



Volume Twelve
Spring/Summer 2011

Optima Outlook

Getting to know you . . .

We think our homeowners are very special and you are each a member of the distinctive family we call **optima**.
In this Issue, meet Alexander and Juana Marin. . .

Old Orchard Woods – Making It Home

When their daughter came along, Alexander and Juana Marin decided to trade urban living for life in the woods — Optima Old Orchard Woods.

Because of Alexander’s family ties in Skokie, the couple chose our Optima development there. They initially leased a unit, a growing trend among prospective homebuyers, especially with high-end condos and penthouses.

“We had lived in the city, and we both work in the city, but we decided we wanted a more suburban location, especially for our daughter, Victoria,”

Alexander said. “We were accustomed to living in a high-rise building and were looking for that kind of environment in the suburbs. I had lived and gone to school in Skokie and my family still lives there. I knew the community and the schools were excellent, and that it was a great place to live.”

Juana, who came to the United States from Colombia six years ago, was attracted to the architecture of the building, which overlooks Harms Woods Forest Preserve.

“Whenever we passed by on the Edens Expressway, I thought that I would like to live in that beautiful place, and we liked the safe suburban location with easy access to the city,” she said.



In October 2009, the couple leased a two-bedroom, two-bath condominium on the 10th floor of Maple Tower and lived there for about eight months until one of our brokers, Justin Silva, explained that they could buy a condo for a mortgage payment that compared favorably with renting.

“We were also able to take advantage of the first-time homebuyer tax credit that was available at the time, and we chose a two-bed

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AIA Technology in Architectural Practice



Optima Camelview Village in Scottsdale, AZ Bestowed with AIA Citation for Outstanding Sustainable Design

The 2011 AIA TAP Building Information Model (BIM) Awards Jury commends Camelview Village.

Last month, Optima was recognized at the AIA National Convention in New Orleans by an esteemed jury of its peers for its description and documentation submittal of its work on Camelview Village. David Hovey, Jr. presented for Optima on the panel TAP Revolution: Better Design and Higher Value Driven by Process Innovation and Technology. The TAP, or "Technology in Architecture" section of the AIA, monitors the BIM process - an important aspect in advancing the relevancy of architects and architecture the development of computer technology and its impact on architecture practice and the entire building life cycle

"An example of projects the TAP committee would like to see more

of is Camelview Village (Scottsdale, Arizona) by Optima," which received a citation for sustainable design this year.

By working with Stanford University and Arizona State University, the Optima team was able to test plants under different light and soil conditions to find the appropriate mix for the decks. BIM also allowed the team to predict annual solar exposure levels for each terrace. "By doing solar analyses, we found that we were able to design our landscape around what we had in a virtual model, rather than having five to 10 people constantly taking light readings and mapping these different plants out in the field," David Hovey, Jr. says. Optima was also able to rely on the same set of models for energy modeling, cost estimating, and scheduling.

To learn more and to view the brochure, go to <http://AIA.org/TAP>

Getting to know you . . .

Old Orchard Woods – Making It Home – continued

Their unit includes a living room, kitchen with extra cabinets and a breakfast bar, and an in-unit laundry with side-by-side washer and dryer.

The amenities in and around Optima Old Orchard Woods have been a plus for the Marins. Not only does the development have an indoor lap pool and two hot tub saunas, but also an outdoor tennis court, plus picnic tables and barbecue grills on the east side in an expansive Picnic Grove with open grass, a pond and its resident ducks. The path connects to the North Branch Trail, which leads to the Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glencoe. The west side of the

development offers acres and acres of forest preserve with its path for biking, hiking or dog-walking, also leading to the north branch Trail.

Old Orchard Woods is a pet-friendly community and provides on-site property management. Retailers include a dry cleaners (with expert alteration service and provide drop-off service to homeowners) and grocery store (now open seven days/week) and offering convenience goods, homemade dinners and sandwiches, fresh-brewed coffee, lottery tickets and more.

....Happy 1 Year Anniversary, Marins!

Why Make Old Orchard Woods Home?

In the wake of the Marin's interview, we asked several more residents what makes Old Orchard Woods special for them. Here's our pictorial essay compiling their responses:



Three on-site Fitness Centers



hiking/biking right across the street



Fun in all four seasons in indoor pool + hot tub spas



holding events in Party Room, complete with kitchen!



LOVE being so close to Old Orchard Mall to shop and dine

STAY CONENECTED . . .

Why Follow Us or Become a Fan? optima keeps you informed of breaking news in Skokie and greater Chicago, upcoming local events of interest, special offers and discounts, and posts of photo albums and videos.



@optimacondos

@optimacondosAZ



Search **Optima Old Orchard Woods** or **Optima Camelview Village**

Want to Beat the Heat? Think Snowmagedon 2011 at Woods...



... Then Residents Thaw Out With Second Annual Spring Lunch on April 3rd



Optima Hosted the North Shore Women's Council of Realtors Luncheon on April 14th... A Warm Woods Welcome to All



Calendar of Events:

Sponsored by the Old Orchard Woods Social Committee

A very enjoyable group dinner outing in May was had by all - one of the group dinners at area restaurants that meet approximately 4 times a year. The outing's average 20-30 or more residents - couples and singles - for each affair. Everyone is welcome! Also, approximately 25 Woods residents participate at various times in the monthly Culinary Book Club at an area restaurant that features discussion of an assigned book and a dinner that correlates to the book's food focus. Residents attend via carpool from OOW and make an enjoyable evening of it.

Other events in planning stages, dates to be confirmed: Digital camera workshop; Ravinia group picnic on the lawn during classical music evening; "Cemetery tour" of historically and architecturally significant locations; pet parade.

For more information or to make suggestion, contact the Woods Social Committee at WoodsSocialCommittee@gmail.com



Book Club meetings

Next is August 9 The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks Open to all residents.

Carillon Concerts at Chicago Botanic Garden

(Residents meet for picnic supper and concert)
Monday evenings June 27, August 1 and August 29.

Summer in the Picnic Grove

'backyard park on east side'
TBD: either Sunday afternoon, July 10 or 17. Watch for posted announcements.

Chicago Sky Basketball Game

Sunday, August 14
(to recognize and support team members living in Maple Tower)

Fire Safety Seminar

Wednesday evening, July 13

Skokie Public Library Bookmobile

Every Thursday from 5:45-6:15 PM
Provides Old Orchard Woods with mobile library service carrying books, CDs, audiobooks and DVDs and more. Need a library card? Register to vote? Foreign language newspapers, on request, and FLIP cameras available. Learn how to use and download a library book on your eReader! Check-out and return all materials via this convenience offered to our Residents.

Special OOW Resident Offers:

Beat the Heat @ Chipotle Skokie



Stop by Old Orchard Chipotle, show them a piece of mail with your Old Orchard Woods address and they'll hook you up with a BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE BURRITO!

Sat. & Sun. June. 25-26

11 AM to 8 PM

Skokie Blvd. and Emerson

(Fax and Online orders accepted, too)

Immanuel Limo Service, Inc.



Immanuel Limo Service, Inc. offer OOW our residents discounted Town Car sedan rides to and from O'Hare and Midway airports.

OOW SPECIAL RATES: *
to ORD \$35 (\$2 ea. additional person) to
MDW \$60 (\$2 ea. additional person) from
ORD \$39 (incl. \$4 City of Chicago fee)

Advance reservations accepted 24 hours day:
224-522-0948 or immanuel_limo@yahoo.com

Cash and credit cards accepted
(no Discover). Guaranteed private rides.

*Please add \$1 toll to O'Hare airport trips

Resident Website: Homeowner Connect™

This web-based portal has several features and functions that permits the Old Orchard Woods community to access information online. The website is designed to allow various account users (i.e. homeowners, board members, property management and guests) to access the site at different security levels and view the Associations' posted information.

The Boards and the Property Manager manage and maintain the operations of the website.

Once you have completed the steps at right, Board Members and the Property Manager receive an email regarding your new account request. Upon approval, an email with the user account information will be sent to your email address.

Follow the steps below to create a user account.

1. Go to <http://www.optimawoods.com>
2. Click the "**Resident Access**" button on the bottom left corner of the page
3. Click the "**Create New Account**" link on the bottom of the page
4. Click the "**Optima Old Orchard Woods [Oak/Elm/Maple – depending on your address] Condominium Association**" link
5. Select the building & unit number. Fill in the rest of the required information on the page, including your "email address"
6. Click the "**Submit**" button

Woods Mart

NOW OPEN 7 DAYS/WEEK ! Monday – Saturday 7:00am to 9:00pm and Sunday 1:00pm to 7:00pm

Stop in for all of your immediate needs – groceries, fresh, ready-made sandwiches and dinners to-go, domestic/imported beer and wine, sundry items, greeting cards and now lottery tickets!



Woods Cleaners



Don't forget Expert Alterations by Lilly (25+ yrs. experience) and Shoe Repair/Polish. Woods Cleaners has contracted with an outstanding offsite shoe service and is offering OOW Residents the convenience of bringing in your shoes or boots in need of repair or cleaning. Another way we're making life easy at Optima!
HOURS: Mo & Fr: 7A – 6P; Tu, We, Th: 7A – 7P; and Saturday: 8A – 4P

Woods Cleaners offers OOW Residents same-day service, convenient 24-hour drop-off chute, pick-up/delivery service and expert alterations. (847) 967-5060.

SPRING/ SUMMER SPECIAL for Old Orchard Woods Residents:

**\$3
OFF**

Dry Cleaning order of \$15 or more

Must present coupon upon drop-off. Not valid with any other offers. One coupon per order.

Expires September 30th, 2011

**\$6
OFF**

Dry Cleaning order of \$30 or more

Must present coupon upon drop-off. Not valid with any other offers. One coupon per order.

Expires September 30th, 2011