

BOSTON COMMON

REAL ESTATE NEWS

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THE GOLDEN YEARS GET A PLATINUM UPGRADE THANKS TO HIGHLAND MEADOWS' LUXURY AMENITIES AND HASSLE-FREE LIFESTYLE.

BY CAROLINE CUNNINGHAM

Something funny happened on the way to retirement for baby boomers, a generation defined by individualism and affluence, and one that continues to redefine American culture and society. The conventional model—sell the large family house, resign from various business or charitable commitments, buy a condominium, and move to a golf course in Florida—has lost some of its appeal. This highly independent and free-spirited group took a different approach to their golden years. Forget shuffleboard; they are far more likely to be chairing a nonprofit board, leading a conference in Vancouver, or going for long hikes with their grandchildren. These seniors are into an energetic and connected lifestyle, and want to remain close to the family, friends, and activities that have been so central to their lives.

What they most emphatically do not want, however, are the issues involved with the care of the traditional family home in which they've lived and raised their children. The new objective is to have a custom-built

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house that's part of a vibrant community, where daily maintenance—and almost anything else one would ever need—is provided with cheer and efficiency. And that's where Highland Meadows, an age-restricted development in ever-so-pretty Weston comes in. Stata Venture Partners' Ray Stata, who also started Analog Devices, and Lee Barbieri, well known for their successful investments in high-technology start-ups, recognized the potential in the spectacular Paine Estate when it came on the market a few years ago, and brought Highland Meadows into being with characteristic vision and acumen.

Everything about this project responds to the desire for luxury, comfort, and convenience. The classic New England-style homes are clustered on 44 acres of fields and wooded hillsides, with walking paths that connect



Bespoke homes and beautiful public spaces make for an ideal lifestyle.



to the Weston Forest & Trails network.

There are a wide variety of options in terms of size and floor plans to choose from, including carriage houses and substantial single-family homes, and on top of that, says Maureen Fraser, director of sales and marketing, "We can build whatever they want."

This is where the fun begins. Nothing is overlooked in the planning phase, when clients spend weeks going over every detail in the design studio, from moldings to wainscoting to flooring. The array of choices is dazzling—Wolf ranges and Asko dishwashers for the kitchen; Kohler fixtures for the bathrooms; rich wood, marble, and glass accents wherever the client desires. In addition, decisions about how to organize the various spaces are addressed. Elaborate wine cellars with separate cooling zones? Done. Saunas? A cinch. State-of-the-art media or exercise rooms, an art gallery with built-in display cases, or even an elaborate coffee bar? No problem. The Highland Meadows

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team takes pride in its ability to meet any request—it's all about making dreams come true.

Many amenities are also built into the maintenance-free community, like gutter cleaning and exterior window washing. And for above-and-beyond service, there's a concierge who takes care of just about anything. As Fraser says, "Our amenities are limitless, and we add as we go."

The community's public spaces are designed with the same care. The gorgeous Meetinghouse is the central gathering spot for Highland Meadows residents and their friends, humming with activity throughout the day and well into the night. It provides sophisticated formal rooms, designed by Teri Carrier of Design East Interiors, for parties or impromptu gatherings, as well as a terraced patio with outdoor fireplace that overlooks the tennis court below. In addition, there's a fitness center, Pilates studio, massage therapy and shower room, and a gourmet kitchen for catering and regular cooking demonstrations by the team at Clark Kitchens, as well as guest chefs like Ming Tsai.

Boston-area couples from the highest tiers of professional and academic achievement like Nancy and Ed Eskandarian, former CEO of Arnold Worldwide, and Natty and John McArthur, Dean emeritus at Harvard Business School, are already at Highland Meadows, with more like-minded

peers arriving every month. The Eskandarians bought their home only 20 minutes after touring the property and have never looked back. "It's perfect," Ed says. "We get a house we love without the hassle, and people take great care of you and the property. Being here is like coming home again." **BC**

