



# Update

February 3, 2009

**a newsletter for those interested in  
Willow Brook Christian Village and  
Willow Brook at Delaware Run**

**H**ave you driven by the construction at our Delaware Run campus lately? We are building the Village Square apartments and healthcare centers for that campus off West William Street (Route 36) on Delaware's west side. From the street, this grand project is looking like the finished thing. Brick and siding are mostly in place, and the building is totally enclosed.

And the work inside is progressing nicely. Drywall is installed in about half the building. Plumbing and lighting fixtures are going in. Painting has even started in some areas.

We are racing toward a mid-summer completion.

Feel free to drive through the Delaware Run campus and check things out. As you move around the Village Square, you will see the bridge spanning the lake. It is quite a surprise! Apartments are built on this bridge, which means people will literally be living over the water. The lake is about half-filled and covered with ice right now. The restaurant is the octagonal structure you see near the bridge, sitting pretty at the water's edge. You will notice the outdoor patio surrounding the restaurant overlooking the lake. I can just imagine the relaxed dining that residents will enjoy there on summer evenings, with good music, conversations, and laughter drifting across the water.

As soon as the builder says it's OK, we want to schedule some guided tours. Can't wait! You can see that this complex is going to be absolutely beautiful when complete in a few months.

## **Apartments approaching sell-out...**

Reservations for Delaware Run apartments have been coming in steadily over the holidays and January. In fact, only a few remain uncommitted – five on the first level, six on the second, and four on the third. It is

downright inspiring to see so many people signing up – and at a time of year that is normally slow.

If you are thinking about it but have not yet brought your deposit in, I encourage you to come sooner rather than later. I would love to see a sticker for you up on the board!

### **If you have signed up for a Delaware Run apartment...**

...it is time to get your house on the market. Summer will be here in no time.

I know there is discouraging economic news out there, but take heart! There are encouraging signs in the central Ohio real estate market. I want to share with you some stats from a front-page article in the January 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *Columbus Dispatch*. These figures are for the year 2008, compared to 2007.

The lead paragraph reads, “*Home sales tumbled and prices slipped last year in central Ohio, but the Columbus Board of Realtors thinks 2009 will mark the beginning of a housing recovery locally.*”

Here are the numbers...

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Change</b>
Home sales	24,445	21,153	down 8.4%
Average list price	\$178,766	\$169,687	down 5.1%
Average sale price	\$172,531	\$163,732	down 5.1%
Days on market	108	100	down 7.4%

The numbers didn't look as bleak as I would have imagined from the headlines I have been reading the past year. I was especially encouraged to see that the days on the market were down to 100 – just over three months. The real estate market certainly is not dead. Buyers are out there. I realize that most people are not going to get the price they would have a couple of years ago, but the picture isn't just terrible, either.

### **Good news on Willow Brook twin-single pricing...**

Realizing that you probably won't be getting the price you expected from the sale of your house, we are taking a step to soften the blow. We have trimmed entrance fees on our twin-single homes at both campuses. Reductions range from 10% to 16% (\$9,000 to \$35,000), depending on the floor plan and location. The average reduction is over \$20,000.

If you are signed up for a twin-single home but have not yet moved in, this price reduction applies to you.

For details, call Carol Calkins at *Delaware Run* or Kathi Paullin at *Willow Brook Christian Village*.

### **What if I sell my home before the apartments are ready?**

Not to worry. Willow Brook's got you covered. If you are planning a summer move to an apartment and you sell your home before construction is finished, I extend to you an invitation to move temporarily into a twin-single home.

All I ask is that you "live lightly" – don't hang pictures, live out of boxes as much as you can – that sort of thing. When your apartment is ready, Willow Brook will move your furniture and belongings *at no cost to you*. We will make your move as painless as possible.

Bottom line: Don't worry! We'll bend over backwards to help you.

### **Delaware Run healthcare centers set to open this summer...**

The Village Square project that's under construction includes two healthcare centers that will serve Delaware Run residents in the future. We are constructing an assisted living center and a long-term care dementia wing. Both will be staffed with nurses and aides 24/7, and will be similar in scope and flavor to the healthcare centers at *Willow Brook Christian Village* and *Willow Brook Christian Home*.

And remember, too, as a Willow Brook resident, you will have access to the healthcare centers at our other two campuses nearby.

### **A sculpture for the lobby...**

Retired Ohio Wesleyan University art professor, Ebb Haycock, is creating a seven-foot-tall sculpture that will be permanently displayed in the future lobby of *Delaware Run*. Ebb and his wife Teena are planning a move to a Village Square apartment this summer.

I have seen the piece in progressive stages of completion as Ebb has worked these past few months to create a dramatic centerpiece for the open two-story lobby. It is something! When his sculpture is installed later this year, we will be sure to invite you to the unveiling ceremony.

Ebb is the inspiration for an art studio we are incorporating into the Village Square at Delaware Run. A number of accomplished artists already have moved to Delaware Run, and no doubt will give the studio a workout. I look to have a thriving art program for residents.

### **Chaplain added to staff...**

Chaplain Dick Riley joined the Willow Brook team this winter. Dick is in the process of writing a handbook and organizing a program of spiritual enrichment that will benefit Willow Brook residents on all three campuses. Dick will be recruiting chaplaincy volunteers to assist him.

*Last month I marked my 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Willow Brook. I started out as a child of 25 when I was recruited to be administrator of Willow Brook Christian Home, our skilled nursing and assisted living facility near Worthington. Willow Brook and I have sort of grown up together. Through the years, I have served thousands of people at the three Willow Brooks – both residents and staff. I count it the highest honor to be leading this beautiful ministry.*

*We are working hard to create communities that will serve you well. Willow Brook is not-for-profit, and were it not for our mission of service, we would have no reason to exist. As you come to know us better, I think you will find that our not-for-profit status makes all the difference in the world. The profit that we do earn (yes, we earn a profit) is plowed back into the organization to create new ministries, strengthen those that already exist, or deepen our financial foundation. No one is taking dividends or profits from the operation, and that makes a huge difference you can notice. In addition, we are exempt from most taxes, saving residents many thousands of dollars annually.*

*If you are planning a move to Willow Brook, just know that I and my team are looking forward to the opportunity to serve you. I believe you will find that Willow Brook Christian Village and Willow Brook at Delaware Run are welcoming places.*

*If you have not yet made the decision to join us, jump on in, the water's fine!*

*With love to all,*

*Larry Harris, CEO*

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