



BY NANCY E. OATES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN RIPLEY

When the couple living next door to Will Atherton in Churton Grove downsized and readied to move, they gave the Atherton family some things that wouldn't fit in their new place: a toy train set, a bigger-than-life inflatable Santa, a freezer and a piano.

"They wouldn't take any money for it," Atherton says. "The best-kept secret of Churton Grove is the people who live here. The neighbors are friendly, outgoing and always want to help."

Churton Grove, perched just beyond Hillsborough's northern border, is one of the few new-house options in a town that dates back three centuries. The development of 400 or so new single-family homes combines the Mayberry-esque folksiness of Hillsborough with the staid, gracious living of a Cary subdivision. But the careful architecture and uniformly manicured lawns belie the diversity of

**So You're
Thinking of
Moving to**

Churton Grove ...