

Buyers attracted to low-maintenance ranch homes

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Just the right fit. That's how Angela Nassopoulos describes her new ranch at The Enclave at Mill Creek.

She and her husband, Ari, moved to the West suburban neighborhood last summer after searching for a single-level home to suit their empty-nester lifestyle. Developed by Meritus Homes, The Enclave at Mill Creek in Addison features detached, single-family houses in a low-maintenance setting.

Only a handful of the 44 homes in Phase I remain for sale, including four that are built and ready for move-in within 30 to 60 days.

When they moved last June, Ari and Angela Nassopoulos became one of the first residents at The Enclave at Mill Creek — purchasing before models even opened. The couple heard about the property when researching online, then stopped by the sales center. They reviewed the blueprints and were sold.

"After home-shopping for about four to five months, we couldn't find anything that had everything we were looking for," Angela Nassopoulos said. "Specifically, we wanted a ranch and the resale houses we saw were old and needed a lot of upgrades and work. We didn't want to inherit someone else's decor and problems, so we decided to go with

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Open house Saturday

On Saturday, Feb. 9, Meritus Homes is hosting an open house. Home shoppers are invited to visit the property, tour the quick move-in homes, and enjoy pizza and refreshments from the Giordano's Pizzeria on Lake Street in Addison.

Three quick move-in homes are available to walk through and are ideal for anyone who has already sold their current house and is on a short timeline to relocate.

a new home."

The couple purchased the Primrose, a house with 1,946 square feet of living space, three bedrooms and two full baths. It offers a variety of today's most sought-after design features such as a luxury master suite with a private bath and oversized walk-in closet, a big family room that flows into the dining area, a laundry room conveniently located off the two-car garage, a walk-in pantry in the kitchen, and Angela's favorite — a 10-foot-long center island that ties the kitchen to the dining area.

"The island is a great gathering spot. It's big enough to seat our five grandkids all at one time when they come over," she said. "And the open-concept living area lets me work in the kitchen and still interact with everyone in the family room and dining room."

The couple converted one

of the three bedrooms into an office, added a fireplace and upgraded appliances and flooring. They made a few tweaks to some closets, as well.

"One of the best things about buying new construction is being able to personalize our space," Angela said. "It's nice to be able to move in and everything is just how we want it."

Their Primrose at The Enclave at Mill Creek is the fourth home the Nassopouloses have built. As homeowners who have gone through the new-construction process before, they were very pleased with Meritus Homes.

"They were wonderful from beginning to end," Angela said. "They never hesitated to take care of any detail ... no matter how big or small, and even offered support after we moved in."

Meritus Homes offers five designs at The Enclave at Mill Creek. Ranch plans have 1,379 to 2,154 square feet of living space; two, three or four bedrooms; and two full baths for base prices that range from \$370,900 to \$427,900. Second-story options add 866 to 1,090 more square feet of living space, one or two bedrooms or a loft, and another bath on the upper level. This brings the square footage up to 2,620 to 3,077 with base prices that range from \$449,900 to \$471,900.

All homes at The Enclave at Mill Creek are built to the standards that signify a Meritus home. Interiors have



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MERITUS HOMES

Newly built homes like the Waterleaf, pictured, are ready for buyers to move into within 30 days at The Enclave at Mill Creek in Addison.

9-foot, first-floor ceilings, Colonist doors, decorative touches such as rounded dry-wall corners and brushed nickel finishes, central air conditioning, and full basements all as standard features.

Kitchens are designed around the chef with a full suite of stainless steel appliances including a range, microwave, dishwasher, and refrigerator; a pantry, per plan; granite countertops; and elegant touches such as ceramic tile or oak flooring and cabinets with crown molding.

Bath floors and shower walls have ceramic tile as standard and vanity tops are cultured marble. Master baths have the added luxury of separate showers; custom-finished, wood, raised vanities; large linen closets; and compartmentalized water closets.

Meritus homes showcase energy-efficient construction for greater comfort and energy savings than older houses. This includes Tyvek house wrap, ice and water shield protection for the roof, a damp-proofed foundation, 40-gallon high-efficiency water heater, R-21 wall and R-49 ceiling insulation, and

two-by-six-framed exterior wall construction.

Front, side and rear yards are fully sodded plus a landscaping package is included with each new home to give it instant curb appeal.

The homeowners association handles snow removal and performs all common area landscape maintenance as well as lawn care for each individual homesite, creating a low-maintenance environment ideal for anyone looking to reduce the amount of time they spend on outdoor chores.

The Enclave at Mill Creek also has abundant green space, including Westwood Creek, three ponds and a scenic sitting area, with more than one-third of the ranch-style homes backing to natural areas. Plus, the neighborhood is tucked in an established area in central DuPage County.

"We were downsizing from a large house in Palatine and thought this was the perfect location," Angela said. "Our children live in Elmhurst so we are close to the grandkids and can easily hop over there and visit."

Positioned at the inter-

section of Army Trail Boulevard and North Mill Street, the neighborhood is within minutes of interstates 355 and 290 as well as Route 83/Kingery Highway for easy access to Chicago's West and Northwest suburbs. The community is also near stores, entertainment, movie theaters, golf, casual dining, forest preserves and everyday conveniences.

While close to so much, The Enclave at Mill Creek has an intimate neighborhood feel. "We enjoy the privacy and quiet here," said Angela. "The neighbors have been great and we're getting to know everyone."

Two decorated models are open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily at The Enclave at Mill Creek. The sales office is at 758 Fairway Circle, just north of Army Trail Boulevard and west of North Mill Road in Addison. The community's entrance is on the north side of Army Trail Boulevard at Links Drive. (Enter 601 Army Trail Blvd. into your GPS system to find the site.)

For more information on The Enclave at Mill Creek, call (224) 634-4034 or visit www.MeritusHomebuilders.com.



The Primrose design at The Enclave at Mill Creek offered the single-level living and low-maintenance living that appealed to Ari and Angela Nassopoulos.

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