

Gala to raise money for walking trail

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St. John's Lutheran Ministries hosts SpringFest 2007 this week to raise funds for construction of a community walking trail around its newest project - The Crossings, a senior living facility located in north Laurel along East Maryland.

Depending on the level of funding, the trail could be made of crushed limestone, asphalt or concrete. The quarter-mile path will surround The Crossings and provide a safe walking and exercise path for the entire community of Laurel.

SpringFest will consist of three events:

- The Garden Tea on Wednesday, April 25, begins at 4 pm.

It will be at Our Savior's Lutheran Church located at 707 West Third Street in Laurel.

"High Tea" will be served with plenty of appropriate food. The tea hosts Laurel's first Garden Angel Contest presented by Plantasia. A silent auction will be held and a naturopathic doctor will provide a lecture on the health benefits of tea. Also there will be an English Trough Demonstration. Cost is \$50 and also includes one complimentary ticket to Friday evening's Gala Concert.

- SpringFest Golf ShootOut on Friday, April 27, begins with lunch at noon at the Laurel Golf Club. The golf tournament will feature a shotgun start at 1 pm. All golfers will also receive complimentary admission to Friday evening's Gala Concert after the Golf Tournament.

- The SpringFest Gala Friday, April 27, starts at 6:30 pm., at the Richardson Cottage at The Crossings, located at 600 Roundhouse Drive, on the corner of East Maryland and Alder. The Friday night gala event will feature entertainment by the Ringling 5. Tickets for the Friday night Gala are \$50.

This concert and live and silent auctions will provide a full evening of entertainment. Hor d'oeuvres will be served.

When completed, The Crossings will provide a comfortable home for 49 seniors. A three-story apartment opening in September includes 37 independent living apartments.

The Richardson Cottage will be home to 12 elder residents who struggle with memory. Each resident will have a private master bedroom. The Richardson Cottage will be open the second week of May.

This will be one of the only public chances to see St. John's state of the art "nursing cottages" that are changing how long term care is delivered across the country. St. John's Lutheran Ministries has been recognized by many national publications and organizations for its development of these cottages.

St. John's Lutheran Ministries' mission is "to provide living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity and love."

For ticket information to SpringFest events or to learn more about The Crossings contact Chris Keufler at 628-1200.