

# GREAT LAKE STORY

## CHAPTER TWO

FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOAN WILLET  
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ONE OF FIVE VISBEEN FLOOR PLANS DESIGNED FOR FAIRWAYS.

Having played the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor many times, Scott and I already knew we liked the location of The Fairways. Each of this neighborhood's 29 homesites offers its own sense of place along Golden Bear Court.

The private drive unwinds like a tranquil trail off of M-63 past vast wetlands, a scenic fairway pond, and pathways for golf carts and walkers, then runs parallel between Holes 5 and 3 before culminating in a cul-de-sac bordering Hole 4.

While western lots align with Lake Michigan's horizon and eastern sites see the Paw Paw River, the rear elevation of every home will offer a grand fairway view, giving all residents here front row seats for the Senior PGA Championship presented by Kitchen Aid when The Golf

Club at Harbor Shores hosts this prestigious event in 2012 and 2014.

Being nestled between these meticulous greens will also make golf an everyday event: It's clear this intimate neighborhood was created for people who enjoy golf as a lifestyle.

Already I can see us taking our morning coffee onto the screened porch while watching a foursome play through on this unique Nicklaus-designed course that Golf Magazine just ranked No. 3 nationwide on its top 10 new public courses list.

I can envision us boarding our own golf cart with neighborhood friends for a fun ride to The Golf Club for dinner, or taking a turn at the Jack Nicklaus Academy of Golf – one of only four in the U.S. – right here at Harbor Shores.

Most of all, though, I just picture Scott and I relaxing on our front porch, waiting for Rose and Ben to pull in from Grand Rapids, our first grandbaby in tow.

### HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Actually, this front porch already exists. It's attached to an intriguing, 3,306-square-foot home for sale at 515 Golden Bear Ct., a River lot with sweeping sunrise view of Hole 3's fairway.

Crafted by one of Harbor Shores' preferred architects, Visbeen Associates Inc., and preferred builders, Falcon Custom Homes, this shingle-style two-story with its inviting stone walkway and distinctive twin piers exemplifies style and quality ideals set at The Fairways to ensure cohesion while expressing individuality.

We loved it!

Sized just right, the modern vacation home echoed a turn-of-the-century summer retreat: Shingle shakes, board and batten, metal brackets and stained timber – all a welcome departure from our skyscraper condo in downtown Chicago – lent friendly, yet elegant curb appeal, while the asymmetrical design – including repeating gables, integrated shutters, a bump-out bay window and wooden carriage-style garage doors – felt relaxed yet balanced.

Around back, we uncovered an expansive, partly-covered stone patio overlooking Hole 3's tees and grassy river fringe. We learned that Phantom Screens were concealed in the timber beams that defined the protected outdoor room and expanded the home's living space.

But the bigger discovery was this: Executing Harbor Shores' own architectural vision for The Fairways, Visbeen Associates also designed numerous other plans for the community. Owner Wayne Visbeen is one of three partners including Falcon Custom Homes and interior designer Mary Burns, owner of Gallery Interiors and Rockford Kitchen Design north of Grand Rapids, who have teamed up to make buying a new home here (furnished if desired) a streamlined, all-inclusive process.

Our next call of duty includes considering these pre-approved design options, and an interior tour of 515 Golden Bear Ct. At the moment, I'm not sure what I want to know more – the benefits of customizing an existing plan over beginning our second home project from scratch, or what kind of floors, fixtures and furnishings are in (and available with) this priced-to-sell house!

Joan and Scott Willet's exploration of The Fairways at Harbor Shores continues in the Winter Issue of Michigan BLUE. To learn more visit [www.miblue.com](http://www.miblue.com).



CART PATHS AND WALKING TRAILS WIND THROUGH THE HARBOR SHORES DEVELOPMENT.



THE FAIRWAYS AT HARBOR SHORES OVERVIEW.

ILLUSTRATION BY  
VISBEEN ASSOCIATES, INC.