

University Commons, an active senior community

Reflections of the Past Year



First Annual Asa Gray Lecture Reception

One of the reasons University Commons is such a unique community is its varied and interesting programming. As we reflect on the past year, we have had many stimulating concerts, lectures and demonstrations. From U-M Turner Geriatric Clinic Learning in Retirement courses to a talk by U-M President Mary Sue Coleman; from jazz ensembles to Prof. Bert Hornback in his acclaimed role as Charles Dickens and that is just the beginning. Here are some of the highlights:

For the last three years, University Commons has been one of the sites where Chamber Music Ann Arbor has held their annual SpringFest Concerts. CMAA was founded in 1996 by Michael Webster and a group of local music enthusiasts. The group presents chamber music by combining the talents of Ann Arbor's finest musicians with invited guest artists of national and international acclaim. This year's program feature artist were Arie Lipsky on cello and The Chiara String Quartet.

Keeping with the theme of music, University Commons has developed a strong relationship with the University

of Michigan's School of Music. The community has been privy to many student degree recitals by undergrad, master's and doctoral candidates. We have been most fortunate to host many University of Michigan School of Music faculty members such as James Dapogny, Katherine Collier, Louis Nagel and most recently Andrew Jennings. Prof. Jennings, a Naumberg Award winning violinist, recently performed three of Brahms' Sonatas, accompanied by his wife Gail Jennings in University Commons Recital Hall.

In April, University Commons held its first annual Asa Gray Lecture. James R. Baker, Jr., Director of the University of Michigan's Biologic Nanotechnology, was the guest speaker for the gala. Asa Gray was the first appointed professor at U-M Ann Arbor Campus, America's leading botanist in the mid-19th century and Darwin's strongest early supporter in the U.S.

This is to become a yearly event at the Commons with a different distinguished speaker each year. There is always something interesting happening at the Commons, please call us at 734.663.2500 for the monthly schedule.



UCA President John Reed presenting speaker Dr. James Baker with commemorative bowl

Available Homes

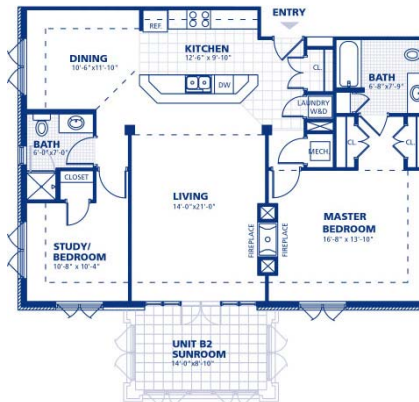
A Plan - Woodbridge

- ◆ **2 homes available**
- ◆ \$303,000
- ◆ 1,270 square feet
- ◆ 2 bedrooms
- ◆ 2 bathrooms
- ◆ top floor, vaulted ceilings



B Plan - Woodbridge

- ◆ **2 homes available**
- ◆ from \$285,000
- ◆ 1,327 square feet
- ◆ 2 bedrooms
- ◆ 2 bathrooms
- ◆ 1 top floor, vaulted ceilings



Each Home Features:

- ◆ GE Profile Appliances
- ◆ Legacy by Bertsch Semi-Custom Cabinets
- ◆ Kohler and Moen Kitchen & Bathroom Fixtures
- ◆ Weathershield Wood Windows with Lo-E² Glass
- ◆ Bryant High Efficiency Gas Furnace & Bryant Central Air
- ◆ T-100 UM Internet Access
- ◆ Heat -N-Glo Fireplace with Slate Surround

Amenities:

- ◆ Fitness Facility
- ◆ Optional Dinners Provided by Washtenaw Community College in Dining Room
- ◆ Recital Hall for Concerts, Lectures and Programs
- ◆ Craft Room & Workshop
- ◆ Underground Parking Garage with Additional Storage
- ◆ Emergency Generator
- ◆ Main Level Sufficient
- ◆ Maintenance Free, Worry Free
- ◆ Close To Downtown Ann Arbor, U of M - North Campus
- ◆ Pet Friendly
- ◆ 18 Wooded Acres with Walking Trails



Meet UC Resident Nora Howell



Nora and her granddaughter, _____

Nora Howell has come full circle. She was born in Chicago, moved to the East coast, the Deep South and has now returned to the Midwest. The motivating factor for her move was not a particular affection for the Midwest, as much as she wanted to be near her family and it was essential that her new home be in a university town. Ann Arbor was the perfect match.

Nora moved to New York City with her family where she attended Brooklyn College. She studied biology and chemistry and was one of the very few women to study the sciences. Following her graduation she attended Duke University where she received her masters in Biochemistry. At this time she met and married a southern gentleman who was studying history at Duke.

The Nora and her husband both studied at New York University where Wilson received his doctorate. He was fortunate to find a position as the historian for

the Air Force but it took them to a very tiny town in Texas. There her first child was born. From Texas, the Air force transferred them to Montgomery, Alabama where he continued to be a historian. She had her other 2 children there.

Wilson then took a teaching position at Texas University. By this time, Nora was ready to get back to work but the University would only employ one family member. Through a friend they found a college that would employ both of them and off they went to Columbus, Mississippi. At Mississippi University for Women Nora taught a variety of sciences from biology to physiology to chemistry, and Wilson taught history.

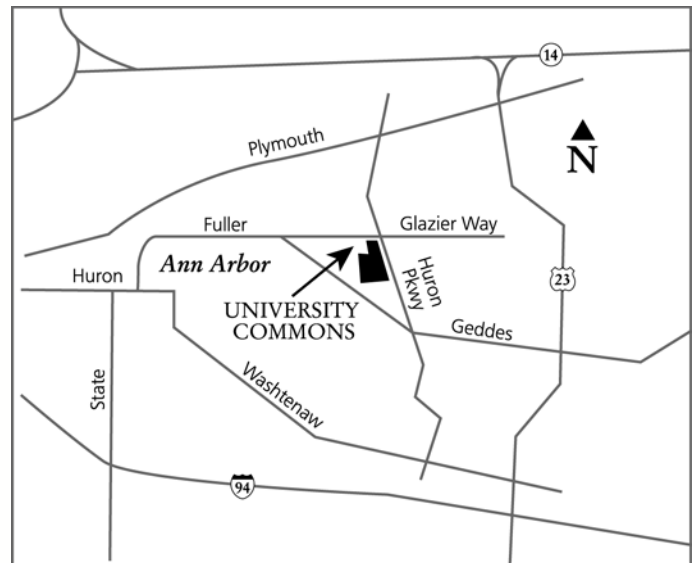
It was an interesting time for a northerner to be living in the Deep South and teaching there as well. The University faced the challenge of racial desegregation and becoming coed. Nora contemplated retiring from teaching for about 18 years. When she finally decided to teach the last class, she moved to University Commons.

Nora has 3 children and 5 grandchildren. She has a son in New York City, a daughter in Seattle who lives with her twin teenage boys and 15-year-old daughter and a son who lives in Ann Arbor with his wife and 2 teenage boys. Nora has been visiting her son, Joel, for many years and because of his affiliation with the University she had become familiar with Ann Arbor and the U.

The adjustment from a large house to her condo, Mississippi to Michigan, working part time to fully being retired has been gradual, but easier because of the friendly and active environment at University Commons. She is so pleased she made the decision to move to the Commons. Nora has made friends, taken classes, attended concerts and especially enjoys the intellectual stimulation.

In Brief

- ◆ **New residency qualifications:** age 55 years and older, and past or present faculty, staff or alumni of any four year accredited college or university.
- ◆ Join us on Fridays from 4:30-6:30 p.m. for **“Common Time”** in the University Commons Café. Common Time is an informal wine and appetizer gathering and is a great way to learn more about the community from our residents. Please visit our website to learn of other upcoming events.
- ◆ The University of Michigan Health System was ranked ninth in the *U.S. News and World Report* annual survey of hospitals.
- ◆ *Money Magazine* ranked Ann Arbor among the top eight cities for retirement. The magazine cited The University of Michigan, cultural amenities, parks and relative affordability.
- ◆ **Susan Gartin** of Reinhart Realtors is our University Commons Sales Manager - she is a **Senior Real Estate Specialist** designated by the National Association of Realtors. Please call her at **734-663-2500** or **734-645-7219** to arrange your appointment.



SALES OFFICE IS OPEN SUNDAYS 1-4 PM OR CALL 734.663.2500 FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

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The Blueprint is published by Blue Hill Development for the benefit of University Commons. University Commons is an active senior community that has been recently completed at The University of Michigan.