



Watercrest Lake Nona Executive Chef, Manny Navarro, Wins the Nona Chamber Festival Burger Showdown

VERO BEACH, FL, May 12, 2017 – Manny Navarro, Executive Chef of [Watercrest Lake Nona Assisted Living and Memory Care](#) was awarded first place at the First Annual Nona Chamber Festival Burger Showdown. The inaugural event, presented by Lake Nona Regional Chamber of Commerce, was held at Valencia College on Earth Day, April 22nd, 2017 to unite Lake Nona businesses and community members.

As hundreds of attendees enjoyed live music, entertainment and local vendors, Chef Manny of Watercrest Lake Nona skillfully prepared his savory selection for the culinary competition. With eight accomplished contestants in the running, Chef Navarro's delectable [Bacon Jam Slider](#) with smoked Gouda, yellow tomato, arugula and guacamole spread wowed the judges, earning him first place for 'Most Creative Burger' in the Burger Showdown.

A graduate of Disney's Culinary Academy, Chef Navarro joined the Watercrest Lake Nona team in December of 2015 as Director of Dining Services and head chef delivering fresh, exquisite meals and diverse, seasonal menu selections to the residents, guests and family members of Watercrest Lake Nona.

"Dining at a Watercrest community is a culinary experience designed to enliven your senses," says [Marc Vorkapich](#), Principal and CEO of Watercrest Senior Living Group. "Chef Manny continues to exemplify the Watercrest commitment to excellence by delivering exceptional quality and impeccable attention to detail to provide each resident and guest with an extraordinary dining experience."

Chef Navarro thoughtfully prepared over 200 of his specialty burgers at the event, serving repeat customers and accommodating special dietary requests such as vegetarian guacamole and smoked gouda sandwiches and low-carb yellow tomato burger salads. To re-create Chef Navarro's winning dish, visit the Watercrest Senior Living Chef's Corner page at watercrestseniorliving.com/chefs-corner.html for Chef Manny's Award-Winning Bacon Jam Slider recipe.

Navarro also placed first at the 10th Annual Senior Living Options Chef's Competition in Viera last April. His winning entrée of pork tenderloin stuffed with manchego cheese, dried cherries and shiitake mushrooms, alongside butternut squash mash and asparagus lyonnaise delighted the panel of celebrity judges, beating out eleven other competitors.

"Ability is what you are capable of doing, motivation determines what you do, and attitude determines how well you do it," says [Chef Navarro](#), Director of Dining Services for Watercrest Lake Nona, "We appreciate this opportunity to showcase how the Watercrest experience goes far beyond traditional services in senior living."

Watercrest Senior Living is committed to enriching the lives of seniors by creating an environment of well being and providing wellness programs, nutritious and savory dining, and personalized care. Additionally, Watercrest provides a comprehensive memory care program specifically designed to engage the senses, expand the mind and enhance the emotions of residents.

[Watercrest Lake Nona](#) offers 56 assisted living and 24 memory care apartments with premium accommodations, exceptional care and resort-style amenities. Residents enjoy luxurious Spa W, multiple dining options with locally grown organic fare, private label Watercrest wines, grand balconies, pool and fireplaces, cultural programs, and distinctive opportunities for learning and social activities all ideally situated in the master-planned community of Lake Nona.

[Watercrest Senior Living Group](http://www.watercrestseniorkiving.com) specializes in the development and operations of assisted living and memory care communities, and the growth of servant leaders. For community information, visit www.watercrestseniorkiving.com

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