

# Grinch home wins contest in Elgin

**OPEN HOUSE** | Family recreates Dr. Seuss' Whoville, with village houses, train

BY BILL CUNIFF

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**E**ric and Gina Suess invited the Grinch who stole Christmas to their home at West Point Gardens in Elgin.

The Suesses recreated the magic of Whoville, the fabled town terrorized by the Grinch before his Christmas transformation in the legendary children's book, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, by Dr. Seuss.

The front yard features the Grinch and his dog, Max, as well as some village houses, a train, candy canes and stilt walkers.

"My dad, Jeff, and I came up with this idea many years ago, and the theme has traveled around with the family from home to home," Eric Suess said. "It's a natural, I guess — considering our name."

About 75 percent of the homes at West Point Gardens are decorated for the holiday season. Ron and Joy Micheletto won second-place honors, and Leonard and Eileen Lambrecht received third place. Refreshments were served at the announcement ceremony.

The Suesses have been residing in West Point Gardens since March. Meanwhile, Gina's sister, Maria, her husband, Andy, and their three children have a home just two doors away from the Suesses.

West Point Builders, the developer, plans 342 single-family homes and 128 town houses. All of the homes include private enclosed gardens (for which the development is named). Eleven models are open.

Twelve-acre Meier Park at the site features a covered pavilion, a gazebo, playground equipment, baseball and soccer fields, basketball courts and tennis courts. The development also has smaller parks. A 20-acre shopping center is planned, too.

Single-family homes are base-priced from \$324,990 to \$424,990. Floor plans are sized from 1,841 to 3,407 square feet. Houses have 3 to 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and 2- or 3-car attached garages.

Base prices for town houses



Eric and Gina Suess



Town houses are base-priced from \$275,000 to \$347,000 at the Villas of Cambridge in Streamwood.

range from \$237,990 to \$299,990. Sizes range from 1,278 to 2,026 square feet. Units have 2 or 3 bedrooms, 1.5 to 2.5 baths and 2-car garages.

**West Point Gardens**, at the southwest corner of U.S. 20 and Nesler Street, one mile west of Randall Road, Elgin. West Point Builders, (847) 608-1000.

## Streamwood

Three models are open at the Villas of Cambridge, a town-

second-floor laundry are highlights of the Willow model. The living room is equipped with a bay window, and a three-sided fireplace is optional. The master bedroom has a private bath and walk-in closet, and dual master-bedroom suites are optional. The 1,777-square-foot Willow is priced from \$275,000.

The Pine model, with 1,891 square feet, is a one-level design. Amenities include a great room (with an optional fireplace), a dining room, a pantry, a breakfast bar and a master bedroom with walk-in closet and private bath. The second bedroom has a walk-in closet, too. The Pine is priced from \$299,000.

The trilevel Sycamore, with 2,047 square feet, is a trilevel plan. The lower level features a utility room and family room, and a third full bath and fourth bedroom is optional instead of the family room. The kitchen has a pantry and a breakfast area, sliding glass doors lead to a wood deck. The Sycamore is base-priced at \$291,000.

**Villas of Cambridge**, off U.S. 20, just west of Illinois 59, Streamwood. Cambridge Homes, (847) 984-4880.

house development in Streamwood.

Cambridge Homes, the builder, plans 120 units. Base prices range from \$275,000 to \$347,000. Sizes range from 1,777 to 2,529 square feet. Town houses have 2 or 3 bedrooms, 2 to 3 baths and attached 2-car garages.

Exterior maintenance, landscaping, lawn care and snow removal are provided for with a monthly fee.

A loft, a dining room and a