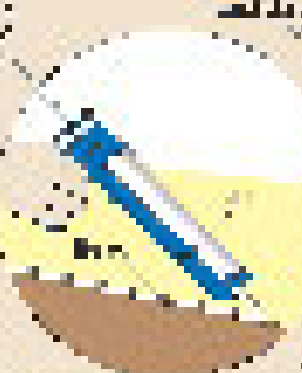


### FALL/WINTER HOME FACTS

#### Caulking tips

As temperatures drop, it's time to check the caulking around your windows and doors. Here are some tips to help you do it right:

- Use a high-quality, weather-resistant caulk.
- Clean the surface thoroughly before applying.
- Apply the caulk in a continuous, smooth bead.
- Smooth the caulk with a finger or a caulking tool.
- Allow the caulk to dry completely before painting or using the area.



### FALL/WINTER HOME FACTS

#### Landscape for warmth

As the weather turns colder, your landscape can help keep your home warm. Here are some tips to help you do it right:

- Plant evergreen trees and shrubs to provide natural insulation.
- Use mulch to insulate the soil around your plants.
- Water your plants regularly, even in winter.
- Prune your trees and shrubs to remove dead wood.



### FALL/WINTER HOME FACTS

#### Responsible flushing

As temperatures drop, it's time to check the flushing of your toilets. Here are some tips to help you do it right:

- Flush your toilet regularly to prevent clogs.
- Use a plunger to clear any clogs.
- Avoid flushing large items down the toilet.
- Use a toilet brush to clean the bowl.



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### Considering a condo?

◀Continued from Page 1

opment, the fees generally range from \$90 to \$200 per month. "Association fees vary widely," said Minervini. "Some cover everything, some are only for plowing the roads. Buyers have to look at the whole view."

It's not just the new condos competing for buyers, there are more and more condos being resold. "There can be advantages to buying existing space. Often times, they've been well kept," Minervini said. "Also, if you're not a person who can visualize how your furniture is going to fit into a space, it's good to be able to see furniture in there. When you go into a nicely decorated condo with attractive appointments, it's easier to imagine yourself living there."

The question remains. Will Traverse City builders eventually saturate the market?

"I began advertising this project last year," Stevens said. "We were getting a steady response from people up to a month ago. In the past four to six weeks I haven't received one response." Fortunately for Stevens, his condo developments have a history of being well received, are in the popular mid-price range, and are located in a desired area. "We have people moving here who could, literally, live anywhere in the world," said Minervini. "We have beauty, and still retain hometown values. Besides, this will always be an area where there is a second home market."

For those who have already purchased the condo of their dreams, life couldn't be better. "I feel like I'm starting a new life," Loveless said.

Dana George is a local freelance writer.



Photos by Record-Eagle/Jim Bovin

Chestnut Mead is one of a number of condominium projects in the Traverse City area. Developer Brian Stevens finds that his mid-range priced condos are purchased by empty nesters and retirees.



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