

today's homes

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TOLL BROTHERS

Bowes Creek Country Club is a glowing 19th hole for retired firefighter

By **Karie Angell Luc**
FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Firefighters are typically trained to safely break through walls if need be to do their job. But moving walls in advance?

Last year Jim Kehoe, a recently retired deputy commissioner of 38 years with the Chicago Fire Department, purchased a home at Bowes Creek Country Club in Elgin, a residential luxury golf course community by Toll Brothers.

Standing in the soaring lobby of the Bowes Creek Clubhouse near the English-themed Porter's Pub Restaurant, Kehoe and his wife Pat explained how easy it was to extend their garage by four feet to accommodate their bright red golf cart.

"It's fire engine red, yes," said a smiling Pat Kehoe, referring to the golf cart, showcasing a Chicago Fire Department sticker.

The Kehoes use the cart for their 3-minute commute to the 10,000-square foot-clubhouse from their home in Regency at Bowes Creek Country Club, a gated enclave for adults aged 55 and over.

"We bumped out the back ... extended our garage because my husband always wanted a golf cart," said Pat, dressed in casual white Capri pants and holding an oversized pro-grade driver.

"We know we made a really good decision moving here," said the retired Chicago 10-year veteran crossing guard, who now prefers pastel green golf shirts to uniform.

"The construction process was a smooth as silk," said Jim, who sported a light blue striped collared golf shirt with a Bowes Creek Country



Bowes Creek Country Club resident Jim Kehoe, former fire commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department, and wife Pat drive their fire-engine-red golf cart to their favorite golf course and restaurant within the community, only three minutes from their home.

Club logo on the left sleeve. "The process was completely turn-key."

These days, Jim Kehoe would much rather place keys inside the pockets of his khaki golf shorts, meaning he was out and about fully en-

joying Bowes Creek amenities.

"Toll Brothers exceeded our expectations," he said.

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Your new neighbors

Local real estate transactions start on **PAGE 2**

INSIDE



Beautiful and understated

This lovely home in Century Oaks East offers convenience and value.

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Saturday auction will sell off more than 165 foreclosed properties in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

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Highlake, this week's featured community, is a wooded retreat from city life. **PAGE 3**

ONLINE

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To find out more about this community, visit www.BowesCreekCountryClub.com

Bowes Creek

FROM PAGE 1

After raising their family in Chicago's Edison Park, the Kehoes chose the Payton model, which offers almost 2,000 square feet of open ranch living with flexibility for a golf cart, thanks to Toll Brothers white glove treatment.

"That's what's so great about living in a golf course community," said Pat, about tooling around the neighborhood in a golf cart. "We had been looking for several years and when we came here, we never looked back."

With two bedrooms and a den, the Payton, base-priced at \$267,995 for "The Classic" exterior, offers a semi-custom floor plan ideal for entertaining family.

"It's a different type of lifestyle for us because we're out in the country and if we want to go into the city, we always have easy access to it," said Pat.

"It's so great I don't want to go to sleep because I lose six to eight hours of my day," said Jim. "It's Shangri-La."

While these words of praise are music to the ears of builders, who stood by listening to the Kehoes' commentary, sales numbers speak volumes.

Positive word of mouth has generated results at Bowes Creek Country Club, despite dismal talk of the economy. More than 200 homes are under con-

"The community is geared for the golfer and non-golfer alike. It's country club living without the commitment."

Bill Stanton, Toll Brothers project manager

tract and sales are projected to skyrocket this summer. Once word gets around that this 616-acre community of 931 luxury residences overlooks one of Kane County's most prestigious public golf courses, buyers by the droves will drive home their golf game.

"This is an opportunity to own a home built by America's luxury builder," said Marc Taft, senior project manager for Toll Brothers. "It gives you an opportunity to have all of the amenities and the lifestyle."

"The community is geared for the golfer and non-golfer alike," said Bill Stanton, Toll Brothers project manager for eight years. "It's country club living without the commitment."

Celebrations are a snap for the Jim and Pat Kehoe, grandparents of three. Their two sons, Jim and Kevin, live close to Bowes Creek Country Club.

Jim, a police officer for the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, lives in Arlington Heights with his wife Melissa and their children Emma, 7, and Connor, 3.

Kevin resides in Elk Grove Village with wife Nicole and 1-year-

old Cailyn. Pat Kehoe's mother Emily Drynan, 89, lives in Belvidere near Pat's sister Barb Yates.

Living in Elgin off Randall Road by the I-90 Northwest Tollway "Golden Corridor" means easy access in case of emergencies. Birthday parties, school and sporting events are easy for grandparents to attend when the commute is short.

Pat Kehoe, who is relatively new to golfing, is improving her game close to home so she can golf with loved ones. Lessons are taught by Director of Golf Michael Lehman. PGA Golf Pro John Esposito also offers valuable tips.

"It's great because we have the golf course and the pool," said Pat. "There is always something to do here ... the Easter egg hunt and the Christmas party for children are great to be a part of."

"It's a great way to meet people," she said. "Last night we had 'Buddy Bunco' and then we just stayed afterward and visited ... we do this once a month. We have so much fun here. There is always something going on."

The Kehoes attended last weekend's grand opening, spon-

sored in part by the city of Elgin, which included a \$10,000 hole-in-one contest and trick shot demonstrations by nationally-claimed golf pro Peter Longo.

"The course opened in September for weekends only," said Stanton. "Since then, there has been a great response. We really pushed 'Member for a Day.'"

"Bowes Creek Country Club is quickly becoming the finest golf facility around, providing first-class services and amenities in both the golf and hospitality environments," said golf director Lehman.

The grand opening also included a putting contest for children. Golf and dining certificates were awarded and registered participants left with big smiles and generous gifts cellophane wrapped in festive party themes.

Refreshments were courtesy of Porter's Pub Restaurant, Elgin's newest family dining establishment. Decorated in rustic décor reminiscent of public houses found in England, Porter's Pub features wood and tiled floors, a decorative tin copper-colored ceiling and an inviting bar with cozy seating.

The clubhouse also features a pro shop, men's and women's locker rooms, a large dining room with a private dining room and a 150-foot patio along the back of the clubhouse with magnificent views.

Anyone interested in playing a round of golf and becoming a "member for the day" can call for a tee time at 847-214-5880.

Bowes Creek offers wide choice of home options

Bowes Creek Country Club in Elgin is a gated community for residents aged 55 and over, offering housing choices in several collections of homes.

The Masters Collection features single-family homes with 2,600 to 4,300 square feet and four bedrooms, 2½ baths, a three-car side-entry or courtyard garage starting in the upper \$300,000s.

The Townhome Collection offers low-maintenance three-bedroom, 2½ bath, two-car-garage townhomes up to 2,300 square feet, priced from the mid-\$200,000s.

Regency at Bowes Creek Country Club features townhomes and single-family

homes priced from the mid-\$200,000s.

Buyers can choose from nine single-family home designs, all with first-floor master suites, two and three bedrooms, nine-and 10-foot ceilings and two-car garages. Elegant townhomes feature a first-floor master suite with private spa bath, an additional bedroom and bath, nine-foot ceilings, optional second floor finished lofts, full basements and a two-car garage.

The clubhouse offers card rooms, a billiard room, a library and media room and a multi-purpose space perfect for parties. There also are a fitness center, aerobics

studio, outdoor heated pool, tennis courts, bocce ball courts and a putting green.

To visit Bowes Creek Country Club from I-90, take Randall Road south for five miles to Bowes Road and go west two miles to the left entrance. The golf club is open weekends from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and weekdays 6:00 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Toll Brothers models and sales centers are open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call for the Masters and Tournament collections at 847-468-1852 or other home buying opportunities at 847-695-0005. Visit www.BowesCreekCountryClub.com.