

The Overlook Community Wins Smart Growth Award

On June 9th, David Turner, CEO of Masonic Health System and George Senerth, Director of Support Service and Project Management, accepted the “Smart Growth” award for the Overlook Community project on the Charlton Campus. The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Committee (CMRPC), a planning partnership serving the interests of local government in Central and Southern Worcester County since 1963, presented the award.

Mr. Alan Gordon, Charlton’s Town Planner, nominated the project this year because he feels The Overlook Community expansion and development includes several classic elements incorporating the principles of Smart Growth as determined by the CMRPC. “From conceptualization through development, The Overlook Community expansion projects are shining examples of smart, cooperative growth in action, which will positively impact the entire community,” said Alan Gordon, Town of Charlton Planner.

While encompassing approximately 500,000 square feet of space, the Community offers creative structural design that will also result in permanent preservation of on-site open space. The Overlook is incorporating on-site walking trails, signage and benches, which meet the requests of the Charlton Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) in order to further expand the Town-wide planned trails network.

Finally, and most importantly, in regards to goals and objectives of the Town of Charlton, CMRPC, and The Overlook, the project makes available a wider range of senior housing including skilled nursing, enhanced living and senior independent lifestyle alternatives.

“I’m pleased we’ve been able to work so closely with the Town of Charlton and assist in meeting some critical planning needs,” said R.W. David Turner, “The town is blessed with strong leadership and great people in this community who have developed a wonderful plan for senior living.”

The Overlook Community consists of a 112 long-term care skilled nursing facility, 27 beds of short-term rehabilitation, a 42 bed Enhanced Living facility (formally called the Rest Home) and scheduled to open in spring of 2006 and currently under construction, 219 independent senior living residence (205 apartments and 14 cottages).

The award reads: Smart Growth Award, Presented to The Overlook, Charlton, Massachusetts: In Recognition of the Masonic Home’s development plan to incorporate principles of Smart Growth including compact building design, preservation of open space and agricultural land, and provision of a range of Housing options.

Also at this event, The Overlook Community was presented a Proclamation by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts House of Representatives by state Representative Mark Carron. The Proclamation offers the House’s congratulations for “Receiving the 2005 “Smart Growth” Award from the CMRPC for exhibiting a development style which incorporates the principles of Smart Growth and community enhancement. Your facility is a wonderful welcome addition to the community.”

