

2020 Annual Board of Trustees



During a dinner attended by residents, guests and staff Ann Tucker, President, thanked members completing terms of service. She said, “Mary Jo McAdams, Dick Stokke and Dr. Paul Stromborg through their commitment and leadership, have served the Oak Crest community well. We have benefitted from their knowledge and experience and it has been a pleasure to serve with them. This spring oak trees will be planted in their honor as a reminder that the trees we plant today are for the benefit of the generations to follow.”

Ann Tucker then introduced new President, Rev. Joe Gastiger, who will assume leadership of the Board of Trustees. Joe has served the Oak Crest community since joining the Board in 2012. During this time, he has served on the Health Care Committee and for the last two years has served as Chair of the Community Relations Committee. Joe is the pastor at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in DeKalb. Joe is also an active community volunteer and has served as a Board Member of Elder Services, Vice President of Safe Passage, a member of the City of DeKalb Human Relations Commission, the DeKalb County FEMA advisory board and an active member of the DeKalb Kishwaukee Kiwanis. Joe’s background and experience in the area of community service make him the ideal choice for President.

Rev. Joe Gastiger introduced and welcomed new Board Members Dr. Jason Friedrichs, Lynn Neeley, Aaron Nevdal, Roger Maas, Dr. Sujata Morker and Susan Russell. Dr. Jason Friedrichs is a Board-Certified Ophthalmologist and Surgeon who is re-

joining the Oak Crest Board. Prior to relocating his practice, Jason served on the Board. Upon his return to the DeKalb community he expressed an interest in again being a part of the Oak Crest leadership. We are pleased Jason has rejoined Oak Crest and will be serving on the Health Care Committee and we thank him for his interest and commitment.

Lynn Neeley is a retired NIU College of Business faculty member. Lynn’s volunteer experiences include the City of De Kalb Financial Advisory Committee, NIU Lifelong Learning Institute and the NIU Annuitants Association officer. Lynn will share her time and talents with Community Relations and Health Care committees, and we welcome and thank her for her willingness to serve.

Aaron Nevdal is a Physical Therapist at Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists and for a time provided physical therapy services within the Oak Crest community. He has a very good working knowledge of the Oak Crest community and knows many residents and other Trustees through both professional and community connections. Aaron enjoys his volunteer experiences and has served 3 terms on the Kishwaukee Family YMCA Board and on the Board for Axletree, a local non-for-profit affiliated with the promotion of cycling in the community. Aaron will join the Health Care and Community Relations Committees and will be a welcome addition.

Roger Maas’ experiences first with DeKalb Genetics/Monsanto as a Manager of Financial Analysis and later as NIU’s Associate Director of Budget & Facilities makes him the perfect addition to the Board. Roger’s recent retirement from NIU means he has more time to volunteer and both the Building and Finance Committees will benefit from his insight and leadership.

Dr. Sujata Morker is a Board Certified Internal Medicine Physician at the Northwestern Clinic, DeKalb, and has served as Oak Crest’s Medical Advisor since December 2016. Sujata will serve on both

the Health Care and Community Relations committees. Sujata manages to balance a hectic professional schedule with a very full family life, and we appreciate her continued commitment.



New Members L-R: Lynn Neeley, Susan Russell, Dr. Jason Friedrich, Roger Maas, Aaron Nevdal

Not pictured: Dr. Sujata Morker

Susan Russell is a retired NIU distinguished engagement professor emeritus. Her experience here at Oak Crest has been as a volunteer working within the Resident Services department. Some of her other community volunteer experiences are with the University of Illinois Extension as a Master Gardener and DeKalb County League of Women Voters. Susan will join the Building and Health Care committees and she will serve as a wonderful resource and asset to the Oak Crest community.

Joe Gastiger said, “You have agreed to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, residents, families and staff I welcome you and look forward to serving with you. I enjoy my experience here at Oak Crest and am confident you too will find your leadership role here not only very interesting but also very fulfilling. I have found that there are many elements necessary in creating and maintaining a community like Oak Crest.

Leadership is number one. Everything else is number two.”



President, Ann Tucker, handed over leadership and performed the induction of new Board President, Joe Gastiger.



2020 Board of Trustees

Members pictured **L-R back row** Roger Maas, Dr. Jason Friedrichs, Aaron Nevdal, **Middle row:** Rev. Jonathan Crail, Wendy West, Rev. Joe Gastiger, Ann Tucker **Front row:** Susan Russell, Carol Larson, Jack Goodrich, Michelle Bringas, Lynn Neeley and Dave VanBruen

Not pictured: Mike Borden, Richard Katz, Dave Louis, Linda Mason, Kathy Spears, Rev. Dr. Brian Gilbert

Board of Trustees

Michael Borden
Michelle Bringas
Dr. Jason Friedrichs
Rev. Joe Gastiger
Jack Goodrich
Richard Katz
Carol Larson
Dave Louis
Roger Maas
Linda Mason
Dr. Sujata Morker
Lynn Neeley
Aaron Nevdal
Sue Russell

Kathleen Spears
Ann Tucker
Dave VanBuren
Wendy West

Ex. Office
Rev. Jonathan Crail
Rev. Dr. Brian Gilbert

Executive Director
Stephen Cichy



Our Mission

Oak Crest is a faith based not-for-profit community serving people 62 years and older through a continuum of services enhancing an individual's quality of life.

Our Vision

To be an innovative leader in senior adult services.

Trips & Excursions

May 17-22 Biltmore Estate & Asheville, NC
Sun., May 24 Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee
June 2 – 9 Civil Rights Tour
July 10-18 Alaskan Cruise
July 27-July 31 Stratford Festival of Canada
August 29-Sept. 9 Alaska & the Northern Lights
August 26 "Come from Away" – Cadillac Palace, Chicago

Calendar

Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m. Filipino Youth Program
Friday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. Volunteer Recognition, "Volunteers Plant Seeds of Love"
Thursday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. Music Program - "Kishwaukee Brass" with John Smith
Saturday, May 2, 7:00 p.m. Annual Spring Dance

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

Return Service Requested

DEKALB AREA RETIREMENT CENTER
2944 Greenwood Acres Drive
DeKalb, Illinois 60115





*The Door Opens
In Welcome*



Top to bottom:

Donna Schaeffer -DeKalb, IL

Bob Gommel – Malta, IL

Doug & Pat Schertz – Seymour, IL

Circle Of Care



Oak Crest's Annual Giving Campaign to benefit the Good Samaritan Fund begins May 1, 2020. We are again looking to our friends in the community for support. This fund benefits those who outlive their financial resources. In past years Oak Crest residents have used in excess of \$200,000 from this fund. This rate of utilization continues to increase to accommodate the growing number of residents requiring assistance. The Good Samaritan Fund is supported solely through contributions and donations. All proceeds generated by the Circle of Care Campaign directly benefit the Good Samaritan Fund.

At the time of our 25th Anniversary we established the Silver Acorn Donor Program. Supporters of this program have donated or pledged to the Circle of Care Campaign in the amount of \$2,500 or more.

A number of people are already

participating, and we wish to thank them again for their continued support and invite you to join them. Of course, each donation is welcomed and appreciated.

Letters will be sent to previous and prospective donors. These letters will tell you more about the Circle of Care Campaign. Please consider donating. Your generosity will ensure that the Good Samaritan Fund continues.

If you should have any questions or would like additional information on the Circle of Care Campaign, the Good Samaritan Fund, or Oak Crest please call Stephen Cichy at (815)756-8461. We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your support.

Dave VanBuren
Community Relations

Safe Driver Course

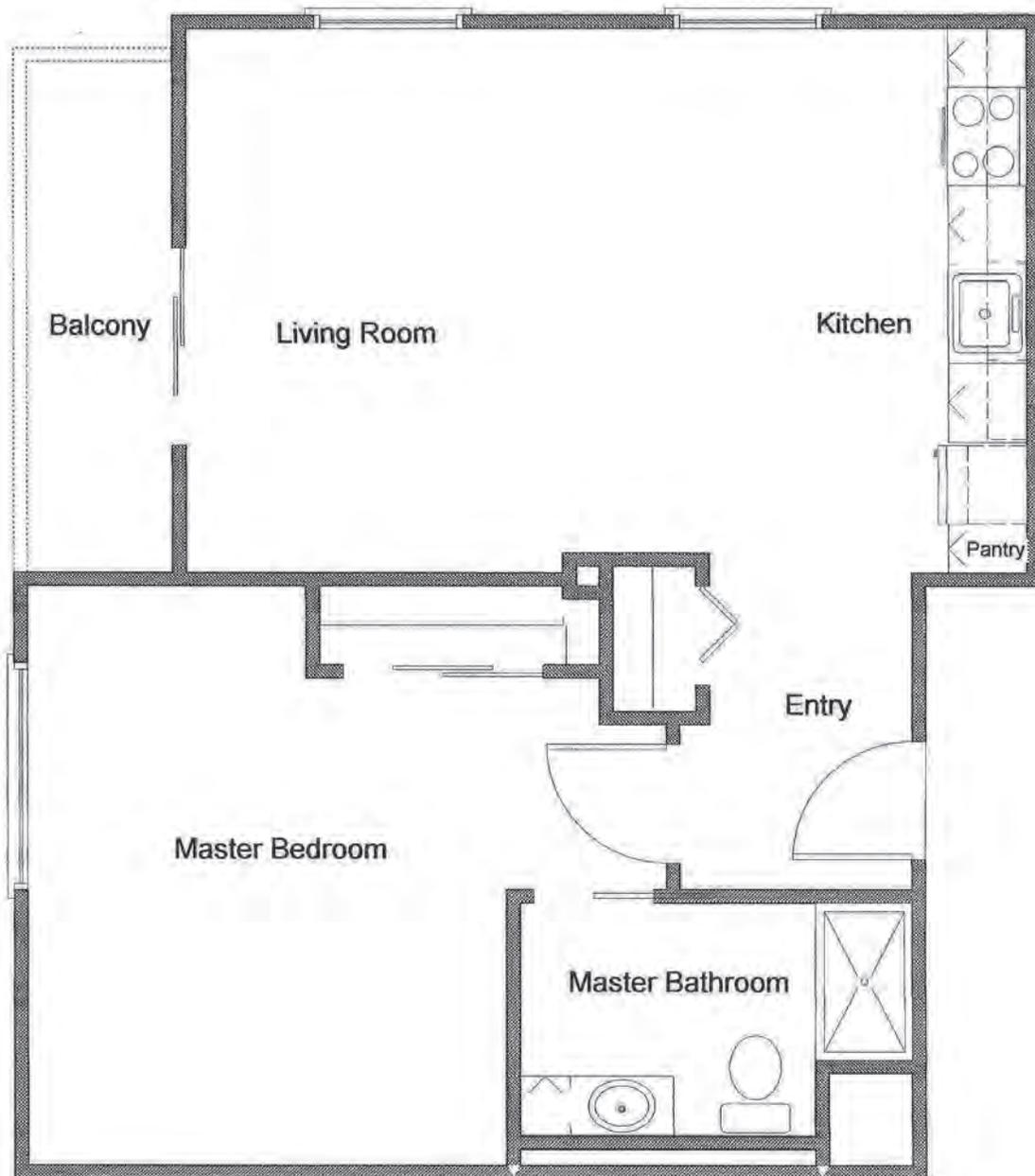


In conjunction with AARP, Oak Crest is offering the nation's largest driver safety course for drivers over the age of 50. The course covers driving techniques and helpful information for adjusting to changes that occur over time. Class participants will also receive information that will help them successfully complete the Illinois DMV written and road tests. Participants 55 and older also qualify for a mandatory insurance discount in Illinois. There is no test conducted during this course. There is a fee of \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members and includes a student manual. Seating is limited and registration is required. Contact Joan Launer at (815)756-8461 or jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org

Come see for yourself....

Since opening in 1980 Oak Crest has enjoyed a wonderful history of providing quality services to the community. Each duplex home features a well-appointed kitchen, laundry, two bedrooms, garage, full basement and access to our facilities and amenities including our new onsite Bistro, fitness center and pool. More importantly we are building friendships and memories. We offer the guarantee of future care and peace of mind.

Come visit one of our featured 1300' duplex homes or 600' balcony apartments and see what all the excitement is about. Oak Crest is located at 2944 Greenwood Acres Drive, DeKalb. Individuals interested in hearing more about this next chapter in Oak Crest history should contact Liz Hoppenworth at (815)756-8461 or lhoppenworth@oakcrestdekalb.org



Oak Crest - One Bedroom Unit with Balcony
600 Sq Ft Unit

Good Samaritan Nominations

Annually the Board of Trustees of the DeKalb Area Retirement Center-Oak Crest recognizes and honors an individual in the community as a modern-day Good Samaritan. This award is presented to someone who has demonstrated his/her commitment to the community and to its people – in any number of ways. A modern Good Samaritan is a person who cares for others beyond the normal compassion of most people; or a person who actively participates in various community organizations and combines community service with personal caring; or a person who works quietly to better the lives of others. Currently, nominations are being accepted. This year the honor will be bestowed on a deserving individual on Friday, August 7, 2020. You are encouraged to nominate someone who exemplifies the high standards of the Good Samaritan. Application forms are available by contacting Oak Crest reception desk (815)756-8461 or e-mail cbuehler@oakcrestdekalb.org

From The Executive Director



Each time I hear from a resident or family member the positive impact Oak Crest has had on their lives or the lives of loved ones, I am reminded how

unique the Oak Crest community truly is. Oak Crest was founded by a group of individuals who wanted to insure that older adults who wanted to remain in the DeKalb/Sycamore community could do so in a place that afforded them with wonderful apartment and duplex homes, amenities, support and the guarantee of future care and services.

As an organization, we recognize that the success of our community is really due to the efforts of a staff made up of a select group of people who are knowledgeable, professional and caring. Recently, one of our Board Members commented that after visiting other retirement communities she was even more convinced that there is something special about Oak Crest. She said it goes beyond the physical building. It's more a feeling that you get when you walk in the door. There is a sense of belonging and community that is unique

to Oak Crest. This is the same sentiment often shared by first-time visitors and new residents. It's what makes Oak Crest not only a great place to live and volunteer. It also makes Oak Crest a great place to work.

As an organization we continually strive to improve our services and understand that there are any number of living options available to today's older adults. We also recognize that our continued success is reliant on the employees who choose to spend their time and often their careers with the Oak Crest community. Oak Crest employs 245 full and part-time staff who serve the community in a variety of positions. Each person brings their individual talents and skills to enhance the lives of those we serve. I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their years of service, their dedication, commitment and most importantly the respect and care they extend to each person with whom they come in contact. The Oak Crest staff, through their day to day interactions, embodies the philosophy that says simply, "Each person is encouraged to take action to exceed customer expectations." This is a philosophy we live each day and a commitment we make for life.

40th Annual Spring Dance

"THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME"

You and your guests are cordially invited to join us

Saturday, May 2, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Dance to the music of "Jazz in Progress"

Planned in cooperation with Sycamore High School Interact & Key Club

For more information on being a part of the Oak Crest service team, please feel free to contact me.

Stephen P. Cichy

Stephen P. Cichy
Executive Director

"Volunteers Plant Seeds of Love"

Join your friends on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Oak Crest Vista Room. The evening provides an opportunity to welcome new volunteers and recognize those individuals who give of themselves each day. The event will culminate with the presentation of the Oak Leaf Award. This annual award is presented yearly to a deserving volunteer for hours of service and the impact their service has on others. All volunteers are invited to bring a friend and enjoy an evening of music, food and fellowship. RSVP by calling Joan Launer at (815)756-8461 or email jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org.



“Been there, done that...”

I hate to admit it and probably shouldn't, but I don't like to clean a house or tend a yard.

I'll be honest; I have better things to do with my time. I would rather travel, visit with friends, take long walks and pursue my other interests. I have enjoyed my duplex home across from a beautifully landscaped pond and within walking distance to a fitness center, pool and wonderful dining venues. I love everything that Oak Crest offers, and my family and I am especially appreciative that Oak Crest has taken much of the work and worry out of my future. The sense of security that comes from living in a community designed to meet my needs now and in the future is the best gift I could give myself and my family. Been there, done that pretty much sums up life before Oak Crest. Haven't been there, haven't done it yet sums up life now. Come and see what the Oak Crest experience is all about.

Jan Nelson
Resident since October 2010

Q & A



Serving the Oak Crest community for twenty-nine years has afforded me a wealth of experience and perspective. As I meet new people and assist them in their retirement decisions, I have noted that people tend to ask very similar questions as it relates to Oak Crest and retirement. I am including the five most asked questions and my responses.

Q: I'm doing fine in my home now. Why should I even consider retirement before I really need it?

A: The time to make decisions concerning your future is now. It is so important that you make choices while they are yours to make. Two things that I have found Oak Crest residents share, is a fierce desire to make their own decisions and secondly, to remain independent. Oak Crest is a retirement community designed to offer independent living to active older adults. About the time you “need” Oak Crest you may have waited too long.

Q: I'm pretty used to being independent, and if I come here will I lose that?

A: Living at Oak Crest you have all the same opportunities you had at home and much more; the main differences being, Oak Crest offers the guarantee of security and future care without the worry. You remain as independent as you were before.

Q: If I am interested in coming to Oak Crest will I have to sign over all my assets?

A: Absolutely not. Applicants must complete a financial statement disclosing assets and income. This information is kept in strict confidence and is used to determine someone's eligibility as it pertains to financial obligations should they be accepted to Oak Crest.

Q: If I am responsible with my assets and still run out of money will I have to find another place to live?

A: No. Oak Crest's commitment to

its residents is one that guarantees if they outlive their financial resources and have not in any way divested themselves, they would be provided a home here. This is accomplished through the Good Samaritan Fund.

Q: Some places really pressure you when you call with questions or stop by. What should I do if I'd like some information about Oak Crest but don't want a sales pitch?

A: Part of Oak Crest's philosophy deals with community awareness and education. When someone calls with a question or stops by for a visit we try to answer their questions with complete and concise information. We hope that people never feel “pressured.” We pride ourselves on being approachable, cooperative and informative. Most people comment that a visit at Oak Crest is like a visit with an old friend.

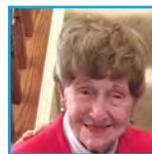
I hope the above information has answered some of your questions and given you some facts in black and white. Now, I invite you to come and experience, in living color, all that Oak Crest has to offer.

Liz Hoppenworth
Director of Resident Services

Centenarian Celebration



This year Oak Crest staff, families and friends recognized eight resident centenarians at a special celebration featuring the musical stylings of vocalist and musician Gavin Wilson.



Violet Challand, Virginia Hadley, Francis Katz, Donna Marsh, Phyllis McCormick, Don Mosher, Merle Sawyer and Mary Smith

Wish List



Artwork

Oak Crest residents and visitors alike enjoy the large variety of artwork that graces the many corridors and common areas. Many of these items are donated by family and friends and we are currently accepting new donations. If you have artwork, paintings, sculptures or prints, please contact Liz Hoppenworth at (815)756-8461 or lhoppenworth@oakcrestdekalb.org