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Ranch at new Addison development fits empty-nesters

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Just the right size. That's how Ken and Sandy Siok described the Marigold, a house they recently purchased at The Enclave at Mill Creek.

This community of low maintenance new homes is being developed by Meritus Homes at the intersection of Army Trail Boulevard and North Mill Street in an established area of central DuPage County.

A comfortable ranch with 1,754 square feet, the Marigold has everything the couple wanted — an open concept layout, single-level living, and it's detached. Sandy loves the kitchen with its abundant cabinets, big center island, full suite of stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and elegant touches. She also likes how it flows into the dining room and family room. This modern design allows for flexibility for everyday living and entertaining.

"It just feels like that's the way a home is supposed to be," said Sandy, noting that they toured other models at The Enclave at Mill Creek but always came back to the

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Marigold.

In all, Meritus Homes is offering four designs at The Enclave at Mill Creek. Ranch plans have 1,603 to 2,154 square feet of living space; two, three or four bedrooms; and two full baths for base prices that range from \$394,900 to \$443,900. 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 \$472,900 to \$493,600.

The Sioks, who are empty-nesters, said they like the luxury master suite with his-and-her closets plus a private bath — a feature their old house did not provide. And for when family comes to visit, the second bedroom and adjacent full bath are on the other side of the home. The space can be used as a library, office or den, as well.

"This is our first newly built home and we were excited to

pick out our finishes and add our own personality," Ken Siok said. The Marigold was exactly what Ken and Sandy desired yet they still added many upgrades in an effort to duplicate the look of the model, which they absolutely adored. They also invested in several options that were not cosmetic but structural, like a front porch elevation and deep pour basement.

"It's a blank slate to work with," Ken said of the basement, which he plans to finish at a later date so the grandchildren have their own play space. "Our goal is to create a family room with big screen TV, bar, pool table and play area."

The couple also chose a premium homesite on a cul-de-sac in Phase II of The Enclave at Mill Creek even though it meant waiting a little longer to move.

Overall, the development property boasts abundant green space, including Westwood Creek, three ponds and a scenic sitting area, with

more than two-thirds of the ranch-style homes backing to natural and open areas. Phase II is tucked back over the bridge and the Sioks' homesite abuts open space so it has the privacy they were accustomed to coming from a large yard of nearly an acre.

Unlike at their old house, The Enclave at Mill Creek's homeowners' association will perform all lawn care for their homesite as well as maintain common area landscaping and even handle snow removal on driveways.

"With fewer outdoor chores, we'll have more time to spend with the grandchildren," said Ken. After all, the move to The Enclave at Mill Creek was to be near family, specifically the couple's three children: a daughter in Glen Ellyn and two sons in Elmhurst.

"It's a smart idea to get closer to our nine grandchildren because Sandy helps out on a regular basis," said Ken, noting that the couple is relocating from Arlington Heights where they had lived for more than 30 years.

"It was a big decision because we've been in the Northwest suburbs and Cook County for the entire 44 years we've been married," he continued. "Now, at The Enclave, we're less than 10 minutes from our daughter and 15 minutes from our boys."

Plus, being within minutes of Interstates 355 and 290, as well as Route 83 (Kingery Highway), makes it an easy drive to work for Ken, who is an insurance agent.

Still learning about the area and DuPage County, Ken and Sandy have been impressed with all the local amenities they have found, such as restaurants, forest preserves, recreational opportunities, entertainment and everyday conveniences. Plus, shopping at Oak Brook Center, Yorktown Center and Woodfield Mall are all about the same distance away.

The Sioks had been looking for about six months when



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MERITUS HOMES
Ken and Sandy Siok are the first homeowners in Phase II of The Enclave at Mill Creek in Addison.



The open-concept Marigold ranch has just over 1,700 square feet of living space, two bedrooms and two full baths.

they finally took the plunge at The Enclave at Mill Creek. Sandy and her daughter, however, had identified the community nearly two years earlier — before any foundations were even in the ground.

"Once the homes started to be built, we were very impressed," she said. Exteriors have classic elements such as brick and stone accents, and some have covered entries or front porches. Front, side and rear yards are fully sodded plus a landscaping package is included with each new home to give it instant curb appeal.

"Then we walked into the model and were sold, even though new construction was not originally the plan," she continued.

"The people at Meritus Homes are great to work with," said Ken. "They made the process stress-free since we had not done this before.

They were patient when guiding us with selections so we never felt overwhelmed. Everyone has been professional, cooperative and engaging. It's been a very positive experience."

When complete, The Enclave at Mill Creek will feature a total of 87 homes. A few remain in Phase I and sales now are underway for Phase II.

Two decorated models are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The sales office is located 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 GPS systems.)

For more information, call (331) 225-3646 or visit www.MeritusHomebuilders.com.

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