

No lag in niche home sales

Touchmark expands in slow economy

With entities such as *Forbes* and *CNNMoney* naming Edmond as one of the top places to live in the country, it's not surprising to hear that a local residential housing development is adding inventory.

Edmond has excellent health care, strong schools, robust recreational options, low crime rate, and a penchant for attracting young families who wish to call this vibrant community home.

But it isn't a residential development aimed at growing families that needs to add homes due to demand.

Touchmark at Coffee Creek, an active lifestyle retirement community in north Edmond, has only 36 available lots remaining in its Parkview neighborhood. This neighborhood offers private, individual homes that vary in size from 1,600 to more than 2,000 square feet. These homes are one of the many lifestyle options that Touchmark offers its residents, who are attracted to maintenance-free living. Residents have more choices in how they spend their time. And most are pursuing rewarding hobbies and interests rather than pushing a lawn mower.

"I believe that Touchmark offers a unique type of residential living," said Janet Yowell, executive director, Edmond Economic Development Authority. "Since we haven't had this specific product in the market until this project, it goes to show that they are creating a desired environment and doing it with quality."

Quality and hospitality are just two of the factors that drew Cordell, Okla., couple Edwin and Johanna Frantz to Touchmark.

Edwin Frantz was born in Beaver County and has lived on a farm his whole life. He met Johanna at Corn Bible Academy, but they didn't begin dating until she



The Frantzes are moving from their Cordell farm, a place they have lived 60 years, to Touchmark's Parkview neighborhood. "The people that we've met at Touchmark are really hospitable; just like a big family, and that's really important when you're looking to retire somewhere. In fact, Kelli [Fischer a Touchmark retirement counselor] drove all the way out here to see where we live. That's a huge plus in my book."

was a senior. Once she graduated, they married, and Edwin moved to Washita County to be with his bride. They've been there for 60 years.

"I'll always have a hard time forgetting that county [Beaver], because it was all flat," he said. "Out here [Washita County], it's all red hills."

Once they married, Edwin operated their large farm while Johanna did "all the cooking, housework, laundry, and helped me move from one field to another," said Edwin.

The couple has a daughter, Jeanette, who became an educator and lives in Bridgeport, Texas, with her

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(cont.) husband Ron. Edwin and Johanna have three grandchildren and three great granddaughters.

Farming is all the couple has known, and something they had hoped to pass down to their youngest grandson. They began selling parcels of land, to transfer operations to him. When he decided that running cattle and growing and harvesting wheat and alfalfa were too much, the couple decided that it was time to sell the remaining 160 acres of land, 3,000-square-foot home, and assorted barns and outbuildings.

Their daughter and son-in-law had announced that they were going to move to Edmond to retire, so Edwin and Johanna began preparations to move, as well. Their daughter Jeanette did some research online and found Touchmark.

Edwin and Johanna are in the process of building a custom



Edwin and Johanna Frantz discuss their custom retirement-home plans with Touchmark Executive Director Jamie Ham, left. Privacy is important to the Frantzes, who are moving from a large farm in Cordell.

home in Touchmark's Parkview neighborhood. Parkview homes are ideal for people who are approaching retirement as well as retirees in their 70s and 80s.

Touchmark strives to improve the lives of retirees, not only through quality, affordable housing options but also in its many amenities. Edwin and Johanna won't have to worry about much once they move into their new home. Concierge services, meals, home maintenance, landscaping, and other services will be available to them with all the attention to detail that Touchmark has come to be known for.

"How handy would it be to have access to 'room service' when you just don't want to cook or have a concierge secure your complimentary tee time?" asks Jamie Ham, executive director of Touchmark.

"Moving to a new home is a big decision, and it's normal for people to compare the status quo to the unknown. It helps, though, for people to think about all they can experience if they make the decision to move."

Johanna said that one thing she's not looking forward to is dealing with the traffic in a metropolitan area. She is, though, bringing a big part of her Cordell life with her to Edmond—her piano and organ. "I started playing when I was a senior in high school," she said. "I really enjoy it."

The Frantzes have chosen a new town and new house. They

are impressed with Edmond and are looking forward to living in an individual home rather than an apartment. Both said that everyone they've dealt with at Touchmark has been very hospitable and seems like a big family.

"It will definitely be a big change," Edwin said. "But you work all of your life, and don't you work for retirement? And so here this day is." ■

Life balance and legacy



Marge Coalman, EdD
Vice President of
Wellness & Programs,
Touchmark

The function of *aging* does not guarantee *a life well-lived* or *a life in balance*. What, then, does it mean to create a life in balance? If you search for this phrase on the Internet, you'll find all kinds of comments, poems, and homilies. If you sit down and talk with people—especially older adults—a very different perspective comes to light. It becomes apparent that *legacy* is a critical component of a life in balance. This is true over people's lifespan and especially as they get older.

Legacy is not just about the material goods we have to share with those we love and care about or the causes we hold dear, although those are important components.

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(cont.) Legacy is a combination of life experience, wisdom, community service, and commitment that sets our life apart from the harried flow of day-to-day duties. According to many older adults I interview, this results

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in a sense of well-being and accomplishment that makes each day a day worth “spending” for the value it brings.

Contributions that may be the most effective are not necessarily measured in dollars. Consider these gifts: sharing a vision and making it real; influencing children or young adults and creating awareness and compassion for themselves and others; developing a thoughtful plan for conservation and environmental stewardship. All of these bequeath a legacy that goes beyond “the stuff” we leave behind. Thoughtful plans, timelines, and guideposts can mark the way to inspire future leaders and resolve difficult problems.

Touchmark communities are committed to supporting residents’ legacies through lifelong learning, civic engagement, intergenerational programs and services, and life-story work. Our Legacy Project is multidimensional and always growing. To be a part of the Full Life Wellness & Life Enrichment Program™ at Touchmark, contact a Full Life team member to share ideas, goals, and inspiration. ■

Recent events



Chaplain with Choice Home Health Stewart Malloy (left) chats with Touchmark Health Services Director Billie Upshaw after a recent Coffee Talk event, which featured a discussion on Dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.



Each month, Corey Watson from Autumn Bridge brings his Siberian husky, Helix, to visit with residents and show his tricks. Corey introduces Helix to Ruth Spielman.

Join us online!

Become a fan on our Facebook page; visit Touchmark’s YouTube channel; or write a review on Google maps.

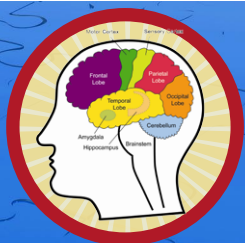


Look what's springing up at Touchmark!



The Madison offers 2,149 square feet, three bedrooms, and two bathrooms. Enjoy a maintenance-free lifestyle. No housework. No yard work. No upkeep. Select from one of our tastefully appointed models or design your dream home. Call today for a personal presentation.

Brain Builders



Rearrange the letters to find the states' names:

Example: Ah! Look ma. = Oklahoma

i own gym _____

men share whip _____

loan torn chair _____

horned dials _____

coins wins _____

show inn tag _____

Answers: Wyoming, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Washington

Coming Events

Contact a Life Enrichment/Wellness team member for additional details, including registration and transportation information.

Monday, April 4, 1:30 pm

Exercise Your Brain, which is part of the Health Matters series offered by Shelee Stewart of Choice Home Health. North Activities Room.

Tuesday, April 5, 5:30 to 6:30 pm

One-year anniversary celebration of the Prairieview Memory Care Residences. The Memory Care Support Group will meet after the celebration. Light snacks provided. RSVP by calling 405-340-1975 by Monday, April 4. Cedar Court in Prairieview.

Friday, April 8, 6:30 pm

Men's Poker Night. Game Room.

Saturday, April 9, 1:30 pm

Touchmark Storytellers are back. Please come to the Bunker to hear interesting wartime life stories of your neighbors.

Wednesday, April 13, 10 am

Golden Harmonizer performance, featuring several Touchmark residents. Grand Hall.

Wednesday, April 13, 2 pm

Spring Resident Tea. Fireside Dining Room.

Friday, April 15, 10 am to noon

Hearing Care with David Hough, PhD. Prairieview Exam Room. No charge.

Friday, April 15, 2 pm

Pet Therapy with Corey and his Siberian Husky Helix. South Living Room. *(cont.)*

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Saturday, April 16, 2 to 4 pm

Easter Egg Hunt with Coffee Creek neighborhood. Invite your family to join you for an egg hunt with three age groups, the Easter Bunny, face painting, games, and cookie decorating.

Tuesday, April 19, 3 pm

Armchair Traveler is visiting National Parks of the West. Enjoy snacks and wines.

Wednesday, April 20, 2 pm

Celebrate the Easter season and gather with neighbors for a Hymn Sing. Grand Hall.

Friday, April 22, 6:30 pm

Mixed Poker Night. Game Room.

Tuesday, April 26, 11 am to 1 pm

Mobility Tune-ups, compliments of Smith Medical Equipment. North Activities Room.

Tuesday, April 26, 7 to 9 pm

Talk of the Town Orchestra event. Enjoy refreshments, big band music, and dancing. Grand Hall.

Friday, April 29, 3 pm

Join us for a Royal Reception and review the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. Refreshments will include wines, nonalcoholic punch, and other wedding treats. Grand Hall.

Celebrating Mardi Gras



The Rice Band jazzed up the community's Mardi Gras celebration as residents listened and danced to the music. The event included a crowning of the Mardi Gras queen and king. Earlier in the day, people gathered to make masks and festive decorations. Trudy Sharp shows off her mask and Mardi Gras spirit.



Peggy and Frank Morrison dance to The Rice Band.

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There was a drawing for the Mardi Gras king and queen. Residents George Rowley and Faye Kelsey received the honor.



Joan Gibson decorates a mask to wear at Mardi Gras.



People enjoyed festive refreshments, including wine, lemonade, fruits, cheese, and crackers. A king cake also was served.

Just for laughs!

The Direct Object

Christopher's class was having an English lesson, and the teacher called on Christopher to recite a sentence with a direct object.

Christopher stood and thought, then said, "Teacher, everybody thinks you are beautiful."

"Why thank you, Christopher," the teacher said, blushing. "But what is the direct object?"

"A good report card next month," he replied.

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