

# Cluster setting sets LairdHaven condos apart

By Arlene Funkhouser  
special writer

**I**T SURE helps to have an architect in the family when you're breaking new ground in housing.

Patricia Moore, principal of a middle school in Plymouth, wanted a home that would provide peace and tranquility, with little maintenance. She teamed up with her son Brad, an architect, to develop a project that resembles condominium living, with more privacy.

The project, called LairdHaven, is an upscale community of nine "cluster homes" in Northville Township. Cluster housing is single family units attached in such a way that there are no common living walls between units.

"They are attached through a garage wall or garden gate, so there is no noise," said Moore, 55, principal of Central Middle School. "None of

the units look onto another person's unit. There is common ownership of the grounds, and common maintenance, just like a condominium."

The icing on the cake? The setting is woody, and there's a golf course within shooting distance.

**LAIRDHAVEN**, LOCATED off Six Mile Road between Sheldon and Northville roads, adjoins wooded areas which abound with birds, small animals and even a few deer. The four-acre project backs up to the Brooklane golf course, and a small stream flows nearby.

"That's just exactly what I wanted," Moore said of LairdHaven, which was designed by her son, J. Bradley "Brad" Moore. It is the first project developed under Northville Township's cluster housing zoning option enacted several years ago.

LairdHaven units range in size from approximately 2,200 square

feet to around 3,400 square feet. Three separate floor plans offer such amenities as spacious master suites, great rooms with cathedral ceilings, decks, formal dining room and kitchen features to satisfy the most exacting cook.

**ALL UNITS HAVE** a brick and fieldstone exterior, two-car garage with electric door openers and other safety and energy-efficiency features. Other extras not often found in many condominium-style projects are a breakfast nook and cozy little corners just perfect for quiet reading.

Prices start at \$275,000.

Brad Moore, a 30-year-old graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and the University of Michigan, incorporated many of his mother's ideas into the LairdHaven design.

The younger Moore owns an architectural firm in Ann Arbor, where he lives. He specializes in upscale, custom-designed single-family houses and condominiums.

"It's mother's return on six years of (his) college," Patricia Moore said, laughing. "I wouldn't take a step without Brad."

Moore also received a lot of encouragement from Patricia Hann, a Plymouth hairdresser and community activist who recently developed several condominium projects in Northville and Plymouth. Like Moore, Hann became a developer because of her own housing needs.

Many of LairdHaven's features reflect Patricia Moore's yearning for a small place where she could unwind at the end of her high-pressure workday. And, being a golfer, she's pleased to be able to peek off her balcony and see the lush green fairways of the nearby golf course.

"I wanted to drive not far from where I work to find a haven," Moore said. "I also wanted the quality to be a notch above what I had seen."

When Moore was selecting a name for the project, she turned to her Scottish roots. Laird, in Scottish, means lord, or owner of the manor. "It's a safe haven for the master of his own castle," she said.

**ATTAINING HER** dream home hasn't exactly been a breeze for Moore. She spotted the property, which contained a farmhouse built in the 1920s, around three years ago. Moore was intrigued by the woody setting and the adjacent golf course.

Her intent was to subdivide the parcel into three lots, taking one for herself. But township officials said

the long and narrow property

couldn't be developed as she had hoped.

"My heart sank at that point," she said.

However, the Moores were told of the optional cluster zoning adopted by Northville Township several years earlier. Until LairdHaven came along, it hadn't been utilized.

MOORE SOLD HER house in Plymouth. She subsequently moved into the old, drafty, antiquated farmhouse, where she lived for two years until the LairdHaven model was completed.

"That was a challenge," Moore said. "But I got to love the old place."

The farmhouse recently was demolished. Efforts to move it to another site were unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, Moore also has worked hard to allay the fears of nearby residents who thought the project would doom the area's natural beauty and hurt property values.

"But we were absolutely dedicated to keeping the integrity of the land and the area," Moore said. Plans call for LairdHaven to have walkways, landscaping and a gazebo where residents can enjoy the natural setting.

"IT WILL BE very parklike when it is finished," Brad Moore said. Patricia Moore moved into the



Exterior view of a LairdHaven home bordering Brooklane Golf Course.

long and narrow property

couldn't be developed as she had hoped.

"My heart sank at that point," she said.

However, the Moores were told of the optional cluster zoning adopted by Northville Township several years earlier. Until LairdHaven came along, it hadn't been utilized.

MOORE SOLD HER house in Plymouth. She subsequently moved into the old, drafty, antiquated farmhouse, where she lived for two years until the LairdHaven model was completed.

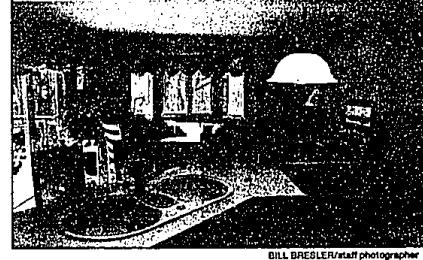
"That was a challenge," Moore said. "But I got to love the old place."

The farmhouse recently was demolished. Efforts to move it to another site were unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, Moore also has worked hard to allay the fears of nearby residents who thought the project would doom the area's natural beauty and hurt property values.

"But we were absolutely dedicated to keeping the integrity of the land and the area," Moore said. Plans call for LairdHaven to have walkways, landscaping and a gazebo where residents can enjoy the natural setting.

"IT WILL BE very parklike when it is finished," Brad Moore said. Patricia Moore moved into the



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

A view from the kitchen.

model earlier this year, while work continues on several other units.

Construction is expected to be completed at the end of summer.

She especially enjoys her roomy bathroom, which has a whirlpool tub and separate shower area with built-in ledges for easy storage. She's pleased with her hardwood kitchen cabinets and her work island where her granddaughters help to mix up batches of cookies.

Moore, who earlier proved her mettle as an authority figure in the scholastic world, also has met the

challenge of facing male construction crews unaccustomed to taking orders from a woman.

"I'm very task oriented," she said. "I'm used to having everything under my control. There is a whole different attitude toward me because I'm female. I'm consciously making an effort to minimize any sense of discomfiture. It's pretty much worked out."

The LairdHaven model is open 1-8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, or by appointment. For information, call 349-0035.

## Select Properties from Real Estate One.

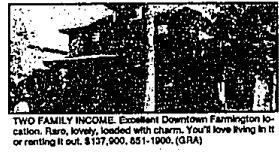
Michigan's Largest Real Estate Company



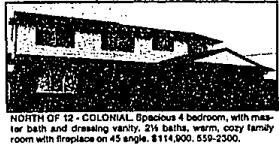
TRANSFERRED OWNERSHIP. Beautifully maintained 4 bed, 2 bath ranch with attached garage. Located in a community. Many fine features and updating. Superb location in Farmington Hills. Mint condition. Must see. \$137,000. 477-1111.



THE SEARCH IS OVER! Immaculate ranch with pride of ownership throughout. Nice attention to detail! Expanded dining room, extensive woodworking, exquisite landscaping, underground sprinklers, deck. \$158,000. 348-6430.



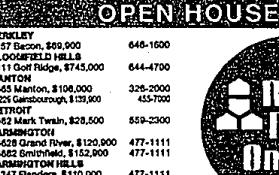
TWO FAMILY INCOME. Excellent downtown Farmington location. Rare, lovely, loaded with charm. You'll love living in it or renting it out. \$127,000. 851-1000. (GR)



NORTH OF 12 - COLONIAL. Spacious 4 bedroom, with master bath and dressing vanity, 2 1/2 baths, warm, cozy family room with fireplace on 45 angle. \$114,000. 559-2300.



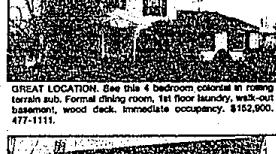
BRAND NEW RANCH WITH BASEMENT. Private, brand new home in Farmington Hills. Close to schools and shopping. 2 full baths, full basement, 2 car attached garage. \$110,000. 477-1111.



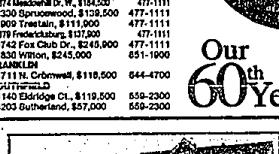
OPEN HOUSES - 2 TO 5 P.M.



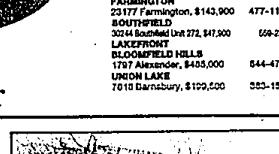
Our  
60th  
Year



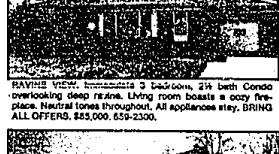
GREAT LOCATION. See this 4 bedroom colonial in Farmington Hills. Formal dining room, 1st floor den, sunroom, 2 car garage, wood deck. Immediate occupancy. \$152,000. 477-1111.



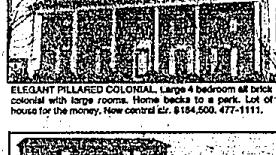
EXCELSIOR COLONIAL with elegant 2 story foyer, formal dining room, family room has fireplace and wood burning, library, large master suite and master bath, neutral decor, quality features thruout. \$219,000. 851-1000. (GR)



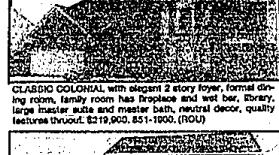
EXCELLENT LOCATION! Great view of Woodcreek condominium grounds and pool. Recent improvements include roof, exterior, interior, kitchen, 2nd floor bath, 2nd floor addition, neutral decor. Resident manager, pool, sauna and clubhouse. Must see. \$26,000. 851-1000. (GR)



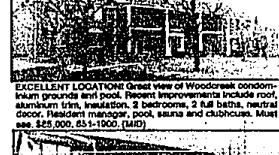
DAVIE'S HOME. Immaculate 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Condo overlooking deep ravine. Living room looks out over fire place. Neutral tones throughout. All appliances stay. BRING ALL OFFERS. \$35,000. 659-2300.



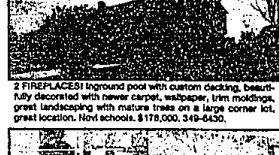
ELEGANT PILLARED COLONIAL. Large 4 bedroom all brick colonial with large rooms. Home backs to a park. Lot of house for the money. New central air. \$184,500. 477-1111.



GRANITE COLONIAL. This 4 bedroom colonial with all the amenities. Stately front door, large windows. French doors, brick styled entrance leading to front door with leaded glass windows. Former Homearama model created with special touches throughout. Price Reduction. \$224,000. 851-1000. (GR)



GREAT UPPER RANCH. White cabinets, foyer and kitchen. Neutral decor throughout. Private balcony with storage. Large private basement over 400 sq. ft. Close to x-ways and shopping. \$62,000. 851-1000. (GR)



WANT CHARM? COMFORT! Well designed brick ranch or 2, possible 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, covered porch, natural fireplace in living room and super family room addition. Full basement and garage. \$73,500. 659-2300.