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## Woodland Shores: Lake community reflects developer's dream

Riffe Homes Inc.

For years developer Jim Riffe dreamed of creating an exclusive, resort-style community in the Kansas City area. He envisioned a place with a woody feel reminiscent of his childhood summers spent at his family's cabin in northern Wisconsin.

"I'm a lake person. I was always looking out for that piece of land where I could create the feeling of being in the North woods," Riffe said.

That search ended several years ago on a New Year's Eve drive down Colburn Road in eastern Lee's Summit. Riffe got out and walked the land that would eventually become Woodland Shores. As he spotted the shores of Prairie Lee Lake, he knew immediately that this was the place he'd seen in his mind's eye.

After years trying to negotiate with reluctant sellers, Riffe finally bought the land in a public auction after it was donated to a local hospital. Riffe then had to work with the county to get infrastructure to the secluded area, eventually resulting in the unusual step of his development company having to pay for sewers and electrical service. According to Riffe, it was all worthwhile. "From the beginning, this project was personal for me," he said.

That personal touch is present in everything from the million-dollar, parklike landscaping to the entrance marked by an enormous canopy of giant timbers and knotted logs, according to the marketing team. "Woodland Shores really represents the culmination of my creative energy throughout my career as a developer," Riffe said.

BVZ Architects, a Colorado architecture firm known locally for its work on the Loch Lloyd community, reviews home plans to ensure design standards are consistent throughout Woodland Shores while still maintaining the individuality of each residence.

Using a color palette of rich earth tones, homes are designed to be complemented by the lush surroundings, Riffe said. "We want distinctive homes but we also want to avoid the high-contrast look that is all too common in other communities," he said.

Community builders include Achten Construction, Brennan & Sons, Harry F. Lutz Homes, Linquist Construction, Wyss Construction LLC, Pfeifer-King Building Corp., Sixta Homes, Red Leaf Homes Inc. and Riffe Homes Inc. Homeowners may also bring their own plan and builder pending developer approval.

Rich landscaping, including pines, birch trees and berms, enhances the natural lay of the land, according to marketing information. The neighborhood pool and cabana area, with its 54-foot waterside and lakeside terrace, reflects the rustic design concept of the community and provides a welcoming atmosphere for family gatherings and community events.

Recreation opportunities are abundant for Woodland Shores' active homeowners. Walking trails meander throughout the area. Prairie Lee Lake offers private community docks, waterskiing, jet skiing, swimming and fishing. The larger and more populated Lake Jacomo sits within a quick drive from the community.

Legacy Park, Lee's Summit's multimillion dollar sports complex complete with youth soccer and baseball fields, is just across Blackwell Road.

"Woodland Shores is basically surrounded by some of the best parks and recreation in the metropolitan area," Riffe said.

Students attend the Lee's Summit School District, including Richardson Elementary, Bernard Campbell Junior High and Lee's Summit North High schools. A number of private schools are within a short drive, including Lee's Summit Community Christian School.

"I wanted this to be a secluded sanctuary for buyers moving into their dream homes," Riffe said. "This community feels like you're at a five-star resort. It really is an extraordinary atmosphere that saturates everything about this place."