



Outdoor Sanctuaries of HISTORIC PLEASANT RIDGE

Featuring 7 Beautiful Gardens & Spaces for Outdoor Living

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 10 AM–4 PM (RAIN OR SHINE)

HOSTED BY THE PLEASANT RIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Welcome to Historic Pleasant Ridge!

Welcome to the 2021 Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission and Garden Tour.

The commission appreciates the generosity of the residents who have opened their garden sanctuaries for us this year as well as the docents, city employees and advertisers who help make the tour successful. We are especially grateful since the pandemic prevented us from sponsoring a tour last year and planning for indoor spaces.

The yards and gardens reflect the diversity and character of our city. The tour includes breathtaking gardens worthy of a magazine spread as well as a simple do it yourself garden shed. You will be inspired to take many ideas home and try them yourselves.

All the homeowners involved in the tour have said that they spent many hours during the pandemic in their sanctuary areas and used their “down time” to improve and enhance the space.

Funds from this tour will be used for Historical Commission projects, including maintenance of the Historical Museum. If you have an idea for a project for us please do not hesitate to mention it to a member of the commission.

Although not part of the tour, take a walk through the Memorial Park, Wildflower and Pollinator Gardens if you have a chance. These gardens are maintained by the garden club, with some of the maintenance costs contributed by the Historic Commission.

The Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission



Please use this booklet as a reference guide during the tour.

The Historical Commission is proud of the fact that many of the houses in Pleasant Ridge are part of a nationally-recognized historic district. All the homes reflect the care and attention which assures that Pleasant Ridge will remain a beautiful community for generations to come. A strong sense of community, dedication to historic preservation and ideal location makes Pleasant Ridge the perfect city for all ages, interests and lifestyles.



By attending the Home and Garden Tour, the ticket holder agrees to and acknowledges that the City of Pleasant Ridge, the Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission, their promoters, sponsors, members, participants, tour guides, and/or other representatives assume no responsibility for any conduct resulting in personal injury or property damage, whatsoever, which might occur whether through their negligence, the negligence of some other party or otherwise. The ticket holder expressly assumes all responsibility for any personal injury or property damage whether caused by negligence of the above-mentioned persons, entities or any other party.



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Historic District
8 SYLVAN AVE.

The Redmond/Levine Sanctuary

• GARDEN AND GROUNDS OPEN •

Thirty-three years ago, Kate Redmond & Marc Levine moved into a 1928 home at 8 Sylvan. With it came a yard and garden that was very basic, had no hardscape and was overgrown. Armed with a love of gardening handed down by her mother & grandmother, Kate went to work. Through the years the front has been transformed from an overgrown lawn to a beautifully planned garden, using a theme of blues in the front, transitioning to green in the back, all highlighted by colorful annuals and perennials. The plantings are designed for visual interest from early spring to late fall.

In the back, they have created an outdoor living room – a place to relax, entertain or simply sit with friends and neighbors to catch up. The old, broken 1920s twisted wire fence was replaced with one to enclose their backyard oasis. To ensure relaxation, there is a peaceful fountain as the focal point and landscape lighting for late night chats, such an important element to have had this past year when outdoor entertaining was so crucial for connecting with friends and loved ones. As you walk through, you'll notice several whimsical touches nestled among the plants.

As any avid gardener knows, gardens are never fully done. Recently, their neighbor removed a massive but declining oak from his property, creating much more sun exposure in Marc & Kate's backyard. The next few seasons will be spent reorganizing plantings and moving from predominantly shade loving plants to part-shade & sun loving plants – a whole new chapter just waiting to be explored & written! Please enjoy their gardens as much as they have.





Historic District
22 OAKLAND PARK BLVD.

The Howard/Obringer Sanctuary

• GARDEN AND GROUNDS OPEN •

The Luran and Bob are the second owners of 22 Oakland Park. The home was designed in 1923 by William Kapp who designed Meadowbrook Hall and other buildings in the Detroit area. We are confident that the former doghouse, now “She Shed” that is open today was not designed by Mr. Kapp!

The interior of the shed has been fitted by Bob using only recycled materials from the house and garage. The walls are paneled with the former shutters from the house; the shelves are all constructed of wood found in the garage attic; and the table was made from the wall paneling that was used when the shed served as a playhouse for the owners’ daughters. Some of the Hadley pottery that is hanging in the shed are the covers of long broken casseroles. The shed has been recycled three times; from doghouse to playhouse to garden shed.

The terrace on the East side of the house was built in the late 40s or early 50s by the previous owners. The terrace wall includes a fountain with a small pond. Both the fountain on the terrace and the large fountain in the middle of the property have been restored and meticulously maintained by Bob, as are the dogwood parterres which surround the large fountain.

COMING SOON (HOPEFULLY THIS YEAR)...

AN UPDATE TO THE 1981 CLASSIC, *PLEASANT RIDGE, THEN AND NOW*

We are now in the process of digitizing our historical archives, for preservation as well as to provide graphical content for the upcoming update to *Pleasant Ridge, Then and Now*. If you have any items/pictures/newspaper clippings/blueprints/information/etc. of Pleasant Ridge Historical Interest that you would be willing to donate or let us make a copy, please visit the PR Historical Museum or contact any member of the PR Historical Commission.

PLEASANT RIDGE VOTES TO BECOME A VILLAGE

Monday, May 19th 1919

DETROIT SUBURB ASKS RIGHT TO INCORPORATE

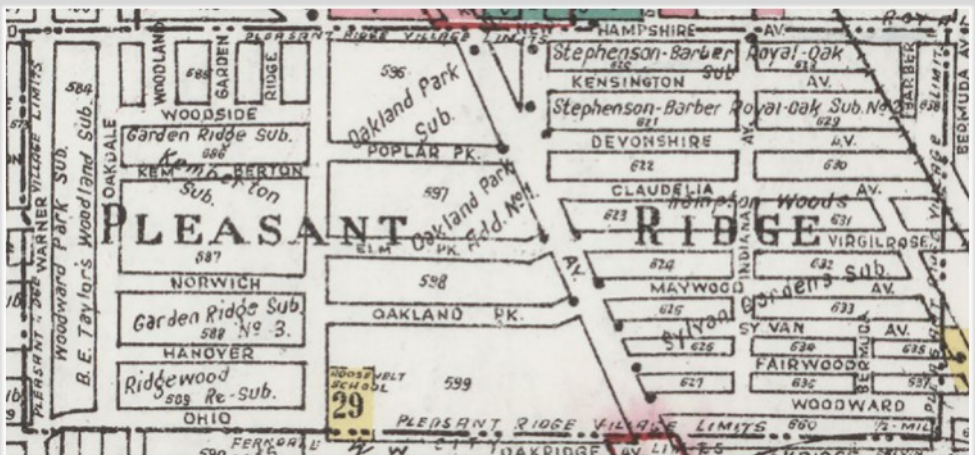
Pontiac, Mich., March 27.—Oakland county supervisors were petitioned Thursday by residents of the district between Royal Oak and Ferndale for authority to incorporate a new village to be known either as Pleasant Ridge or Oakland. The petitioners claim there were 320 persons living in the district. Action was deferred.

- The Detroit Free Press, March 28th, 1919

Oakland to Have New Village.

Royal Oak, Mich., May 20.—Freeholders in the district between Royal Oak and Ferndale voted 86 to 4 at a special election Monday, in favor of incorporating a village to be known as Pleasant Ridge. John G. Barry, Edward Goodrich, Luther K. Marshall, James N. McDonald and Charles Staff were named as commissioners.

- The Detroit Free Press, May 21st, 1919



EARLY PR STREETS – ADAPTED FROM THE 1926 FERNDALÉ SANBORN MAP



The Rogers Sanctuary

• GARDEN AND GROUNDS OPEN •

The lovely Tudor home of Felix and Caroline Rogers was built in 1926. The Rogers are the third owners, having purchased the home in 1979. Although their original urban lot included a garden, they began creating their English Cottage Garden in 1989 when they purchased the adjacent lot. What the visitor sees today is the outline of the garden Jim Slezinski of Goldner Walsh began, greatly enhanced by Felix who describes himself as having “garden pathology.”

This garden sanctuary includes a summer house which has been decorated by Caroline with the help of designers at Pelmutter Freiwald in Franklin. The summer house sits at the back of the yard so that the visitor has a lovely view of the entire garden. The yard also includes a patio, fishpond, a pinewood greenhouse and two other shaded sitting areas. Be sure to notice Felix’ bonsai throughout the garden and near the waterfall that is a part of the pond.

Felix enhances the garden three times a year so that it is always in bloom with the variety of colors and plants he and Caroline enjoy. Many of the garden plants in this garden have been grown from seed. Look for the fig tree in a pot near the summer house and the French anemone near the old wall separating the two sections of the garden for something very special.



Congratulations to the Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission on another great house and garden tour.

- *Ralph A. Castelli, Jr.*
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Pleasant Ridge homes turning 100 in 2021:

(according to county tax records)

3 Amherst Rd

126 Cambridge Blvd

48 Fairwood Blvd

16 Kensington Blvd

23 Kensington Blvd

24 Kensington Blvd

60 Kensington Blvd

69 Kensington Blvd

76 Woodward Heights Blvd

90 Kensington Blvd

95 Kensington Blvd

27 Oakdale Blvd

14 Oakland Park Blvd

19 Oakland Park Blvd

28 Woodside Park Blvd

10 Woodward Heights Blvd

38 Woodward Heights Blvd

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The Assemany/Zook Sanctuary

• GARDEN AND GROUNDS OPEN •

When David Assemany and his husband Jeffery Zook moved into their 1936 home in 1999, the back yard was covered with 40 weed trees - not one of the beautiful garden beds you are viewing existed. Once the trees were removed, the yard was a blank slate: except for the large 200-year-old White Oak, which remains in what is now the back garden.

This lovely American/English garden sanctuary contains several separate gardens and a pond that was installed in 2000. Two Adirondack chairs are placed near the pond, so that the garden can be admired from close by with a view to the back and side gardens. David, who is the gardener of the pair, dug all the gardens before 2005. Since then, he has planted and improved each of the garden areas. Since Jeff is a musician with the Detroit Symphony, one might assume that his music inspired the garden.

The carriage house, which is used as a garden shed, is a bit of a mystery. Researching the old plats on Ohio Street, as Cambridge was known in 1914, shows that the lot of 56 Ridge Road went as far back as, but did not include, the 109 Cambridge property. It is possible that before 109 was built, the owner of 56 Ridge placed the outbuilding just over the line - on property he did not own!

David was influenced by a botanist who knew all about plants, but not lovely gardens, and a friend who knew all about creating a charming garden, but nothing about the taxonomy of plants. This is one of the most beautiful spaces in Pleasant Ridge.



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The Kellett Sanctuary

• GARDEN AND GROUNDS OPEN •

25 Woodside Park Blvd was built in 1927 with Charles Kellett taking ownership in 1995. In 1998, Charles added a two-story addition that opened up the kitchen and added a family room that faced the garden. A second-floor master suite, overlooking the gardens completed the addition.

Walking up the front walkway, flanked by roses, you will notice how it seems to frame the porch with its sloping roof and nice sitting area in warm weather. Rounding out the front yard are two shade trees – a Japanese Elm (Zelkova) to the right, nearer the house, and an American Elm (Princeton) on the city right-of-way near the street.

To the rear of the house, there is access via a gate by the driveway to a brick walk – which leads to the outdoor patio. As you approach the patio, your attention is drawn to a running stream with three waterfalls. The patio is sheltered by the house on two sides and on the third side are boxwood, rhododendrons and a serviceberry tree. There is a Persian Ironwood tree next to the patio toward the water feature, which gives welcome shade to the patio. There is also a pergola over the patio, giving it a feeling of seclusion.

In addition, the backyard is home to two ornamental trees – a Kousa Dogwood next to the patio walkway and a Pagoda Dogwood further back near the garage. Rounding out the backyard foliage is another American Elm (Princeton) and a Japanese Maple which help to shade the yard.

Charles finds both the front porch and the patio enjoyable spots for sitting and relaxing – his sanctuaries. Quite often in nice weather, you will see Charles on his front porch enjoying his morning coffee, reading the paper and saying hello to friends passing by on their morning walk. The patio is naturally more private and an ideal place to read, enjoy the sounds of the waterfalls and visiting songbirds. It's also the ideal spot to have a friend stop by for a glass of wine and a chat.



The Arbor/Bogner Sanctuary

• GARDEN AND GROUNDS OPEN •

John Bogner and Lynn Arbor bought their mid-century house in 1995. The selling point for John was the attached garage where he could do some woodworking, Lynn's was having a backyard that was visible from the living room as she loves Gardening!!! As they were putting in the gardens along the fence on the east and south sides and even when they did the circular drive in the front – they found buried treasure. Beautiful squared off stones that according to local legend were part of Pleasant Ridges' own Wilcox Castle. They've used them for raised beds and borders throughout the yard. John put that woodworking shop to good use to build the shed, up-cycling a neighbor's privacy fence that was no longer wanted.

When Lynn contemplates the word Sanctuary, she sees a place where you find peace and commune with nature. She loves sitting on her screened back porch, watching the birds and butterflies and always includes pollinator friendly plants in her gardens. While the baby rabbits are cute, they do love her broccoli, cabbage, and kale. She works hard (but it is good exercise) to make it interesting and pretty. It's constant change - plants and pavers tried different ways. Time spent in the garden takes her mind off those news-worthy negative things you can't control.

Their garden includes espalier apple trees, vegetables, herbs, flowers, blueberries, cherry bushes, raspberries, and strawberries. There's a watering dish for bees and butterflies near a milkweed. For fun, since their neighbors garage back wall is a foot from the property line, they've hung it with junk picked mirrors; and there's a watering can floating over a raised bed.

It also has crabgrass, purslane, violets, and a lot of other weeds. They weed, but do not worry if some get missed - perfection equals stress, and that's no way to have a sanctuary.

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The Kulikowski Sanctuary

• GARDEN AND GROUNDS OPEN •

Chip and Amy Kulikowski love Pleasant Ridge so much, that when the opportunity presented itself in 2013, they moved from Oakdale Blvd to their current house at 11 Elm Park Blvd. Since then, they have made many exterior improvements, including: replacement of front and backyard landscaping, replacement of the driveway (the old driveway bricks have been reused throughout the current landscaping), repairs and refurbishment of the tennis court - which included installation of new basketball/tennis nets and their most loved feature of the yard - the multi-sport court surface.

This is the last remaining privately-owned tennis court in the city and is original to the home, (originally built for Dr. Frank and Martha Goodrich, completed 1937). According to historical records, Dr. Frank Goodrich was a tennis lover and had the court built when the house was constructed in 1937. He was a physician at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and would often have other doctors over to play.

Having this space has allowed them to have additional quality family time. They are an active family (two young boys) and find that having the court in their yard provides many options for outdoor activities year-round. They are often on the court playing tennis, basketball, volleyball, badminton, roller hockey, baseball, and football. In the winter, they use the surface as the base for an ice-skating rink. For those not participating in athletic activities, there are multiple comfortable seating areas from which to watch. This past year was spent making updates to the Tennis House. The facility originally used for storage has been converted into an outdoor entertainment space, complete with a grill, a fold down tabletop, privacy curtains and outdoor television. They hope guests feel welcomed and enjoy this unique space as much as they do.

A Special Thank You...

The Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission extends special thanks to our docents, advertisers and the following individuals and organizations for making this tour possible:

Carol Zupan

Felix and Caroline Rogers

David Assemany and Jeffery Zook

Charles Kellett

Lynn Arbor and John Bogner

Bob Obringer and Lauran Howard

Robert Campbell and Don Daniels

The Pleasant Ridge Woman's Club

Dennis Spatafora

Don and Linda Copus,

Hungry Howie Pizza

Barbie Barber

The Pleasant Ridge Garden Club

Thomas Treuter

Amy Allison

Amy and Chip Kulikowski

Kersten Emsley

Shawnie Stamper

Kate Redmond and Marc Levine

Greg Calbeck

Vince Rizzo

2021 Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission

Amber Herrick

Don Daniels

Colleen McKenna

Jackie Huffman

Rosemary Spatafora

Lauran Howard

Lisa Wetzen

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Samantha Chapman

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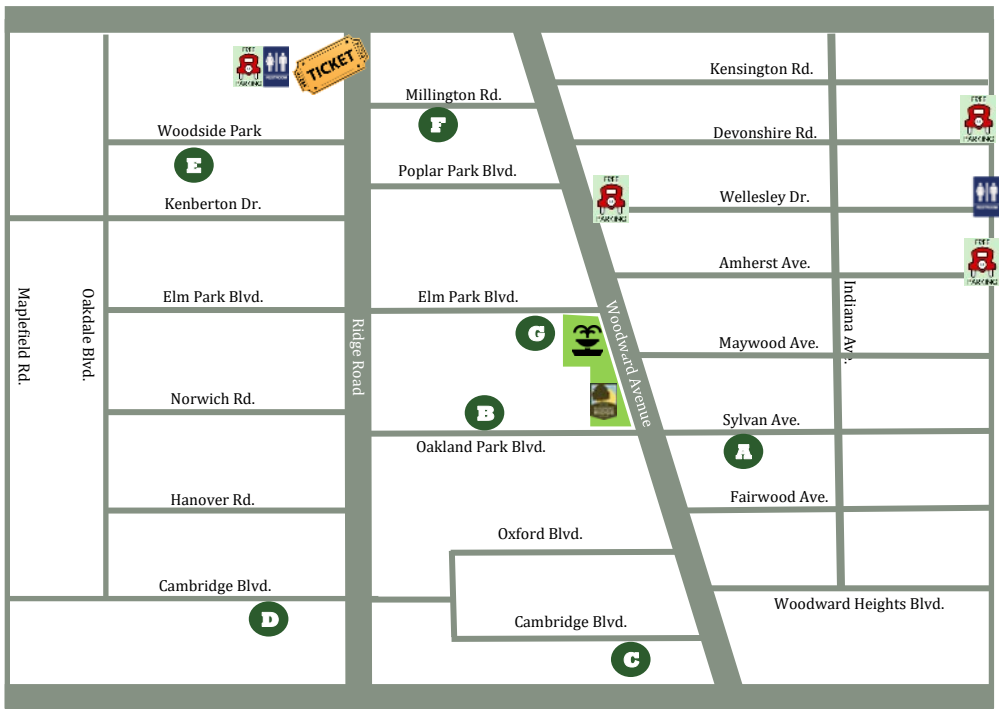
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Outdoor Sanctuaries of Historic Pleasant Ridge

No cameras please.

- A** The Redmond/Levine Sanctuary
8 Sylvan Ave.
- B** The Howard/Obringer Sanctuary
22 Oakland Park Blvd.
- C** The Rogers Yard and Sanctuary
15 Cambridge Blvd.
- D** The Assemany/Zook Sanctuary
109 Cambridge Blvd.
- E** The Kellett Sanctuary
25 Woodside Park Blvd.
- F** The Arbor/Bogner Sanctuary
19 Millington Rd.
- G** The Kulikowski Sanctuary
11 Elm Park Blvd.
-  Pleasant Ridge Historical Museum
Including Wildflower and Pollinator Gardens
(Tickets at 4 Ridge this year)
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-  Memorial Park
-  Parking Areas



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