

# Scottish Home eyes summer open for new facility

## Construction on Caledonian House moving apace

By **BOB UPHUES**  
Editor

The Scottish Home in North Riverside will soon take the capital campaign to fund its new Caledonian House public, but the project is already well under way and ought to be open and caring for those suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia sometime this summer.

Gus Noble, president of the Chicago Scots, which operates the Scottish Home, said the organization has raised about \$4 million of the \$7 million goal set in 2013, when the project was first announced.

About \$5.5 million of the total goal is targeted for paying the cost for constructing the Caledonian House. The remainder is to support the Chicago Scots, formerly known as the Illinois Saint Andrew Society.

"We're still approaching major donors, but we're about to start the public face of the campaign," said Noble during a tour of the Caledonian House now well under construction on the campus of the Scottish Home, which was built in



BOB UPHUES/Staff

**THE HOME STRETCH:** Gus Noble, president of the Chicago Scots, which operates The Scottish Home, stands outside Caledonian House, the new memory-care facility being built on the campus. It will open this summer, Noble said.

the forested area just west of Desplaines Avenue on 28th Street in 1917.

Chicago Scots have hired a marketing director to lead outreach efforts, which will include events and open houses as summer approaches.

In past years, the society that operates Scottish Home has maintained a pretty low profile for its signature

charity. Noble calls the home, which provides assisted living and nursing services for the elderly, a place "hidden in the woods, like Brigadoon."

"But it's time we were no longer the Chicago suburbs' best-kept secret," Noble said.

The opening of the Caledonian House, which is being billed as best-in-class, resident-focused memory

care facility, will be a central feature of the Scottish Home's coming-out party later this year.

Unlike traditional nursing facilities, the Caledonian House, is arranged as a "home" setting. Resident rooms don't open onto long corridors. Instead, they open onto a shared living area that features a sitting area, dining area and open kitchen.

There will be 10 resident rooms to each of the Caledonian House's two floors, each floor serving as a separate "house," according to Noble. One of two floors is being dubbed the Barry MacLean House in honor of the president and CEO of MacLean Fogg and former board chairman of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago who has donated \$1.5 million toward the Caledonian House. MacLean's wife suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

Staff members at the Caledonian House will be cross-trained to provide nursing, foodservice and housekeeping duties instead of having a different person for each task.

That, according to Noble, will lend to the familial atmosphere. Staff and residents, along with their guests will eat meals together at a central dining room table (made, Noble said, from lumber cut from white oak trees that were sac-

rificed to build Caledonian House).

Meals will be prepared in the same central living area in an open kitchen. Institutional areas, storage, etc., will be invisible to residents.

The frame of the building, which has been under construction since June 2015, is largely complete, including the red shingled roof. Eventually they violet gypsum board now covering the framing will be sheathed in a half-timber and stone veneer that will give the building a homier look.

One of the inspirations for the exterior design, said Noble, is the clubhouse at the Muirfield Golf Course in Scotland. Inside, the décor is going to be "Mackintosh meets the Midwest," said Noble, referring to the renowned Scottish architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

"We're not going for 'home-like,'" said Noble. "We're going for home."

Noble also announced a new partnership between the Scottish Home and Concordia University Chicago, which has a graduate degree program in gerontology.

"We'll be working with them to ensure our claim that it's best-in-class memory care holds true," Noble said. "I'm excited about that partnership."

# Riverside could consider lifting ban on chickens, beekeeping

## Village staff compiling info from other towns

By **BOB UPHUES**  
Editor

You can't raise chickens or keep bees in Riverside — legally at least — right now. But a small group of residents are pushing for the village to allow beekeeping and raising chickens, saying both are in line with the village's commitment to sustainable practices.

And the village's board of trustees responded on Feb. 18 by directing village staff to begin seeking out information on how other municipalities handle bees and chickens and drafting an ordinance that could be the subject of a hearing before the Riverside Planning and Zoning Commission later this spring.

The discussion actually had its genesis in the village's response to a couple of recent violations of Riverside's code regarding the keeping of bees and chickens.

In January, the village's Building Department wrote letters to two Riverside residents

who were in violation of the code prohibiting raising chickens and keeping bees. That followed on the heels of a couple of complaints in recent years that couldn't be verified, according to Sonya Abt, the village's community development director.

While neither of the two residents cited by the village's building inspector attended the Feb. 18 meeting of the village board, a handful of like-minded residents took up the torch that night to advocate for allowing chickens and bee hives within Riverside's borders.

"This is not something that's going to go away," said Jennifer Fournier. "This is something that is gaining momentum, so whether we decide to deal with it now or in two years or five years, it's going to come back."

Kimber Coombes, another Riverside resident, said that changing the law to allow bees and chickens was a "great opportunity" and wouldn't result in a proliferation of bee hives in the village. And while she said she understood why some might be reluctant to allow the change, she felt a carefully crafted law would protect everyone.

"I think we have to be thoughtful about our ordinances," Coombes said.

Certainly in recent years, more and more communities have changed the rules regarding bees and chickens. The village board of Riverside's next-door neighbor to the west, Brookfield, voted to allow raising chickens in 2011.

North Riverside technically allows raising chickens, though the law is written in such a way that it would be very difficult for most homeowners to do so.

Other suburban Chicago municipalities allowing raising chickens, bees or both include Oak Park, Clarendon Hills, Evanston, Downers Grove, Naperville, Western Springs and Westmont.

Oak Park has allowed raising chickens since 2002, but village board voted to allow beekeeping in 2011, limiting residential properties to two hives each.

While homeowners in Oak Park don't need a permit to raise chickens, beehives need a permit from the village's Department of Public Health. Mike Charley, Oak Park's interim health director, said that in 2015 there were five beekeeping permits issued in the village, which has a population of about 52,000.

Since the ban on beekeeping was repealed

in 2011, said Charley, his office hasn't received a single complaint about the practice. Since 2002, the department has received seven "service requests" about chickens, ranging from complaints about noise and neighbors raising too many birds to chickens running loose in the neighborhood.

"In general, though, we've been able to resolve all those issues in a timely manner with the owners' cooperation," Charley said.

Debbie Becker, an Oak Park resident, has raised bees in her backyard since 2012. The two hives have generated between 24 and 70 pounds of honey annually, most of which she gives away to family members, neighbors and friends.

At first, Becker said she was worried about how her neighbors might react to the presence of two beehives next door. But after talking with them and making sure the hives were positioned properly on the lot, there hasn't been a problem.

"I was really nervous, but my neighbors were great," Becker said.

Becker is employed at Wednesday Journal, Inc., the parent company of The Landmark.