

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

HOMES



Inside
this
section



Friday, April 20, 2007

To place an ad or for more information: Call your Detroit Newspaper Partnership account executive or (586) 826-7232

Detroit Free Press

HOMEBUYER resources

Web sites and telephone numbers below help prospective homebuyers research homes, communities and financing.

www.marketplacedetroit.com/realstate: Find thousands of local homes for sale.

www.fdic.gov: Financial and real estate tips and consumer alerts.

www.marketplacedetroit.com/newhomes: Find new home construction and builder developments.

www.mihomehunt.interest.com: or **www.marketplacedetroit.com:** Find mortgage rates for across the country and local lenders.

www.marketplacedetroit.com/realstate: Find getaway destinations for rent or purchase.

www.apartments.com or **www.marketplacedetroit.com/realstate:** Find rental units of local apartments and corporate housing.

www.hud.gov: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Information on single-family FHA programs, (800) 225-5342; HUD homes in Michigan, (888) 622-7361; housing discrimination complaints, (800) 669-9777; late on mortgage; Housing Counseling Referral Service, (800) 569-4287; late on FHA mortgage, (800) 297-8685.

www.crosswinds.com
Crosswinds Communities.
(313) 962-1100.

A walk to first base

MANY CHOICES OFFERED IN DOWNTOWN DWELLING

By CLAIRE CHARLTON

Texas native Billy Blodgett always wanted to live close to his favorite team, the Detroit Tigers. Seventeen years ago, he got his wish. Almost.

Accepting a teaching position at Northern Michigan University in the UP put Blodgett, 55, in the Tigers' home state, but not close enough.

"I'm in Michigan, but still about 500 miles from Detroit and the Tigers," he says.

Now, as he reaches semi-retirement, Blodgett is moving again - to Comerica Park. Well, practically. His new home is Woodward Place Townhomes, a Crosswinds Communities development in the heart of the entertainment district and a short walk - yes, a walk - to Comerica Park, Ford Field and the Fox Theatre.

"A year ago I noticed these townhomes being built and thought, 'Wouldn't it be great to live so close to the Tigers?'" says Blodgett. "I was really impressed with the vision of the builder in revitalizing downtown Detroit, and I loved the

way they were being built."

Blodgett is also thrilled to be close to Detroit Medical Center and to Wayne State University, where he'll be teaching sociology part time. Prices on multi-level townhomes start in the \$200s, and Blodgett says he's happy to buy now.

"I fully expect the values to increase," says Blodgett. "It's great that Detroit businesses are working to bring the core back so that people will want to return. I'm excited to be part of it."

Five floor plans range from 1,300 to 2,002 square feet, each with private garage. Blodgett says he knows this neighborhood will attract a variety of people eager to enjoy all Detroit has to offer.

"I saw two concerts this week," says Blodgett. "I think a lot of what I'd like to do while living here is access the performing arts in the Theater District and all the restaurants. Eastern Market is very close, and Greektown, too."

The Crosswinds development, which has revitalized the historic Brush Park neighbor-



Photos by Gene Meadows ©

Above: Woodward Place Townhomes are in the heart of Detroit near Ford Field, Fox Theatre and Comerica Park.



Billy Blodgett

hood, also offers Garden Lofts, a four-story loft-style community featuring 10-foot ceilings, gourmet kitchens and city views. The lofts, priced from \$149,990 offer private covered parking, hardwood flooring, a shared landscaped terrace, and a unique industrial feel typical of authentic city lofts. As a "green build" development, the lofts use geothermal technology, bypassing natural gas and reducing energy costs,

according to Ben Galindo, community sales manager.

"With gas rates increasing, the geothermal system is an added incentive for people to live here in the city," says Galindo. "People are very impressed with it, and Gen X-ers love it because of their concern for the environment."

Ranging from 882 to 1,446 square feet, Garden Lofts offer city dwelling and suit a lifestyle that is "live-where-the-action-is."

"It's really the same feeling you'd have in a home, but with a

loft feel," Galindo says. "It's the best of both worlds."



Comerica Park is nearby.