

# Pet-friendly Belle Plaine Commons attracts buyers

Pet lovers who are 55 and older are finding that a condo at Belle Plaine Commons in Chicago's North Center neighborhood is a perfect fit for residents who are downsizing and streamlining their lifestyles.

"Selling a single-family home or two-flat and living a maintenance-free lifestyle is part of the attraction for many 55-or-better buyers at Belle Plaine Commons at 2335 W. Belle Plaine," said Rena Appel, development coordinator for North Center Associates LLC, the developer.

"Part of the attraction is living near lavishly landscaped green space, fountains, tree-lined streets and a dog park, which make Belle Plaine Commons an ideal place for pet lovers embarking on a new lifestyle," Appel said.

Residents appreciate the benefits of living in a pet-friendly and maintenance-free setting at Belle Plaine Commons with prices starting at just \$194,990.

Belle Plaine Commons residents and dog lovers Terrie Matthes and Carole Schmitz have two golden retrievers they acquired from a pet rescue. They welcomed Annie about four years ago, and Ivan joined the family about eight weeks ago.

"Both Ivan and Annie just love the dog park at Belle Plaine Commons," Matthes said. "It's a nice, gated dog park so they can run around and meet other canine friends. I usually bring a book and they run and do their thing."

Matthes and Schmitz sold their single-family home that was just a few blocks away from Belle Plaine Commons.

"We have always had two dogs and when we saw that our dogs would be welcomed at Belle Plaine Commons, this was a big selling point for us," Matthes said.

Jim Bott and Amy, his 11-year-old Jack Russell terrier,



Jean Petersen and Jasper think living at Belle Plaine Commons, where most homes have some sort of private outdoor space, is the cat's meow.



Jim Bott and Amy, his 11-year-old Jack Russell terrier, were the first residents to move into Belle Plaine Commons in May 2008. Bott said the community's outdoor spaces and dog park factored into his decision to buy. DEBAT

were the first residents to move into Belle Plaine Commons in May 2008.

"I lived in the neighborhood for 19 years and my house was just about a block and a half away on Oakley Street," Bott said. "I owned a two-flat, but the house was more than 100 years old and it showed its age. I saw there were these new condos going up at Belle Plaine Commons and decided to buy one."

In addition to the dog park, there are plenty of places to walk a dog around the development.

"This was a major consideration for me when I was looking at condominiums, too," Bott said. "I would think: 'Where will I walk, Amy?'"

Josie McDonald and her 2-year-old poodle, Puddin', have been living at Belle Plaine Commons for almost a year.

"We used to live in Ravenswood Manor in a two-flat," she said. "I lived there for 38 years. It was just too much for me."

"I have made a lot of friends here at Belle Plaine Commons and Puddin' just loves the dog

park," McDonald added. "Sometimes I am ready to go back inside and he will still run around in the dog park and hang out with his doggie friends, especially Amy."

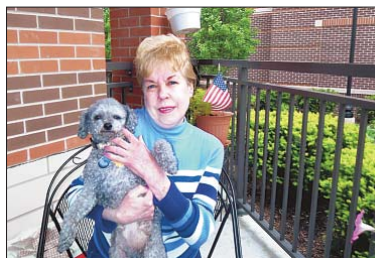
Cat lover Jean Petersen lives at Belle Plaine Commons with Jasper, her 7-year-old kitty. Petersen moved into her condominium at Belle Plaine Commons in June 2008.

"I had a big house that was just way too big for one person after my husband passed," she said. "There was just too much yard, too much cleaning, and way too much snow at that house. Then I saw the sign for Belle Plaine Commons and it was just three miles from my old neighborhood. I just love it here."

According to Petersen, Jasper thinks Belle Plaine Commons is the cat's meow.

"He just loves condo living. Jasper likes to look out the window with the north and west views, and he enjoys sunning himself in the window."

Resident Martha Lopez has



Josie McDonald and Puddin' really enjoy the dog park at Belle Plaine Commons.

two parakeets named Vickie and Sunny who keep her company at Belle Plaine Commons. She got the birds a few years back when her husband passed away. The birds live in their cage and sometimes Martha will put them out on the patio so they can look around outside and talk to other birds in the neighborhood.

"Belle Plaine Commons is in a nice neighborhood. Retail shopping is not far away, and my doctor is right here, too," Lopez said. "There is also a nice park with a fountain. It's a good place for us old folks so we can talk and catch up. I have a lot of friends here at Belle Plaine Commons."

The 92-unit Belle Plaine

## Find out more

The Belle Plaine Commons sales center and model are located in the building at 2335 W. Belle Plaine. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday. The center is closed Thursday and Friday. Prospective buyers may view floor plans and amenities at [www.belleplainecommons.com](http://www.belleplainecommons.com) or call Judy Westerberg at 773-442-6995.

Commons community anchors the five-acre North Center Senior Campus, bounded by Irving Park Road, Western Avenue, Oakley Avenue and Belle Plaine Avenue in the heart of the North Center neighborhood. The development overlooks a tranquil half-acre park and an elegant smaller, quarter-acre park.

While sales at Belle Plaine Commons are nearing the 90 percent mark, there still is a selection of one-bedroom, one-bedroom-plus-den and two-bedroom residences available.

Prices at the 92-unit building range from \$194,990 to \$212,990 for one-bedroom condominiums with 848 to 900 square feet of living space, \$204,990 to \$249,990 for one-bedroom-plus-den condominiums with 944 to 1,011 square feet of living space, and \$249,990 to \$298,990 for two-bedroom condominiums with 1,134 to 1,155 square feet of living space.

"At these prices, this is a rare opportunity that won't last," said Judy Westerberg, sales manager for Garrison Partners Ltd., the exclusive sales and marketing agent.

One member of the household has to be at least 55 years of age, but the other member may be as young as 48 years.



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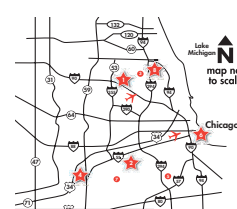
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