

Auburn hosts marquee event



It all started over a cup of coffee with Connie Kraus of Chaska. Several months later, when it was all over, Auburn had successfully hosted one of the marquee events of the holiday season. *The Festival of Trees* inaugural event raised nearly \$40,000 and brought people together around one purpose – to celebrate and enhance the lives of Auburn’s residents.

“It was a long yet rewarding road,” Connie Kraus, event chair, said. “People rallied and we were able to show everyone a great time while raising money for a wonderful organization.”

The Gala turned Oak Ridge Event Center and Hotel in Chaska into a sparkling Christmas wonderland. Twenty Christmas trees twinkled and sparkled to warm the hearts of everyone in attendance.

“The trees were professionally decorated by local designers and artists. They used their creativity and put together gorgeous themed trees such as, ‘A Red Hot Christmas’, ‘Mystic Elegance’ and a whimsical ‘Dr. Seuss’ tree,” Kraus added.

The end result was impressive. So stunning that, on the day before the event when the trees were being decorated, patrons at Oak Ridge for non-related meetings were posing for photos by the trees. People definitely took notice.

“We have never hosted an event like this before at Oak Ridge,” Samantha Freimark, catering sales manager at Oak Ridge, said. “We weren’t quite sure what to expect but, when we saw it all come together, it was quite spectacular. Breathtaking would be appropriate.”

It took the efforts of dozens of volunteers and supporters to come together to make *The Festival* such a success. Donors were able to sponsor a tree, purchase a tree, offer and bid on live/silent auction items and, of course, purchase tickets to the event.

“The biggest challenge in this initial year was explaining to people what the event is all about but now that people have been able to see and experience the event, I’m confident we will be able to make the Festival even bigger and better in 2013.”

Among the auction items that were bid upon: week long stays at vacation homes in Colorado, Florida and New Mexico; custom Jim Hansel oil painting; ice fishing gear; signed Percy Harvin photo; professional outdoor holiday decorating service; barn party with sleigh rides; Timberwolves suite; wall of wine among many, many additional items.

“Our goal was to set the stage for an annual event for Auburn that becomes *the* place to be as the holiday season begins,” Kraus concluded.





Auburn Homes & Services would like to thank everyone who supported and attended the inaugural Festival of Trees Gala – a spectacular benefit for seniors in our area.

The live auction included condos, sporting events, dinner parties, custom oil paintings and a complete holiday decorating package. The silent auction had everything from ice fishing gear to cool electronics, golf packages and power tools.

Your tireless efforts and participation added the sparkle and put the shine on an incredible evening!

Tree Designers

At the Farm
Auburn Homes and Services
Candlelight Floral
Carver Country Flowers & Gifts
Curly Willow
Debbie Turner Originals &
DTO Flowers
Elegance By Design
Florapalooza
The Flower Mill Design & Gifts
The Garden & By the Woods
Glenrose Floral & Bridal
Ladybug Child Care Centers
Jim Gilbert's Wild Bird Store
The Mustard Seed
Landscaping &
Garden Center
The Stash
Van's Floral Products &
Northland Natural Supply
Victoria Rose Floral



Tree Sponsors and Purchasers

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Community Bank
Cox Insurance Associates
David & Connie Kraus
Del & Kay Ploen
Employees of Auburn
Jeff & Midge Burzinski
Jim & Judy Dauwalter
Klein Bank
Lars & Nancy Akerberg
Lenzen Chevrolet-Buick
Lundahl Financial Services
Northland Securities
Paul & Rachelle David
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Ridgeview Medical Center
Security Bank & Transport Security
St. Francis Regional Medical Center
Walter & Darcy Broich
Yetzer's Home Furnishings



Event Sponsor
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Festival of Trees

AUBURN HOMES & SERVICES



See you next year at
Oak Ridge Hotel and
Conference Center
on Friday,
November 22nd.

Auburn
HOME & SERVICES



Students do heavy lifting to create picnic shelter



The Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative (CSEC) sits in the shadows of Auburn's Chaska campus so it's a perfect fit to have both organizations come together to enhance the lives of residents.

"When we heard that Auburn needed help completing the picnic shelter in the renovation of their gardens area I jumped on the opportunity," Gary Dohse, CSEC Youth Build instructor, said. "We are always looking to develop creative partnerships and working with Auburn is a true benefit for both of the organizations."

A group of students in the Youth Build Program are helping to finish *The Gardens* renovation by building a utility shed and, most importantly, constructing the roof of the picnic shelter.

"We have raised the funds to do everything minus pay for the roof on the shelter," Mike Senden, president and CEO of Auburn Homes & Services, said. "Instead of waiting for the additional funds to be donated, we wanted to get the bulk of the project completed for our residents and then we figured that we would find a way to get the shelter built."

Along came CSEC with the creative idea of donating the labor if Auburn purchased the materials.

"It was perfect. Our prayers were answered," Senden added. "The students get to give back to their community and, in return, our residents get to enjoy the outdoors while escaping the hot sun. It's a great example of everyone coming together to help build community."

The cold weather does not deter Dohse and his crew as they brave the winter temperatures for several hours each day to build the shed and the shelter.

"Our plan is to have it ready to go well before the spring thaw," Dohse said.

It is estimated that the students are saving Auburn at least \$15,000 in labor costs. In all, Moravian Care Foundation raised about \$65,000 for *The Gardens* renovation.

Wayne Ward retiring after 14 years at Auburn

Wayne Ward has spent his life working with seniors.

“This career chose me,” Ward explained. “I interviewed for a job at a place in Stillwater and I started in the activities department. I discovered, rather quickly, that I love working with seniors and making a difference. When I got into the business, nursing homes did not have a very good reputation and I wanted to be part of the solution.”

Nearly 40 years later, he has definitely been part of the solution. Ward started at Auburn Homes & Services in 1999. Throughout his 14 years at Auburn he served as the administrator for Auburn Manor in Chaska and also served as the administrator for Auburn Home in Waconia.



Wayne Ward

In April of 2013 Wayne Ward will be retiring.

“I am truly going to miss the relationships that I have developed with residents, their families and staff over the years. But, I don’t plan on those relationships ending, they will just change once I leave Auburn.”

When asked about his accomplishments, he put the focus back on the staff.

“I am very proud of our staff. They have an inner desire to help people and they give their hearts and souls to residents and don’t ask for a lot of recognition. I call them the quiet givers,” he said. “Personally, I am proud of being able to start something and build on it and know that I have made a difference.”

An example he gave was moving Auburn from the medical model to the social model of care which is a big shift. It was an involved process of changing the way Auburn delivers services.

“It took a long time but it is amazing to see how different things are today as compared to when I started. The residents now have much more say in their lives and schedules.”

Ward said he is looking forward to having the spring and summer off to spend some time with his grandkids. He plans to volunteer in his parish and is very interested in religious scripture and Vatican II documents. He may also look for additional opportunities to study or be a mentor.

“I am fascinated by religious writings. When I’m not reading or with the grandkids, maybe you’ll even see me come by Auburn once in a while to volunteer or just visit with residents and staff.”

Please join Auburn in congratulating Wayne Ward on a job well done. We wish him many happy and healthy years in retirement.

Auburn Meadows Assisted Living opens to the community



When we broke ground on Auburn Meadows in Waconia in the fall of 2011 the goal was to create a brand new community for seniors of our area. It was a grand vision that has now become a reality as Auburn Meadows opened in December of 2012.

Moravian Care Foundation supported Auburn Meadows in a big way, raising nearly \$500,000 to create environments that contribute to the overall quality of life. The community responded significantly to the *Blossoming Legacy* capital campaign. Funds donated supported the Wellness Center, Celebration Center, Theater and the Library along with the Activity Center and Club Room.

The congregation at the Waconia Moravian Church ran their own campaign to support Auburn Meadows and, throughout the course their campaign, they exceeded their goal of \$38,000.

“We are very proud of the response we received from parishioners,” Dr. Amy Gohdes-Luhman, pastor at Waconia Moravian, stated. “We are a family church with a community and global mission that focuses on ministering to all of God’s children. Our collective support demonstrates our desire to fulfill that mission right here in Waconia.”

We are forever grateful to everyone for their incredible support!

Auburn Meadows is all about making residents feel right at home. There are 62 private apartments that are all designed to help residents enjoy the comforts of home. There are cozy studios along with 1 and 2 bedroom luxury apartments offering just the right mix of privacy and community.

Auburn Meadows has created a warm setting to share meals with neighbors by offering family style dining in neighborhood dining rooms. This is where our executive chef and pastry chef get to show off their talents by putting the comfort in comfort food.

Staff is prepared to grow and adapt right along with residents to meet their needs – enhancing the lives of residents by offering a diverse range of services focused on finding an ideal balance between independence and support.



Customized to Your Needs

- ◆ Assisted Living Apartments
- ◆ Private Enhanced Care Apartments
- ◆ Memory Care

Supportive Environment

- ◆ 24-Hour Nursing Staff and Building Security
- ◆ Wellness Activities
- ◆ Social Programs
- ◆ 24-Hour On-Site Care Attendant

If you would like to learn more about Auburn Meadows please visit the website at: www.auburnhomes.org. You can also contact Judy Gustafson at 952-227-0494 or e-mail: jgustafson@auburnhomes.org.

Please indicate the area you would like your gift to benefit:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auburn Home in Waconia—Skilled Nursing | <input type="checkbox"/> Auburn Manor, Chaska—Skilled Nursing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auburn Courts, Chaska—Assisted Living | <input type="checkbox"/> The Courtyard at Auburn, Chaska—Memory Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auburn Meadows, Waconia—Assisted Living | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Gardens</i> , Chaska—Outdoor courtyard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaplaincy Endowment Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Enhancement Fund |

Please indicate the amount of your gift:

- ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other _____

Payment Method: ☐ Payment enclosed ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
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Address: _____

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This gift is ☐ in **Memory** of ☐ in **Honor** of _____

Acknowledge to: Name _____

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State

Zip

Please make checks payable to: Moravian Care Foundation

Mail to: 501 N. Oak Street, Chaska, MN 55318

We are honored to receive your gift which is a charitable tax deduction.



Cut here

Going Green

In our efforts to increase efficiencies without compromising quality we have eliminated the remittance envelope from this newsletter.

We are asking that donors offer their support by:

Cutting off and filling out the above form
Sending it to us with a check or credit card information

You can also donate online at: www.auburnhomes.org.



501 Oak Street N
Chaska, MN 55318-2072

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Coming Events

Auburn Volunteer Recognition—Marvel Heath
Chapel/Fireside Room, Chaska

Thursday, April 11, 2013 6:00 p.m.

Auburn Care Auxiliary Boutique—Marvel Heath Chapel

Saturday, May 4, 2013 10:00-3:00

Friday, May 10, 2013—Mother's Day Event, Chaska

Friday, June 14, 2013—Father's Day Event, Chaska

Monday, July 15, 2013—Call to Care Golf Classic
Deer Run Golf Course

For other daily events happening at Auburn Homes and Services check out our activity calendars on our website:

www.auburnhomes.org

Auburn Homes and Services

Visit us on our website

www.auburnhomes.org

Foundation Office952-361-0320

**Auburn Manor/Auburn Courts/The
Courtyard at Auburn.....952- 448-9303**

Auburn Home in Waconia952-442-2546

Auburn Meadows952-442-6600

Talheim952- 361-0310