although Kerry Earnhardt works for Southeast Custom Homes, she was moving from an apartment to a house and it was Earnhardt's first experience being a part of the construction process. The building was "efficiently" completed in 90 days. This reassures those who may be thinking that there is a "long drawn-out process," according to Earnhardt. She erred in thinking she would have more time to pick her upgrade selections. She enjoys the location and the affordable price of the Lake Brewster homes.

"It's nice that there are sidewalks. That's important, especially when you are driving at night. And the street lighting was done very well," Earnhardt says.

Both homeowners are pleased that the homebuilder's project manager still checks in from time-to-time.

"They are hands-on builders," Ruehle says.

Earnhardt had such good things to say about her new neighborhood, she followed up with an e-mail to explain more of what she appreciates about Lake Brewster.



Right, Kerry Earnhardt in her living room with Sampson, one of her dogs. Below left, Earnhardt's living room opens into the kitchen and eating area.



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in Lake Brewster



The Coopers spent two years looking for a home with their "three 'F's': a fence, a FROG, a fireplace." Above, the finished room over the garage—the FROG—in their home in Lake Brewster.

She writes, "For me, Lake Brewster has been a very safe and relaxed neighborhood. It's a great neighborhood to go home to and it's a great neighborhood for guests to visit. When I have out-of-town visitors, they don't have to worry about a long trip to the beach, shopping, restaurants or entertainment. We are located in a convenient location to all of the hot spots in the area, but at the same time, we are not burdened by the city traffic and commotion. I feel very safe living in

Lake Brewster, especially when I know that there are two policemen living in the neighborhood!"

One of the things that Earnhardt also likes about the neighborhood is that since it is so affordable, her sister and a few friends have been able to also purchase a home within Lake Brewster. Earnhardt writes, "I look forward to the growth of the community and I welcome all new neighbors."

And Lake Brewster seems just as welcoming as its residents.



Above, Kerry Earnhardt's home in the Lake Brewster development. Earnhardt says she appreciates a lot about her neighborhood, besides its sidewalks and streetlights. Below right, Earnhardt's living room with a fireplace. The door to the master bedroom is located in the background, directly off of the living room.

