

Caring For  
**OVERWEIGHT PETS**

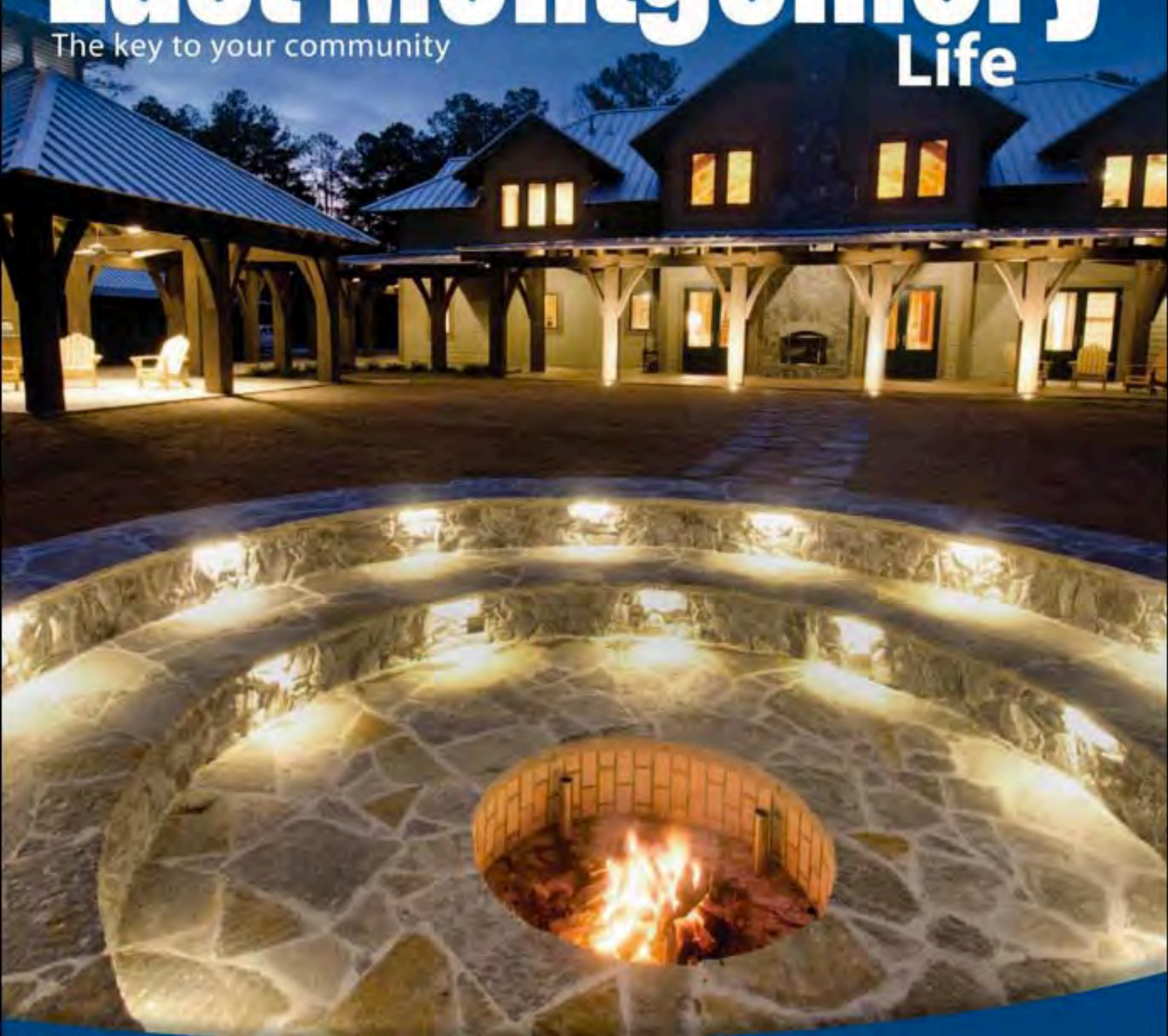
Getting Back  
**YOUR CREATIVITY**

What's Going On  
**IN THE AREA**

# East Montgomery

The key to your community

## Life



# REAL ESTATE SEASON

Advice from Mathews Construction on Custom Home Building



# 'Tis the Season for Real Estate

## Advice from Mathews Construction on Custom Home Building

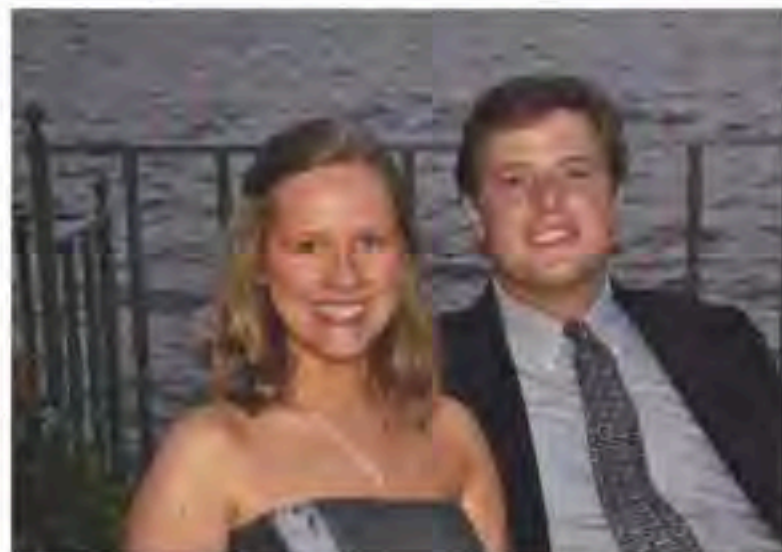
by Beth Mathews/Mathews Construction  
Community Contributor

**W**hat do we think of when the Spring Season is upon us? Warmer weather, blooming flowers, longer days, and maybe even some Spring cleaning, but what it also represents is the most popular time of the year for people to focus on making their dream of moving to a new home a reality.

Growing up I remember many Spring weekends spent in my parents' car riding through subdivisions looking at houses for sale and under construction as well as listening to my parents talk to builders and real estate agents. Understandably as a teenager, this was not my preferred weekend activity. However, as a young adult, I began to value this exposure as I learned that I enjoyed studying architecture and had an appreciation for quality craftsmanship in homes as well as an eye for home design. Also, as fate would have it, I married a home builder, John Mathews. I now work full time with John in running our construction company, Mathews Construction.

**After graduating from Auburn University, which is also my Alma Mater, John worked in Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama where he has completed over 200 homes and received the ultimate compliment numerous times that if the client were to build another home, John would be their builder of choice.**

Mathews Construction specializes in residential custom home building and remodeling throughout the Metro Montgomery, Lake Martin, and surrounding areas.



John and Beth Mathews of Mathews Construction.  
Photo courtesy of Beth Mathews



Mathews Construction logo.  
Logo courtesy of Mathews Construction

With the economic and real estate market issues that have impacted all of us during the past several years, we knew that for our company to remain successful we would have to differentiate ourselves. Mathews Construction has been able to continue to grow by offering a hands-on style that employs quality work, effective project management, and partnership with the client.

One question that we hear out in the community is, "Should I purchase a new home or buy an existing home?" Almost every homebuyer contemplates this question early on in the house hunting process, and to make the right decision it requires



When Mathews Construction designed this home, we wanted to take advantage of the golf course and lake views as well as let in as much natural light as possible into the main living areas. To accommodate this and keep the home energy efficient, we utilized Low E windows and upgraded insulation.

Photo courtesy of Beth Mathews

discussion and due diligence.

We always tell people to look at your family's desires in a home and a neighborhood and research the pros and cons of each property type. However, deciding to purchase a new home definitely provides some distinctive benefits:

- **Customization:** A new home offers you the ability to customize it to fit your family's needs and preferences. From house plan layout and flooring finishes to pre-wiring for security system and surround sound, as well as everything in between, you have the ability to make both structural and design decisions.
- **Built to Current Building Codes & Standards:** Knowing that your home is built with the most current technology and safety features provides peace of mind for you and your family.
- **Greater Energy Efficiency with Green Building:** The difference in energy savings in an Energy Star Home compared to even a 10 year old home can be pretty dramatic — as much as 30% to 50% on your monthly utility bill.
- **Less Maintenance & Repair Costs:** With a new home, everything will be brand new and up to date from appliances to electrical systems. You won't have to worry about large home maintenance expenses popping up like roof repair or HVAC replacement. New homes even come with a warranty for added protection.

Once someone has decided that a new home is what they

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## 5 DESIGN TIPS AT A GLANCE

- **Furniture:** I love to mix furniture from different time periods and styles. When this eclectic style is balanced properly, its pleasing combinations and interesting juxtapositions are stunning.
- **Color:** Selecting colors for your home can be a fun process but requires discipline. Always consider a room's light sources when you are contemplating color options.
- **Lighting:** Nothing can impact a room's mood more than its lighting plan. A room looks best if it has varied light sources coming from the ceiling, walls, and tables.
- **Window treatments should accent** your home's style, and they can add a lot of interest to a room with a nice silhouette and a complementary fabric selection.
- **Accessories:** "Less is more" to me when accessorizing a room. A room that is well-edited stands out above the rest. Your books, paintings, and collectibles give a room character and should express your interests.



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want then we at Mathews Construction truly enjoy walking them through the custom home building process. We serve as partners with our clients by sharing our industry knowledge and promoting open communication. From team selection and architecture to cost projections and construction, we work step-by-step with our clients. If you are thinking about embarking on the custom home building journey, here are a few tips to get you started:

**One question that we hear out in the community is, "Should I purchase a new home or buy an existing home?" Almost every homebuyer contemplates this question early on in the house hunting process, and to make the right decision it requires discussion and due diligence.**

• **Plan your Budget:** It is important to think up-front about how much you can afford to spend on a new home. There are many financing options available so do some research and talk to a few lending institutions to discuss your specific needs and find the option that makes the best sense for you. Understanding the value of your money is an important role of your home builder. We focus on delivering quality craftsmanship at competitive prices and are dedicated to be a faithful fiduciary to our clients' financial interests.

• **Location, Location, Location:** Outside of your personal preferences of where you would like your home to be located, your chosen lot plays a major role in the home building process. When our clients have not decided on a lot, we assist them in ensuring they are making an informed decision. There are several factors to consider, including easements and setbacks which may impact the ability to build your dream home on the lot.

Also, the lot's topography should be analyzed to ensure that the grades and soil quality are satisfactory and to determine if they will impact your building costs.

Finally, all property details should be researched, including information on the owner, zoning laws, tax records, and the last sales price. Ensuring that there are no liens or encumbrances on the property is important, which can be verified by a title company.

• **Choosing a Home Plan & Design:** Now, here comes the fun part! There are all different types of architectural styles and



This home built by Mathews Construction shows outdoor living at its finest with a wrap around porch, firepit, and outdoor kitchen.

Photo courtesy of Fouts Commercial Photography

sizes of homes to choose from. Note that some of these decisions will be dictated by the community where you choose to build and the characteristics of your chosen lot. The best way to begin is to make a written list of your specific wants and needs in a home.

Also, begin pulling pictures of home exteriors and interior living spaces that you like from magazines. Drive through neighborhoods and take photos of homes that you like. These will help you later when you are communicating with your team about what you are looking for in your new home.

Once we get to know someone and get a sense of their taste and style, we can make recommendations from our existing house plans or suggest a couple of architects or draftsmen to assist in the home design process.

Mathews Construction also offers a full service interior design consultation that assists clients from start to finish on selection decisions.

• **The Building Process:** Once plans are finalized, construction costs and specifications are agreed upon, and a contract is signed, it is time to break ground. The home building process has a lot of moving parts so it is important that a project management system is being employed by the home builder.

At Mathews Construction, the operational systems that we put in place promote organized procedures and superior work-

manship with a focus on smooth project scheduling, on-site job supervision, timely project completion, and budget management. Communication is also extremely important. You as the homeowner should be provided with a clear understanding of the various construction stages and status of your residence. We always focus on exceeding client expectations in making the custom home building process enjoyable.

### Design

When I approach home design, I work to combine good design principles, such as a well-executed floor plan with the skillful mix of color, scale, texture, and pattern to give a space depth and interest, along with the ability to customize the space to fit the client's specific needs. Well-appointed rooms are beautiful, but if the space doesn't fit the client's lifestyle then the design of the space is in vain. If you make the space both beautiful and functional for the client then you succeed in making the home personal and meaningful. As a client, it is important to understand how you want the rooms in your house to function and what you want your home to represent.

So if the Spring time air has you dreaming of a new home, we would love to help make your dream a reality. Please feel free to call us at 334-799-0047 or email us at mathewsinc@gmail.com. We would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have about custom home building. Also, check out our website at johnmathewsconstruction.com for more information.

# Beth's Design Corner

*The Art & Business of Home Design at Mathews Construction*

• **I encourage clients** to make a scrapbook of visual ideas of interiors and outdoor spaces that they have found in magazines, books, or on the internet that inspire them. This exercise helps clients communicate their home desires and sensibilities. I have included some design techniques that I like to incorporate into my work:

• **Furniture: I love** to mix furniture from different time periods and styles. When this eclectic style is balanced properly, its pleasing combinations and interesting juxtapositions are stunning. I can get excited about an early English side table, a French buffet from the eighteenth century, or a modernist sofa with clean lines. Memorable rooms exude unique personal style instead of reflecting a specific trend or time period.

• **Color: Selecting colors** for your home can be a fun process but requires discipline. Always consider a room's light sources when you are contemplating color options. Try several samples on the wall and see how the color looks in the morning with natural light coming into the room and see how the color looks at night against lamp light. Lighting can affect color dramatically so take your time before deciding on the perfect hue.

• **Lighting: Nothing can** impact a room's mood more than its lighting plan. A room looks best if it has varied light sources coming from the ceiling, walls, and tables. Think about the space's use and time of day to decide on the needed quantity and quality of lights.

• **Window Treatments: When** deciding on window treatments, it is important to consider your window's size and function. Window treatments should accent your home's style, and they can add a lot of interest to a room with a nice silhouette and a complementary fabric selection.

• **Accessories: "Less is more"** to me when accessorizing a room. A room that is well-edited stands out above the rest. Your books, paintings, and collectibles give a room character and should express your interests. The layering of these objects truly makes your house become your home.

— Beth Mathews

Top-Notch Builder

15

Number of years John Mathews has been active in the construction business.



# AND ANOTHER THING ...



Fouts Commercial Photography

## Home sweet home

The beams and trusses built for this Mathews Construction home were constructed from reclaimed heart pine that came from an old Currier Piano Company Building located in North Carolina. Mathews Construction was founded by John Mathews. The company specializes in residential custom home building and remodeling throughout the Metro Montgomery,

Lake Martin, and surrounding areas. The company approaches every project with the client in mind and enjoys guiding them through each stage of the building process. Mathews Construction views every project with a unique perspective to achieve the vision of the client and the architect.

— Beth Mathews