

University Commons, an active senior community

Art Exhibits



Victor Douvan with one of his Palazzola paintings.

The **Art Committee**, formerly chaired by **Diane Kirkpatrick** and currently by **Leonore Gerstein**, has made wonderful progress displaying works of art throughout the common areas of Houghton Hall and the Woodbridge Residences. The art includes antique Chinese scrolls, original oil and watercolor paintings, prints and antique masks. University Commons is also hosting temporary exhibits of the works of **Guy Palazzola and Andy Ross**.

The **Guy Palazzola** painting exhibit is featured in the **University Commons Recital Hall**. His works have been acquired by private collectors and by major museums including the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, the Detroit Institute of Art and the Grand Rapids Museum of Art. Throughout his life, Guy Palazzola was passionate about art and its making. He was intrigued by art through the ages, its place in culture, and the structure and systems found to underlie abstract and figurative art. Guy Palazzola's work ranges from evocative figurative paintings to lyrical abstractions. This exhibit at University Commons is an outstanding cross-section of his paintings.

Guy Palazzola taught at **The University of Michigan** for over twenty-one years. Teaching was a natural extension of his interest in young people and his passionate conviction that the experience of art was a critical factor in the life of man. He served as Associate Dean of the **School of Art** and in recognition of his multiple achievements; The University of Michigan bestowed him one of its highest honors – **The Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award**.

We are pleased that resident Victor Douvan arranged with Guy Palazzola's widow, Louise, for the loan of these works.

The exhibit of **Andy Ross** photographs is on display in the **University Commons North and South Gallery**. Andy Ross has been a photographer and teacher of photography for many years. His current position is with **Media Services of The University of Michigan History of Art Department**. Andy says, "As a photographer, my working method is to take a LOT of pictures. In a fairly old fashioned way, I go out with my camera and wander around until I find great photographs. For me, great photographs have strong compositions and poetical, metaphorical qualities and themes." Andy is the son of resident **William Ross**.



William Ross at the Andy Ross exhibit.

100% Maintenance Free Living



University Commons' carefree condominium living, in a word, means **FREEDOM**. Resident **Bette Michael** said, "Yard work and home maintenance are things of the past at University Commons." **Kramer-Triad Management Group**, which specializes in condominium management, provides complete services to University Commons. Throughout their twenty years, they have been involved in all facets of Community Association Management. From their main office in Ann Arbor, they manage 40,000 homes in 350 communities.

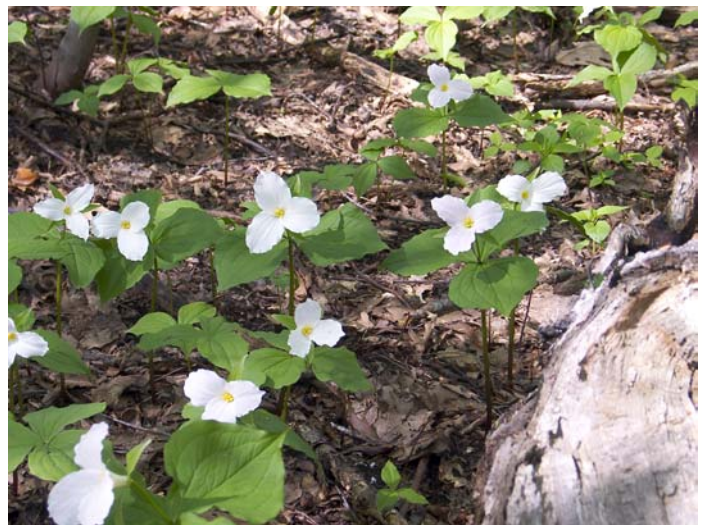
While University Commons is managed under the direction of Kramer Triad Vice President Sharron McCormick, the **Community Maintenance Team** handles day-to-day maintenance. This professional staff meticulously cares for the grounds, the residence exteriors, the common areas and a long list of residence interior items. The Community Maintenance Team is lead by **Mark Henderson**, Maintenance Supervisor, who has worked for Kramer-Triad for over thirteen years. He is assisted by **Daren Richards** who has worked for Kramer-Triad for four years.

Mark, who started working at University Commons prior to the first resident move-in, says, "There is no typical day at University Commons." Mark supervises the grounds maintenance, performs requested

and planned maintenance, sets up rooms for the many events and still finds time to help residents hang pictures and move furniture within their homes. His planned maintenance schedule includes replacing furnace filters, light bulbs and smoke detector batteries within individual homes. The Community Maintenance Team provides **24-hour emergency maintenance service** and as part of their exceptional service, they are on call to plow snow in a timely fashion with the University Commons' truck. **Now this is Living!**

Prescribed Burn Update

The prescribed ecological burn of the University Commons nine acre preservation area is already paying huge dividends. The invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle have been eliminated, which has allowed native, fire-adaptive plants such as **Trillium**, **Bleeding Heart**, **Jack-in-the-Pulpit** and **Wild Geranium** to cover the forest floor. The restoration of the woodlands can be viewed from the **Houghton Hall Terrace** or from available residences that border the preservation area. The **hiking trail** also provides a way to completely experience the woodlands that surround University Commons.



Emerging trillium on the University Commons hiking trail.

Meet UC Resident Sally Watkins

Maize and Blue runs deep in Sally Watkins' lineage or should we say "**The Yellow and The Blue**" since it was her grandmother's brother, Charles Mills Gayley who wrote **The University of Michigan Alma Mater** in 1886. Her Michigan legacy began when Sally's great grandfather, Judge Clement Smith, earned his Bachelor of Law degree in 1867. His son, Shirley Smith (Sally's grandfather) met Sara Browne (her grandmother) as classmates in 1893. After their graduation in 1897, Shirley Smith was employed by U-M until his retirement in 1945. Their daughter, Constance Smith (Sally's mother) and V. Blakeman Qua (Sally's father) met at U-M in the 1920s. Continuing in this tradition her brothers, George and Stephen Qua, also graduated from U-M. Sally enrolled at U-M in 1949 and graduated in 1952. During this time she met fellow U-M student **John Watkins** and they married in 1953.

After John completed his surgical residency at The University of Michigan in 1958, they moved to Pennsylvania. Sally and John raised two sons: **Matthew**, now a cardiologist at the University of Vermont where he directs gene therapy research, and **Nathan**, a businessman in Emporia, Kansas. When John died fifteen years ago, Sally kept herself busy volunteering at Mercersburg Academy. Her home in Pennsylvania was relatively close to Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, MD, where she often traveled for medical care at Johns Hopkins (130 miles round trip). Sally realized that she was spending considerable time in her car, especially, when she traveled to her summer cottage at Otsego Lake near Gaylord, MI (1,400 miles round trip).

Last fall, Sally saw an ad for **University Commons** in the U-M Alumnus magazine which made her nostalgic for the "stable and safe harbor" she felt growing up in Ann Arbor. She visited University Commons and found it "architecturally stunning with handsome details like Craftsman windows and exterior doors." By December 2002 she was moved in and enjoying all the features of her condominium. Sally is specifically impressed by the brass hard-

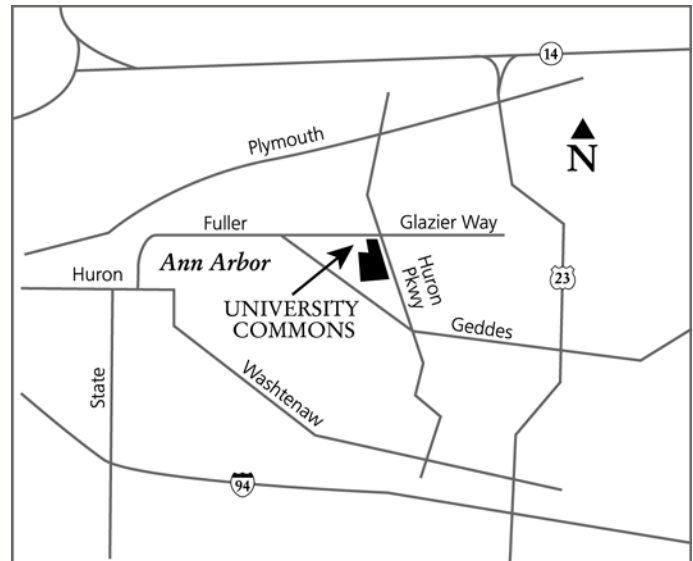


ware, solid core doors, high ceilings and especially the beautiful **Houghton Hall** library and public areas. Sally states, "When I open my door in Woodbridge North to the glory of sun streaming down through the atrium, I am thrilled". Coming home to Ann Arbor has brought her back to many family members in the area, her college roommate and various friendships from "years back." Coincidentally two past friends, **Betty Graham** and **Bonnie Haig**, were already living at University Commons.

Sally is enjoying the **weekly speakers** and she loves the **book club**. Other interests include art, architecture, interior design, environmental issues and jazz. Sally continues her volunteering by recently participating with residents Bette Michael, Ellen Stross, Lydia Bates and Mary Kinley on the first Silent Auction Committee for the **Food Gatherers** fund raiser. Sally says, "It is very convenient to be living at University Commons since it is just around the corner from my doctor's office at **The University of Michigan Medical Center.**" Her travel time is now reserved for visiting her six grandchildren-Jamie, Peter & Ellen in Burlington, Vermont, and Sarah, Hannah & Sophia in Emporia, Kansas, along with her daughter-in-laws Lisa and Sherry. As Sally's great uncle Charles M. Gayley wrote in our Alma Mater, **Here's to the hearts that are true! Hurrah for the Yellow and Blue!**

In Brief

- ◆ The University Commons Sales Office is open from Noon to 5:00 p.m. daily or by appointment. Call **Cristina O'Connor** at **734-663-2500** to set your appointment.
- ◆ **Susan Gartin** of Charles Reinhart Realtors is our University Commons Sales Manager - she is a *Seniors Real Estate Specialist* designated by the National Association of Realtors. Susan is a caring and reliable source of real estate expertise for seniors considering buying or selling a home. **Call 734-663-2500.**
- ◆ Join us on July 22nd at 5:00 p.m. for a presentation by two former **Regents of The University of Michigan, Trudy Huebner and Tom Roach**, in the University Commons Recital Hall. The event will be hosted by University Commons resident **Robben Fleming**. For a complete monthly calendar of events, visit us online at **www.BlueHillDevelopment.com** or call us at **734-663-2500.**
- ◆ University Commons was featured in a recent **New York Times** article. Visit our website at **www.BlueHillDevelopment.com** and click on publications to view this article.
- ◆ Visit our recently designed **Woodbridge C Model** and our **Woodbridge B1 Model** which starts at **\$275,000**. The models were designed by **Bay Design** located in Ann Arbor.



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