

22nd Annual Christmas Tree Walk and Open House

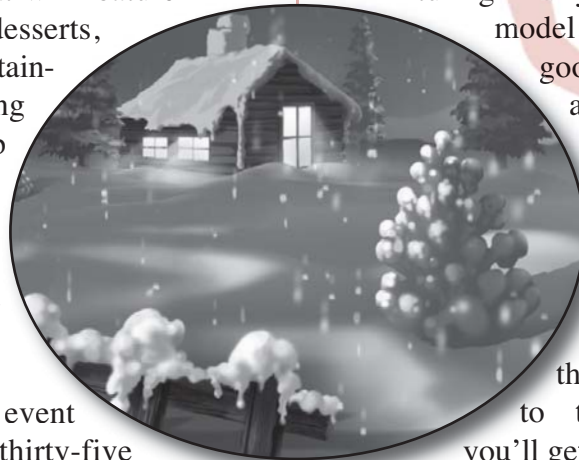
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Nothing compares to the sights and sounds of Christmas and a wonderful way to begin this holiday season is to invite family and friends for the 22nd Annual Oak Crest Christmas Tree Walk & Open House scheduled for Sunday, December 11, 1-4:30 p.m. "A Winter Wonderland" is the theme and the public is invited to join Oak Crest residents, families and friends for this special Christmas event that will feature sumptuous desserts, seasonal entertainment including the DeKalb High School Madrigal Singers performing at 1:30 p.m.

This year's event will feature thirty-five uniquely inspired trees decorated in recognition of the many Christmas seasons we have spent with family and friends. Each tree will feature our favorite holiday memories and remind us of the joy and magic of an Oak Crest winter wonderland. Oak Crest King & Queen Bob Brayfield and Jane Randolph will greet visitors around the Christmas Dazzle tree in the 2nd floor atrium. Keeping to the theme of "A Winter Wonderland," visitors strolling through the building will enjoy even more beautiful trees including "Chirpin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Christmas in the Forest," "A Vin-

tage Christmas," "A Star in the East," and "Home for Christmas." This year, we will feature a "Frozen Tree" and Elsa will be on hand to welcome children of all ages. The talented Cheryl Johnson will make her debut as "Aunt Holly" and is sure to entertain and delight.

You won't want to miss our "All Aboard for Christmas" display featuring fully operational model trains. Our good friends Jim and Roger Letheby know that everyone dreams of donning an engineer's cap and riding the rails. Thanks to the Lethebys, you'll get your chance.



No Christmas would be complete without a trip to the North Pole and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Parents and grandparents will have the opportunity to listen in on whispered wishes and to capture the moment with a picture or two. Stop by and visit the Claus family and then enjoy a holiday treat and browse through Mrs. Claus' Kitchen and Gift Shoppe.

***Valet parking available
at Door #4***



*The Door Opens
In Welcome*

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Top to bottom:

Sandy Hennegan – DeKalb, IL
Geri Delaney – Sycamore, IL
Arlene & Clark Neher – DeKalb, IL
Tom Schlieben – Sycamore, IL

Circle of Care Silver Acorns

Over the years you may have noticed that residents, staff and friends are sporting acorn lapel pins. These pins signify their participation in the Oak Crest Silver Acorn program. The program began in 2005 to recognize those individuals contributing \$2500 or more to the Annual Circle of Care Campaign. Each year, Silver Acorn members are acknowledged at a luncheon attended by staff and Board Committee members. This year's luncheon was a great success and provided an opportunity to thank donors for their continued support. This year in support of this fund, more than \$72,000 was donated by friends and families. For additional information concerning the Circle of Care Campaign or to become a member of the Silver Acorns, please contact Liz Hoppenworth, Director of Resident Services at (815)756-8461.

2016 Silver Acorn Members: Johanna Benson, Beatrice Bue, Stephen & Evelina Cichy, David & Lynette Doust, Ann Elliott, Katz Family Foundation, Joyce Gardner, Stephen Irving Family, Ray & Carol Larson, Tom & Jeanette Michels, Lou Jean Moyer, Jane Ovitz, Steve Reagan & Lynette Stevens

From The Executive Director



To say these last few months have been a whirlwind of activity would be an understatement. With twenty-two of the twenty-three apartments in the new Oaks Addition committed and people relocating and settling in, life at Oak Crest is pretty exciting.

With construction behind us and the future before us, there is an additional aspect of the expansion project and one that provides opportunities for individuals wishing to participate in this very exciting time in Oak Crest history. We all know those special people who currently play an active role in our lives or whose memory we wish to honor. Whether a family member, a friend, or a business associate; a gift to Oak Crest can be a wonderful way to salute those individuals. To this end, the "Oaks Building and Gifts Program" has been developed by the Board of Trustees as a way to enable individuals to give a gift that says, "I remember." General memorial gifts range from \$1,000 - \$5,000 and will

be honored with a plaque recognizing the selected individuals. Memorial gifts of greater amounts from \$5000 and more will be recognized at specific sites throughout the addition. For example, a gift of \$10,000 may be recognized at a new elevator; a \$25,000 gift may be recognized in the new massage therapy area, while a gift of \$100,000 or more may be recognized in the new Bistro or as part of our new pool and fitness center.

Charitable giving is important to Oak Crest and this giving program is an excellent way to salute those whose actions continue to influence our lives today. (As always, gifts to the Center are tax deductible and are always appreciated. For more information on giving please feel free to contact me personally.)

Stephen P Cichy

Stephen P. Cichy
Executive Director



Saturday, November 12, 2016 was a perfect day to dedicate the new Oaks Apartment Homes and Fitness Center. Board President, Brian Scholle greeted and welcomed guests saying, "As I look out on those of you gathered here today - residents, family, donors, former and current Board members, staff and volunteers I am both humbled by your continued dedication and support and proud to be part of the Oak Crest organization whose mission is one of service and whose vision is innovation in the area of senior adult services. I feel that this construction project has accomplished what we set out to do. Not only have we expanded our campus offerings and amenities for those who live here now, but we have looked to the future and feel we have positioned this organization to welcome those who will follow."



Expansion Committee Members: Ann Tucker, Carol Larson, Linda Mason

Carol Larson, Board Member and Expansion Committee Chair, shared her reflections of nearly four decades of service to the Oak Crest Community. She said, "This new addition to the Oak Crest campus is the result of a Board retreat held in 2011. At that time, the objective was the development of this campus. As is our practice and following in the steps of our predecessors, we were always mindful of the needs of our existing residents, as well as those of the community at large. We recognize Oak Crest would not be where it is today had it not been for some key

Apartment Homes & Fitness Center Dedication



people who shared a common vision of creating a church related not-for-profit retirement community. Some of these first volunteer leaders were John Roberts, Al Golden, Howard Eychaner, Gordon Melms and Jack Nelson. Their vision continues today because of the dedicated and visionary board members who have served throughout our thirty-six year history. Oak Crest truly is an organization and community of which to be proud. When asked to serve on the Oak Crest Board all those years ago I said yes. To this day, it has been a most rewarding and fulfilling part of my life. Each time I walk through the doors of Oak Crest, see the many people who live here currently and remember those from the past I am proud. Proud to serve and proud to be part of such a wonderful community.”

Ann Tucker, Board Vice Presidents shared her perspective and spoke about the future and leadership. She shared this, “One thing truly special



Committee Members and Staff: Linda Mason, Carol Larson, Ann Tucker, Liz Hoppenworth, Steve Cichy, Dave Rourke, Linda Sherman

about Oak Crest is each home is as unique as its resident. Not just in The Oaks, but the entire campus. Connected yet separate. Each with our own perspective. Here’s my perspective, Oak Crest has reached this milestone today because previous Boards have always been looking forward. Never stagnant. Never complacent. Exploring new trends and discover-

ing opportunities in retirement living and health care. The Boards of the past and the current Board continue to be innovative and creative. We work on being pro-active in our planning for the current and future residents. We meet to discuss future plans and ideas for the physical campus; to ensure stability and the kind of community our residents expect and deserve. We are dedicated to fulfilling our mission and vision.”

Joe Gastiger, Board Member and pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ, gave the blessing and this was followed by the singing of “Bless this House” accompanied and led by residents Barb Grulke and Liz Meyer.

Stephen Cichy, Executive Director, thanked those for attending and acknowledged the work of the many people who made the project such a success. He ended the program by saying, “I would also like to take this opportunity to thank whole-heartedly the Oak Crest community of residents. During this entire planning and construction process you have been excited, encouraging and very, very patient. You have been more than tolerant of the disruption, noise and mess that accompanies any big construction project and you have shouldered the burden with grace, diplomacy and patience. Change is never easy and we are forever grateful to you for your overwhelming support of this project and the warm welcome you have extended to your new neighbors. You see Oak Crest is more than bricks and mortar. It’s what’s inside that really counts. And throughout this entire project I knew that we could count on you. I knew we could count on you to see past the cement, steel, cables, drywall dust and brick and see what



President Brian Scholle, Steve Cichy and past Board Presidents

was being built. You see Oak Crest and the Oaks addition and fitness center isn’t just another building, it is home.”

The event was followed by a sumptuous appetizer and dessert buffet served in the Terrace View Dining room.

*The Door Opens
In Welcome*



Top to bottom:

*Harry & Marilyn Berg – Sycamore, IL
Mary Eakle – DeKalb, IL
Don & Pat Johnson – Lee, IL
Eleanor Rempfer – DeKalb, IL
Marjorie Rasmussen – Sycamore, IL*

Oak Crest Awards Employee Grant



Twice a year for the last fifteen years the Community Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees has awarded a grant in the amount of \$300 to a deserving employee to pursue educational or enrichment programming. This grant is in addition to the annual Employee Scholarship designed for employees or their dependents pursuing an accredited undergraduate degree or program of study. The purpose of the grant is to allow additional opportunities for employees to pursue educational goals or enrichment programming.

This year's grant was awarded to Ashleigh Farris who has worked in the Oak Crest Food Service Department since June of 2012. She is presently enrolled



Ashleigh Farris and Community Relations Chair Ann Tucker

in classes at Kishwaukee College and is pursuing her interest in photography. As part of her program of study, Ashleigh has an opportunity to participate in a photography aboard program. This program will enable her to work side by side with professional photographers and assist in galleries and studios. In her application essay she wrote, "This internship experience will assist me in building on my skills and further my dream of being a photographer."

Stephen Cichy, Executive Director said, "Our organization's values are service, people and community. As an organization our commitment is to provide a quality environment in which to live and work; to this end, Oak Crest con-

tinually provided programming and educational opportunities supporting employees as they develop in the areas of education and self-improvement. Fostering a desire for learning is just one of the many things that makes this a community of which to be proud."

Art & Craft Fest



This year's Fest was a roaring success and featured sixteen community vendors. The Oak Crest Crafters filled the Little Theater with their beautiful display of handmade crafts. Thanks to the talents of volunteer bakers, vendor donations, raffles and craft sales, the Fest generated \$2,078.68 and benefited the Oak Crest Good Samaritan Fund. A heartfelt thank you to all who helped to make this day such a memorable one.

Trauma Doll Project



The Oak Crest Crafters continue their efforts as part of the Trauma Doll Community Service Project. The DeKalb Kiwanis Club provides the materials and resident and community volunteers assemble the dolls. To date, this labor of love has resulted in the creation of seven hundred dolls. The dolls are provided to children at the local hospital's emergency room and are a comfort to them during a traumatic time.

A Veteran's Day Salute



Residents, staff and friends gathered this past Veterans Day to recognize and honor fifty Oak Crest veterans. Veteran's Day morning started off with a continental breakfast sponsored by DeKalb County Chapter of VietNow and served by DeKalb Boy Scout Troop 33. The day was highlighted with a service coordinated by Sally Stevens honoring the many veterans who sacrificed so much for so many. She shared a collection of meaningful tributes, and attendees enjoyed the musical talents of Barb Grulke. DeKalb Boy Scout Troop 33 presented the colors, and joined residents, friends and family for the Pledge of Allegiance. The program concluded after each veteran's name was called and branch of service recognized.



*WW II Veterans:
Cliff Johnson and Don Mosher*

A Resolution You Can Keep



It's that time of year to start making those New Year's resolutions. If you have been thinking about volunteering, why not think about experiencing volunteering the Oak Crest way? Whatever your interests, we have a program that is right for you. At Oak Crest your time and effort is always appreciated. We offer you the opportunity to become involved, so you can feel the fulfillment that comes from giving to others. Come and experience rich and rewarding memories in the making. For more information contact Joan Launer at (815)756-8461 or jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org

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 Wendy West-Krauch

Executive Director
 Stephen Cichy

Calendar of Events

Sun., Dec. 11	1-4:30 pm	22nd Christmas Tree Walk & Open House, "Winter Wonderland"
Wed., Dec. 14	9:30 am	Veterans Meet & Greet
Sat., Dec. 24	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Church Service
Tue., Jan. 3	2:00 pm	Service of Remembrance - Celebrating the lives of Oak Crest Residents who passed away in 2016
Tue., Jan. 24	2:00 pm	Chicago Art Institute Insights program "Stories from Caesar"
Sun., Feb. 19	2:00 pm	Centenarian Celebration

Christmas Message



There is no better time than Christmas to gather together and rejoice in the wonderful gifts bestowed on each and every one of us. Join your loved ones, and rejoice in the miracle of Christ's birth. Of all those who are part of this season of joy, there is none we treasure more than you. From our home to yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with God's love and blessings.

Excursions in 2016/2017

Sun., Dec. 18	"Nutcracker" - Joffery Ballet Chicago
Thur., Jan. 19	"Mamma Mia" — The Fireside
Fri.-Thur., Feb. 3-9	Key West & Miami
Sun.-Sat., Feb. 19-25	New Orleans
Sun.-Sat., Apr. 16-22	Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg & Historic Norfolk

For information Contact Joan Launer at (815)756-8461 or jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org.

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