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*A Veteran's Day Salute*

Residents, staff and friends gathered this past Veterans' Day to recognize and honor sixty Oak Crest veterans. Sally Stevens coordinated and conducted the program. She read a couple of meaningful tributes and Robert Stroud sang a selection of patriotic songs. The program concluded after each veteran was thanked for their years of service and presented with a red, white, and blue ribbon and flag pin.

*Calendar of Events*

- Tues. Dec. 8, 9:30am Homemaker's Education Association program, "Holiday Teatime" by Mary Lu Strack and Ellen Engstrom
- Sun. Dec 13 1-4:00pm 15th Annual Christmas Tree Walk and Open House, "Christmas Splendor"
- Mon. Dec. 14 7:00pm Visiting Artist Series - Stained Glass by Rolf Achilles
- Sun, Dec. 20 7:00pm 2nd Annual Candlelight Service featuring the Oak Crest Bell Choir
- Mon. Dec. 21 7:00pm Community Caroling Sing-Along
- Mon. Dec. 28 7:00pm Visiting Artist Series - Textile Painting with Marilyn Greenawal
- Tues. Jan. 12 9:30am Homemaker's Education Association program, "Vacations and Staycations"
- Fri. March 5 2:00pm World Day of Prayer Service

**Trips**

- Thurs. Dec. 10 Season's Greetings Big Band Review - Milk Pail in East Dundee (Cost\$53.00)
- Sat. & Sun. Jan. 2 - 3 Chicago Bears vs Detroit Lions  
*Overnight in Detroit (Cost \$269 per person for double room, \$329 for a single room) For more information or to make a reservation contact Joan Launer at (815)756-8461 or jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org*

Return Service Requested

DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
2944 Greenwood Acres Drive

DEKALB AREA RETIREMENT CENTER



Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Rockford, Illinois  
PERMIT NO. 2495



*The Door Opens  
In Welcome*



**Top to bottom:**

Zenobia DuBois - DeKalb, IL  
Mark Thackaberry - DeKalb, IL  
Ken Baker - DeKalb, IL

News of Interest to the Oak Crest Community and Friends

Winter 2009 • Volume 30 • Number 4

*Annual Christmas Tree Walk & Open House*

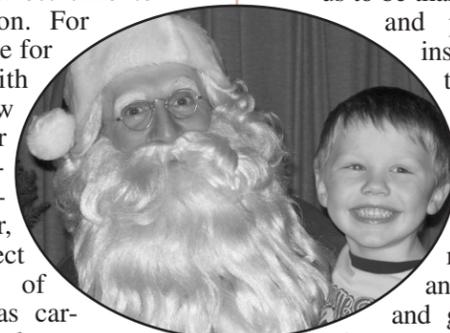
"Christmas Splendor" is the theme for the 15th Annual Christmas Tree Walk and Open House planned for Sunday, December 13th, 1- 4:00 p.m. The public is invited to join Oak Crest residents, families and friends to usher in the Christmas season. Come and enjoy beautiful trees, seasonal entertainment featuring the DeKalb High School Madrigal Singers, sumptuous refreshments and apartment tours. Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate the season. For many it also is a time for reconnecting with friends old and new alike. Again this year the Oak Crest campus will be the perfect place to gather, reminisce and reflect on the splendor of Christmas. Christmas carols will fill the air and everyone will gather around festive tables laden with holiday goodies and traditional Christmas fare.

Keeping to the traditions of Christmas past, visitors strolling through the building will enjoy a beautiful tree with decorations representing the symbols of Joy, Good Will, Generosity and Hope. The Main Atrium's Crimson and Ice Tree will be adorned with deep red ornaments and glistening icicles. A nostalgic journey through time will feature a lovely tree adorned with hand-made ornaments. The Chapel will be filled with candlelight and a tree depicting symbols of Christianity will cast a glow upon a miniature nativity scene created by residents and staff.

Throughout the building the splendor of Christmas will wrap you in its warm embrace. Watch for symbols representing traditions past like poinsettias, holly and old fashioned Christmas cards. Keep your eyes open for Christmas traditions that span the globe. This year a tree featuring Christmas ornaments representing the diverse cultures of the world will be on display. If you look closely you may even spy pine cone ornaments reminding us to be thankful for times of peace and plenty and cardinals inspiring joy both during the season and throughout the year. The young and young at heart are sure to enjoy a trip to Toy Land. You won't want to miss 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.

The aroma of gingerbread and sugar cookies will waft through the air. Our own Oak Crest bakers will have been busy baking Christmas goodies and sweets to tantalize visitors. Enjoy a snack reminiscent of your childhood and marvel over the hand decorated gingerbread houses.

The Oak Crest King and Queen, Jim & Marge Lehan will be on hand to greet guests in the Vista Room where you are invited to enjoy a delicious holiday sweets buffet and a variety of entertainment. Mark your calendar and join your family and friends and make a Christmas at Oak Crest one of your favorite holiday traditions.



## Silver Acorns

You may notice that a few 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 who contribute \$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. 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.

**2009 Silver Acorn Members: Beatrice Bue, Stephen & Evelina Cichy, Harold Engh, National Bank & Trust of Sycamore and Richard & Jeanne Tyska**

## From The Executive Director

A couple of years ago a resident made a multi-year pledge to Oak Crest. Unfortunately, before her pledge could be completed she unexpectedly passed away. Not only had DeKalb lost a leader but Oak Crest lost a supportive and valued member of our community. I was so impressed and touched when not long after her death her family contacted me to make arrangements to fulfill her pledge. You see, they wanted to honor her commitment and support an organization that made a difference in their lives. It was at that moment, I was reminded of a statement made by a resident's family member when she said, "You know what really makes Oak Crest unique? It's the fact that this is truly a 'family business.' You all go out of your way to not only care for our parents and grandparents but for our entire family." What a wonderful testament to the many people who serve each and every day.

I know as we approach the end of 2009 you will receive appeals from a variety of charities. For many organizations, tax savings is a primary incentive and the theme of many of these appeals. As a not-for-profit organization we too recognize the tax saving advantages to

the donor. However, besides these obvious advantages we find people give to Oak Crest because they have known someone or they themselves have been recipients of the care and compassion offered by the people who make Oak Crest the "family business" it is today.

Please consider a gift to the Center. Gifts can come in the form of cash contributions, securities, tangible property, or real estate. We all know someone who has touched our lives whether a family member, friend or business associate. Oak Crest offers a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to those who continue to enrich our lives. Donations to the Center may be recognized with a plaque identifying the donor or may be inscribed with the name of a dear friend or family member. Gifts to the Center are always appreciated, but to take advantage of the tax savings for this year contributions must be made by December 31, 2009.



**Stephen P. Cichy**  
Executive Director

## Oak Crest Employee Scholarships

In 2006 the Board of Trustees of the DeKalb Area Retirement Center-Oak Crest acknowledged receipt of a very generous and heartfelt gift from the Estate of Jack Boyle. Mr. Boyle, a former Oak Crest resident and long-time supporter of the Oak Crest community saw an opportunity to create a legacy for future generations in the form of an employee scholarship. This perpetual scholarship was established to encourage and assist employees and their dependents in the pursuit of an undergraduate degree or equivalent program of study. The scholarship is a fitting tribute to a man who personally experienced the compassion and care of a truly dedicated group of people. Jack's daughter, Pat Boyle-Cordes said, "Oak Crest is the employees - a knowledgeable, caring, supportive, loving group of people, who when I needed it most held me up, held me together, and held my hand. I never felt alone. The Oak Crest Employee Scholarship is just one opportunity to give back to people who truly enrich the lives of others."

Since 2006 Oak Crest has awarded fourteen college scholarships totaling \$40,000. Beginning January 1, the Selection Committee will again be accepting applications for the 2010 academic year. Those eligible for consideration must be an employee or employee dependent, have two years of continuous employment at Oak Crest, worked a minimum of 1,000 hours each of the last two years and be able to demonstrate acceptance into an undergraduate college or program of study. The application deadline is February 15, 2010 and a scholarship in an amount up to \$5,000 will be awarded on or before April 15, 2010.

Oak Crest is located at 2944 Greenwood Acres Dr., DeKalb. Donations to the Center are tax deductible and more importantly provide the donor an opportunity to truly impact the lives of others. For additional information about creating a Legacy of Giving contact the Center at (815)756-8461 or visit the web at [www.oakcrestdekalb.org](http://www.oakcrestdekalb.org).

## A Resolution You Can Keep

With 2010 just around the corner now may be a good time to start thinking about that New Year's resolution. 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 about being a volunteer contact Joan Launer at (815) 756-8461 or [jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org](mailto:jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org)

### WANTED

The Oak Crest Maintenance Department is looking for a newer used pick-up truck or car for donation. Please contact Dave Rourke, Maintenance Director at (815)756-8461 or e-mail [droure@oakcrestdekalb.org](mailto:droure@oakcrestdekalb.org)

## Christmas Message

Christmas is a time to reflect and connect. What better time to gather together and rejoice in the wonderful gifts bestowed on each and every one of us. It is also the perfect time to gather together with our 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 more warmly thought of and remembered than you. From our home to yours we wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with God's love and blessings.

## Focus Committee

In past issues of the Door, you have received information about the Board of Trustees FOCUS Committee that in addition to me, includes Board President Elegie LoCascio, and members Carol Larson, David Pauling, and Ann Tucker. Based on the organization's on-going success and as demand for Oak Crest services and accommodations increase, we find ourselves actively seeking additional property.

For the better part of two years the committee has been meeting in an attempt to define the goals and objectives and is now at a point of identifying property that would be best suited for future development. Response to future Oak Crest development has been positive and we are encouraged that many supportive people and organizations in the community embrace our mission and share in our vision and values. It is through this dedication and commitment that the Oak Crest legacy of care and services will continue far into the future.

Jack Goodrich  
FOCUS Committee Chair

## Oak Fest

"Country Fair Day" was the theme of the 13th Annual fall festival. The event was a big success with many residents, family members, and volunteers and friends enjoying the exhibits, presentations, bake sale, food booths and the farmers market. This year's festival provided a great opportunity to meet and reconnect with friends. The bake-off, entertainment by the Oak Crest Boys, a nostalgic look at antique farm toys and vintage cars, and music provided by the DeKalb Foot



The Winslow Family enjoyed the antique car show.