

DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEEK

Details stand out on growing family's first home

By **LORI JOHNSTON**
For the Journal-Constitution

Nicolae Butoiu moved from Romania to the U.S. in 2000, renting while he saved enough money to build a home. Nicolae, who is expecting a baby girl with wife Leonarda in January, chatted about their July move to Suwanee's Habersham on Laurel Springs.

Q: What was one of the biggest factors in choosing Habersham on Laurel Springs?

A: I was looking for a three-car garage. I have a work van. I wanted to put my van inside the garage. They enlarged it by 1 foot and a half. It was not an issue for them.

Q: What do you like about the south Forsyth area?

A: Everything is close here – a lot of shopping, LA Fitness, movie theaters on Ga. 141.

Q: What did you like about the old world-style architecture at

Getting there

Take I-85 north to Ga. 400 north to Exit 13 (Peachtree Parkway/Ga. 141) and turn right. Travel approximately 5 miles and turn left onto Laurel Springs Parkway. Habersham on Laurel Springs will be a quarter mile on the right.

Habersham?

A: Each house was different. It's not like you go into a subdivision and it's the same model houses. Another thing I liked, because I work with hardwood floors, they allowed me to install my hardwoods (he chose red oak with a dark walnut stain). Other builders didn't allow me to do that. They were very, very nice with that.

Q: Were you interested in certain amenities?

A: Actually, they just finished the tennis courts, and the pool is almost ready. This was something that I had in my mind I was looking for.

Q: What advice would you give



CHRISTOPHER OQUENDO / Special

Nicolae and Leonarda Butoiu relax in the living room of their home at Habersham at Laurel Springs in Suwanee. Nicolae installed the red oak floors himself.

other first-time home buyers?

A: Just go and see other houses. Pay attention to the details. [We liked] the way the builder treated us – we were able to go to the house every single day. There was

no problem.

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TRACT FACTS

Address: 5040 Habersham Hills Drive, Suwanee 30024

County: Forsyth

Information: 678-513-9997, www.harcresthomes.com

Price range: \$499,900-\$631,280

Number of homes: 69

Square footage: 3,360-4,040

Lot sizes: ½ acre

Standard features: stainless steel Whirlpool Gold appliances, ceramic tile backsplash, crown molding, 10-foot ceilings on first floor, hardwood floors

Amenities: gated, pool, gathering area with fire pit, lighted tennis courts, sidewalks, streetlights

Homeowners fees: \$1,200 a year (\$500 initiation fee)

Builder: Harcrest Homes

Schools: Sharon Elementary, Riverwatch Middle, South Forsyth High

More on schools: www.ajchomefinder.com/schoolguide