

## *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/program of study. The purpose of the grant is to allow additional opportunities for employees to pursue educational goals or enrichment programming.



*Community Relations Chair Brian Scholle and Amanda Ericson*

This year's grant was awarded to Amanda Ericson. Amanda is em-

ployed in the Resident Services department and has worked at Oak Crest since July 2013. She is currently a student at Kishwaukee College and is pursuing a degree in nursing. In her application essay she wrote, "I truly love Oak Crest and all the opportunities it has given me. I credit Oak Crest with my decision to become a nurse. It is while working here that I discovered my passion for nursing."

Stephen Cichy, Executive Director said, "As an organization our commitment is to provide a quality environment in which to live and work; the fact that Oak Crest continues to support employees as they develop in the areas of education and self-improvement is testimony to our vision. Our vision is one of innovation. Whether their interests are in the areas of academics or life enrichment, the fact that they continue to grow and learn makes this a community of which to be proud. Our vision of innovation applies not only to the people who make their homes here, but to the people who make Oak Crest home."

## *A Veteran's Day Salute*



Residents, staff and friends gathered this past Veterans Day to recognize and honor fifty-three 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.



## *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 efforts are 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](mailto:jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org)

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*Executive Director*  
Stephen Cichy

### 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.

## Calendar of Events

Sun., Dec. 6	7:00 pm	Advent Candlelight Service
Sun., Dec. 13	1-4:30 pm	Christmas Tree Walk & Open House, "Our Favorite Things"
Tues., Jan. 5	2:00 pm	Service of Remembrance — Celebrating the lives of Oak Crest Residents who passed away in 2015
Tues., Jan. 19	2:00 pm	Chicago Art Institute, Art Insights program "Neapolitan Crèche"
Wed., Jan. 27	10:00 am	Volunteer Get Together
Sun., Jan. 31	2:00 pm	Classical Concert with Victor Ryzhov, Tom Cappaert and Lynn Vogl
Sun., Feb. 14	2:00 pm	Centenarian Celebration Tea

### Excursions in 2016

Wed., Jan. 27	"Legends in Concert" — The Fireside
Wed., Feb. 17-23	"Absolutely Arizona": Tucson & Phoenix
Thurs., Feb. 18	"Bye Bye Birdie" — Drury Lane
Sun., Mar. 13-19	"California Coast"
Sun., Mar. 20	Chicago Blackhawks vs. Minnesota Wild — United Center
Mon., April 4-10	"Springtime in Georgia"

*For information Contact Joan Launer at (815)756-8461 or [jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org](mailto:jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org).*

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

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



## 21st 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 20th Annual Oak Crest Christmas Tree Walk & Open House scheduled for Sunday, December 13, 1-4:30 p.m. "Our Favorite Things" 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.

This year's event will feature thirty-two trees decorated in recognition of the many Christmas seasons we have spent with family and friends. Each tree will feature our favorite holiday memories. Oak Crest King & Queen Cliff Johnson and Sally Stevens will greet visitors around the Christmas Dazzle Tree in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor atrium. Keeping to the theme of "Our Favorite Things," visitors strolling though the building will enjoy even more beautiful trees including Cardinal Haven, A Teddy Bear Country Christmas, A Starry, Starry Night, A Musical Holiday, Holly and Ivy, Christmas Around the World, A Sporting Life, Old Glory, A Salute to the Troops, Crimson & Ice and Dashing Thru the Snow. This year, we will feature a Warm Christmas Tree that reminds us of the gifts of the Wise Men. Residents, family members and friends are encouraged

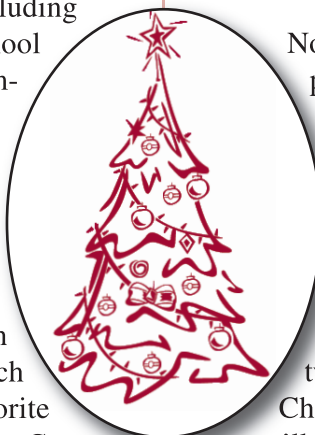
to donate warm scarves, gloves, mittens and blankets. These gifts will be donated to local charities in need.

Sure to be a crowd pleaser, don't forget a visit to our "Train for Christmas" Tree that celebrates the dreams of every little boy. Train enthusiasts will have an opportunity to don the engineer's cap and take over the controls of a large model train display provided by Jim and Roger Letheby.

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. Our "I'll be Home for Christmas" is a favorite and you'll want to stop by Mrs. Claus' Kitchen and Gift Shoppe and enjoy a holiday treat while you shop for that special gift.

End the day's event with friends and family, gathered around a table in our Terrace View dining room and enjoy some of our desserts and our favorite holiday goodies. No matter where you go or where you've been, there really is no sweeter place than home. Mark your calendars and join us in making a Christmas at Oak Crest one of your favorite things.

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



*The Door Opens  
In Welcome*

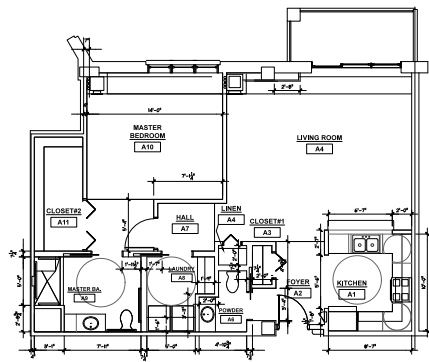
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**Top to bottom:**

*Joh Benson – DeKalb, IL  
Margaret Carlton – Elburn, IL  
DiAnne Schmitt – DeKalb, IL  
Barb Grulke – DeKalb, IL*

# Take A Look At These New Apartment Floor Plans

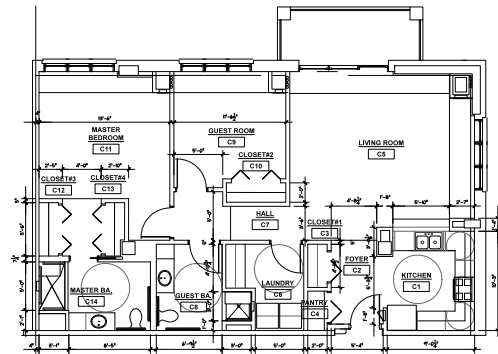


1 UNIT PLAN A - 1,000 S.F.

DEKALB AREA RETIREMENT CENTER - OAK CREST  
 3900 DORRANCE AVENUE SW  
 ATLANTA, GA 30343  
 #1 PROJECT  
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

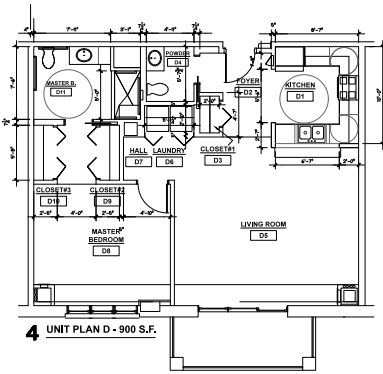
← 1,000 Square Feet

1,200 Square Feet →



1 UNIT PLAN C - 1,200 S.F.

DEKALB AREA RETIREMENT CENTER - OAK CREST  
 3900 DORRANCE AVENUE SW  
 ATLANTA, GA 30343  
 #1 PROJECT  
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

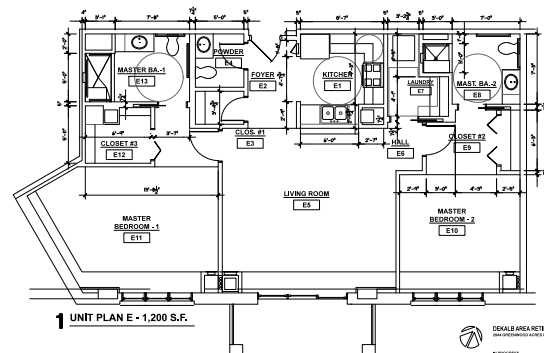


4 UNIT PLAN D - 900 S.F.

DEKALB AREA RETIREMENT CENTER - OAK CREST  
 3900 DORRANCE AVENUE SW  
 ATLANTA, GA 30343  
 #1 PROJECT  
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

← 900 Square Feet

1,200 Square Feet →



1 UNIT PLAN E - 1,200 S.F.

DEKALB AREA RETIREMENT CENTER - OAK CREST  
 3900 DORRANCE AVENUE SW  
 ATLANTA, GA 30343  
 #1 PROJECT  
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

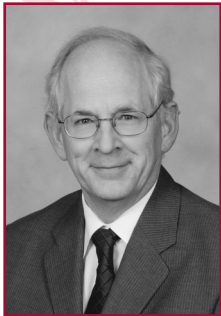


## Circle of Care Silver Acorns

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 \$71,000 was donated by friends and family. 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 Oak Crest (815)756-8461.

**2015 Silver Acorn Members: Beatrice Bue, Stephen & Evelina Cichy, David & Lynette Doust, Joyce Gardner, Norm & Marion Gilbert, James & Bev Gillett, John & Donna Larson, Tom & Jeanette Michels, Lou Jean Moyer, Ken & Kathy Spears and Tim & Mary Williams.**

## From The Executive Director



Since summer much of our attention has been focused on the actual construction of our addition. Over the last six months we have seen the project

grow and have been excited by the interest that has been shown by the many people who have inquired about making Oak Crest their home. In fact, we have seen a stronger interest to date than we had earlier estimated.

There is, however, an additional aspect of the expansion project that should be reviewed and that is our Memorial Gifts Program. We all know those special people who have touched our lives. Whether you acknowledge a family member, a friend or business associate, a memorial tribute can be a wonderful way to salute those whose memories continue to enrich our lives. To this end the Memorial Gifts Program is being developed by our Board of Trustees. This program will enable individual donors to give a gift that says, "I remember." General memorial gifts range from \$1000 - \$5000 and will be honored with a plaque recognizing the selected individual. Memo-

rial gifts of greater amounts ranging from \$5,000 and more will be placed at specific sites throughout the addition. For example, a gift of \$15,000 may be recognized at one of the new elevators, a \$25,000 gift may be recognized in the new Resource Room, and a gift of \$100,000 may be recognized in the new Bistro or as part of the new Wellness Center. This is an excellent way to remember someone dear to you and also a wonderful opportunity to assist the Center and create a legacy for future generations. There is a Greek Proverb that says, "A society grows great when men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit."

As a not-for-profit organization, your gifts are so important to the many people who make Oak Crest their home and your continued support is invaluable. As always, gifts to the Center are tax deductible and are always appreciated. For more information about the Oak Crest Memorial Gifts Program and creating a Legacy of Giving, please contact me personally.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen P. Cichy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen P. Cichy  
Executive Director

Excitement is building at Oak Crest and so are we. Since the groundbreaking in May, residents and friends are looking forward with great anticipation to the completion of the new addition scheduled for fall of 2016. Interest in the new apartments has been quite positive and encouraging. So many people have visited Oak Crest reviewed the plans and enjoyed the construction process. With the creation of



twenty-four new independent living balcony apartments ranging in size from 900' - 1600', this new construction project will expand the community's offerings with indoor heated parking, a state of the art wellness center, indoor pool and bistro.

The three story structure has taken shape and the roof is now and being shingled. The goal is to be under roof and enclosed by Thanksgiving. The Expansion Committee has been dedicating a great deal of time to planning and now is in the process of selecting carpet, cabinetry and interior furnishings. A landscape designer will be working with the committee to further develop the gardens and pond areas. Each step in the process brings Oak Crest closer to the goal of providing

# ng The Roof

additional retirement options for people of the community.



Since opening in 1980 Oak Crest has enjoyed a wonderful history of providing quality services to the community. First accredited by the Commission for the Accreditation of Retirement Facilities (CARF), the Center has enjoyed a strong demand for retirement living which has led to this current project. Stephen Cichy, Executive Director said, "As an organization, we have seen a consistent demand for larger apartments and at times this demand has resulted in long waiting periods for customers. As a not-for-profit community our mission is one of service. This project will allow us to expand our ability to serve this community now and in the future."

Liz Hoppenworth, Director of Resident Services said, "Apartment interest and reservations have exceeded expectations. With an entrance fee increase scheduled for sometime after the first of the year, qualified applicants can select the apartment home perfect for them and take advantage of current fees. So, now might be the right time to make that commitment and join your good friend at Oak Crest."

Come 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.

## Getting the Facts



With the new addition well underway, there is a great interest in the twenty-four new balcony apartment homes that will open in fall of 2016. As I meet with new people and assist them in their retirement decisions, I've noted here the five most asked questions related to the new addition and my responses.

**Q:** What are the criteria for residency at Oak Crest?

**A:** Individuals interested in Oak Crest residency will need to meet four criteria. Individuals must be at least sixty-two years of age, demonstrate independence at both the physical and cognitive levels and present a financial statement that shows they have enough in assets to support themselves for life. All information is kept in strict confidence and is used to determine someone's eligibility.

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

**A:** Oak Crest has a commitment to its residents 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:** I've heard the entrance fees at Oak Crest have not gone up in several years. Will there be an increase anytime soon?

**A:** Oak Crest's entrance fees have not increased for the past fifteen years. The construction of the new addition has prompted an entrance fee increase that will go into affect sometime after the first of the year. Even with the increase, Oak Crest remains very competitive in the market and is still the best investment you can make for your future.

**Q:** What's the advantage of committing now to the new apartments that will be available in fall of 2016?

**A:** There is a three-fold advantage to making the decision and committing to a new apartment home now. First, those individuals choosing now can select their apartment and the interior finishes. It gives them the ability to personalize the unit and have the floor plan and view that best suits them and their lifestyle. Secondly, individuals committing now, can do so at the current entrance fee rates. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, individuals committing to and paying their entrance fees now are considered residents of the Oak Crest community and while apartment monthly fees are not incurred until the new building is completed, they are guaranteed access to the Assisted Living and Health Center should they need them.

**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 the new apartments 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. To ensure that your visit is as productive as it can be, I recommend an appointment. 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**