



HOMES & GARDENS of HISTORIC PLEASANT RIDGE

Featuring Six Beautiful Homes & Gardens

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 10 AM–4 PM (RAIN OR SHINE)

HOSTED BY THE PLEASANT RIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Welcome to Historic Pleasant Ridge!

Welcome to the 2023 Pleasant Ridge Home and Garden Tour.

The commission appreciates the generosity of the residents who have opened their homes and garden sanctuaries for us this year as well as the docents, city employees and advertisers who help make the day successful.

The unique homes and wonderful garden spaces on this year's tour reflect the diversity and character of our city, and contribute to its rich history and present day charm. We hope you will enjoy your time exploring our city's homes, and make sure to search out the painting reproductions from the DIA's Inside|Out program!.

Funds from this tour will be used for Historical Commission projects, including maintenance of the Historical Museum and digitization of our files and archives for easier resident access! If you have any other ideas for a project for us please do not hesitate to mention it to a member of the commission.

The museum is open to the public the third Saturday of each month, except August, from 10:00 am to noon, or by appointment through City Hall. We have also begun opening the museum during other times such as during this tour and on the night of the Tree Lighting.

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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The Hall/Sherman-Hall Garden

• GARDEN AND GROUNDS OPEN •

George Hall and Susie Sherman-Hall have lived at 63 Maywood since February 2000, a home built in 1925 that is believed to have been first owned by George A. Delaney and his wife. Some recent improvements include the hunter green exterior, a 2.5 car garage built by the prior owners Gary and Stacey Grant, and a second-floor bath added by the Odette family.

The front garden, expanded significantly since 2000, is hard to miss. Centered around a crabapple tree on the left and rose of Sharon on the right, the plantings wrap around both sides of the house and front walk. The garden combines traditional English and native plant elements attracting butterflies and hummingbirds. Designed for a long-lasting display, you'll find eight months of color from early spring to late fall.

The porch features simple yet effective planters with Pennisetum, sweet potato vines, and sweet alyssum. The rest of the front area includes a mix of plants like lavender, sedum, rhododendrons, and azaleas, complemented by fall favorites such as mums.

The backyard has seen a lot of changes, especially after a 2017 kitchen addition and a tree loss in 2020. The garden was redesigned with new fences, a watering system, and a functional hydroponic tower for growing vegetables. Two fountains add a peaceful atmosphere, and there's even a dog-friendly area for the family pets to enjoy.

Recent additions include three Japanese Maples, "Green Giant" Arborvitae, gooseneck, and fountain grasses. In contrast, the large lilac tree, forsythia, crabapple tree, and the rose of Sharon in the front have been here longer than they have!

Unique features like rain barrels and a water pump system round out this outdoor space, making it both beautiful and functional. Ask Susie, an Advanced Master Gardener, for a demonstration!



The Wetzen/McElroy Home

• HOME AND GARDEN OPEN •

Lisa Wetzen and Doug McElroy, purchased 27 Oakland Park Blvd. from Richard and Patti Rossman in 2017. The house was originally built for George and Sarah Welch in 1940, George being the president of Michigan Bell Telephone.

The house exterior features tan clapboard siding, white trim, and plum-colored shutters, with a teal front door focal point. Inside, the home is decorated in an updated English Country style, blending eclectic furnishings and art collections, including Tramp Art frames, Oriental rugs, and mid-century pottery.

The three-story home has multiple functional spaces. The first floor houses the main living areas, while the second floor features a suite, offices, and guest spaces. The third floor and basement offer additional living and utility areas. Make sure to take a look at the basement bar area! In the past six years, the house has undergone significant renovations, including a new roof, furnace, and electrical system, and updating five bathrooms!

The English Country garden complements the home's interior style. The front of the Georgian Colonial home sets a stately tone, framed by tidy boxwood and featuring a notable tri-colored beech. Two large iron stags stand guard at the entrance, often festively decorated for holidays.

The more elaborate backyard is designed for relaxation and entertaining. A koi pond serves as a tranquil focal point, surrounded by beds filled with a variety of specimen plantings and punctuated by garden art. Vintage 1960s patio furniture offers multiple seating areas for outdoor enjoyment. Renovations extend to the outdoor space, including rebuilt patios and pond.



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The Miller Home

• HOME AND GROUNDS OPEN •

Amy and Mark Miller moved into the 1932 Tudor Revival at 36 Cambridge in 2017. The Millers are only the third family to own this distinct three-story house, which was originally built in 1932 by Arthur E. Strawser for his family.

The home's exterior combines brick, stone, stucco, and cedar shake siding in a palette of white, gray, and brownish-red. Ivy graces the west side of the home, adding a touch of natural elegance. Inside, the Millers describe their decor as "A Modern Classic," blending modern elements with classic vintage touches. On the main floor, the kitchen was recently updated to enhance both functionality and ease of entertaining. Although the layout was reconfigured, Amy and Mark seamlessly integrated the new design with the home's original character. They reused the original plaster ceiling medallion and had custom leaded-glass windows made to match the existing leaded-glass features throughout the home. Upstairs, the second floor contains the family bedrooms, while the third floor – the next project on their list – contains a non-functioning bathroom and future area for the kids.

Other remodel projects that the Millers have carried out since moving in include updating the living room, office, and refreshing the other three bathrooms in the house. The backyard has also been recently updated, with the previous three-season room being removed. As you walk out of the kitchen to the patio area, notice the leaded-glass of the French doors, expertly repaired more than once, thanks to the Millers' energetic dog.



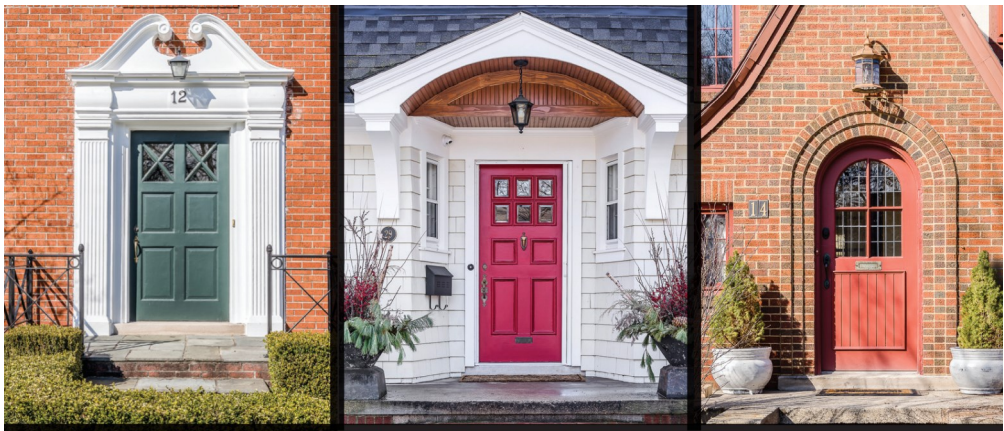
The Rogers Garden & Sanctuary

• 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, recently renovated 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 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.



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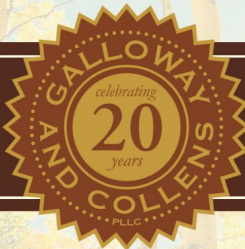
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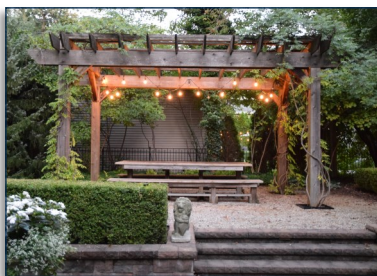


The Herron/Husby Sanctuary

• GARDEN AND GROUNDS OPEN •

Jean Herron and Jeff Husby have lived in the 1928 English Arts & Crafts/Tudor revival-style house at 89 Oakdale Blvd since 2017. The home's original owner, D.H. Van Hove, was an automotive innovator with multiple patents. The house has seen other notable residents, including automotive journalist Karl Ludvigsen.

Jean and Jeff have been working constantly to restore the interior of the home, which we hope will be highlighted on a future home tour when it is complete! The house retains many original features, such as mostly original wavy glass windows and a unique arched fireplace in the living room. In the rear of the home is a sunroom that was added in the early 1940s. The exterior features red brick, including clinker brick, and stucco and half-timbering on the second floor.



The gardens offer a blend of semi-formal design and natural beauty. The front yard features a curving walkway framed by ornamental pear trees, leading to the original arched doorway. Panicle hydrangeas and multi-trunked Kousa Dogwood and Serviceberry trees add to the aesthetic, framed by low boxwood hedges. Their backyard is a secluded oasis featuring a raised pergola dining area that can host up to 12 people for various gatherings. A

vintage 1940s fireplace shed sits hidden from casual view and serves as a cozy corner for wine, cocktails, and conversations. The garden is punctuated by a variety of hydrangeas and unique roses, including the Queen of Sweden and Pope John Paul II hybrid teas. Decorative urns and vintage pots are strategically placed throughout the yard, and the garden paths lead you through a scenic arrangement framed by a fieldstone border.



The McKenna Home

• HOME AND GROUNDS OPEN •

John and Colleen McKenna purchased 15 Millington from the Kelly family as a “project house” in 2016 after they became empty nesters. The house was built in 1929, using reclaimed stone & slate from the Wilcox “Castle” that once reigned in Pleasant Ridge (1894-1928). It was built as the “model home” for the recently platted Wilcox Subdivision, but due to unfortunate circumstances (i.e., Depression & WWII), it would stand alone on Millington until the next house was completed in 1948. That timeline might explain the unexpected room in the basement. The majority of the houses on Millington were built in the 1950s using post war materials and design.

This Dutch Colonial still retains many of the 1920s Art Deco details and an original 1929 bathroom. The original Jack-n-Jill bathroom (with shower stall) linking the front bedrooms was converted to an ensuite for one of the front rooms in the early 1990s. The kitchen was first remodeled in the 1990s, and then to its current configuration in 2017. An addition using the footprint of the original screened-in back porch was completed in 2022, turning the back bedroom into a primary suite complete with bathroom and walk-in closet, and the porch into a fully enclosed room for year-round use.

The house shares its double-lot and gardens with a remarkable 450-year-old oak tree. Arborists have told us that the tree is a remnant of a line of similar oaks that once followed the path of the Saginaw Trail, located about 100 yards to the west, near where Ridge Rd. is now. All of the stones found throughout the extensive perennial gardens are also from the Wilcox Castle.

Pleasant Ridge Garden Club



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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:

Felix and Caroline Rogers

Lisa Wetzen and Doug McElroy

John and Coleen McKenna

Amy and Mark Miller

Robert Campbell and Don Daniels

Barbie Barber

Dennis Spatafora

Don, Linda and Ryan Copus,

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George Hall and

Susie Sherman-Hall

Kersten Emsley

Shawnie Stamper

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The Pleasant Ridge Woman's Club

2023 Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission

Lauren O'Reilly

Sarah Council

Colleen McKenna

Jackie Huffman

Rosemary Spatafora

Nick Ziems

Lisa Wetzen

Nick Kokotovich

Mark Campbell

Katy Schmier,

City Commission Liaison





The Pleasant Ridge Historical Museum

In the Old Police Booth
behind City Hall

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Pleasant Ridge welcomes the DIA's Inside|Out

The DIA brings high-quality reproductions from its collection to outdoor venues throughout metro Detroit to increase engagement between the museum and its diverse audience. Between May and October residents of Macomb, Wayne and Oakland counties will be able to enjoy a piece of the DIA in their own community! Each community will display a number of reproductions outdoors clustered within walking or biking distance. Pleasant Ridge will have art on display through October — check out the map below to see what works are on display and where to locate them!

DIA INSIDE|OUT



- 1 **Flynn Field**
68 Sylvan Ave
Saint Jerome in His Study, Jan van Eyck



- 2 **Gainsboro/Victory Park**
Violinist and Young Woman, Edgar Degas



- 3 **Gainsboro/Victory Park**
Seaweed Friends, Camille Pissarro



- 4 **Gainsboro Park Trail**
Leisure Hours, John Everett Millais



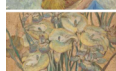
- 5 **PR Dog Park**
Talking Oak, William Maw Egley



- 6 **Pleasant Ridge City Hall**
23915 Woodward Ave
Winter Landscape in Moonlight, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner



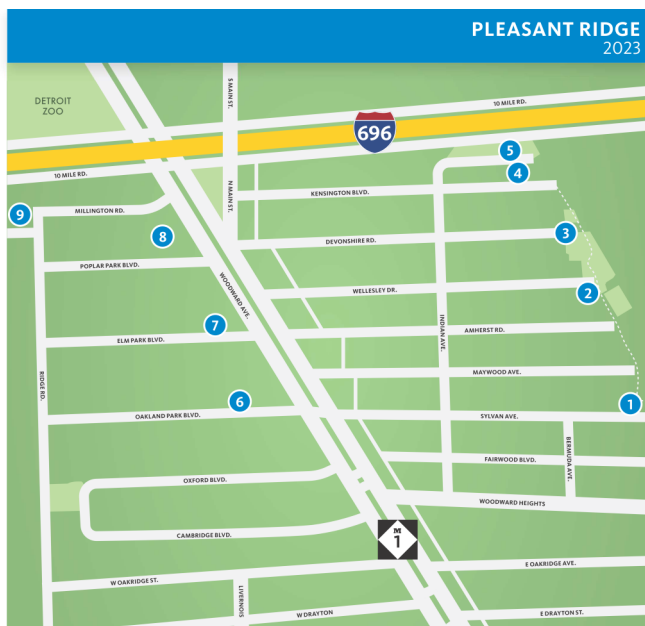
- 7 **Woodward Greenbelt**
Self Portrait, Vincent van Gogh



- 8 **Woodward Greenbelt**
Innes and Callie Liles, Maria Oakley Dewing



- 9 **Pleasant Ridge Community Pool**
8 Ridge Rd
Portrait of Sophia, Princess Palatine, Gerrit van Honthorst



Inside|Out brings reproductions of great treasures from the Detroit Institute of Arts into your community. Discover them all around town. Visit dia.org/insideout for maps of other communities and information on upcoming programs.

Use hashtags #DIAInsideOut and #InsideOutUSA to post your experience! Follow us on:



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DIA Inside|Out Bus Tour of Pleasant Ridge

Join us in a DIA docent lead bus tour around Pleasant Ridge to see the nine art installations listed above!

This Thursday, September 28th at 6:30 PM

You must pre-register at: <https://pleasantridge.activityreg.com/>

Homes & Gardens of Historic Pleasant Ridge

No cameras please.

A The Hall/Sherman-Hall Garden
63 Maywood Ave.

B The Wetzen/McElroy Home
27 Oakland Park Blvd.

C The Miller Home
36 Cambridge Blvd.

D The Rogers Yard and Sanctuary
15 Cambridge Blvd.

E The Herron/Husby Sanctuary
89 Oakdale Blvd.

F The McKenna Home
15 Millington Rd.

DIA Detroit Institute of Arts Inside|Out
art reproduction location
(see inside the back cover for more information)



Pleasant Ridge Historical Museum
Including Wildflower and Pollinator Gardens
(Tickets at 4 Ridge this year)



4 Ridge
Pleasant Ridge Community Center
Tickets, Restroom & Parking



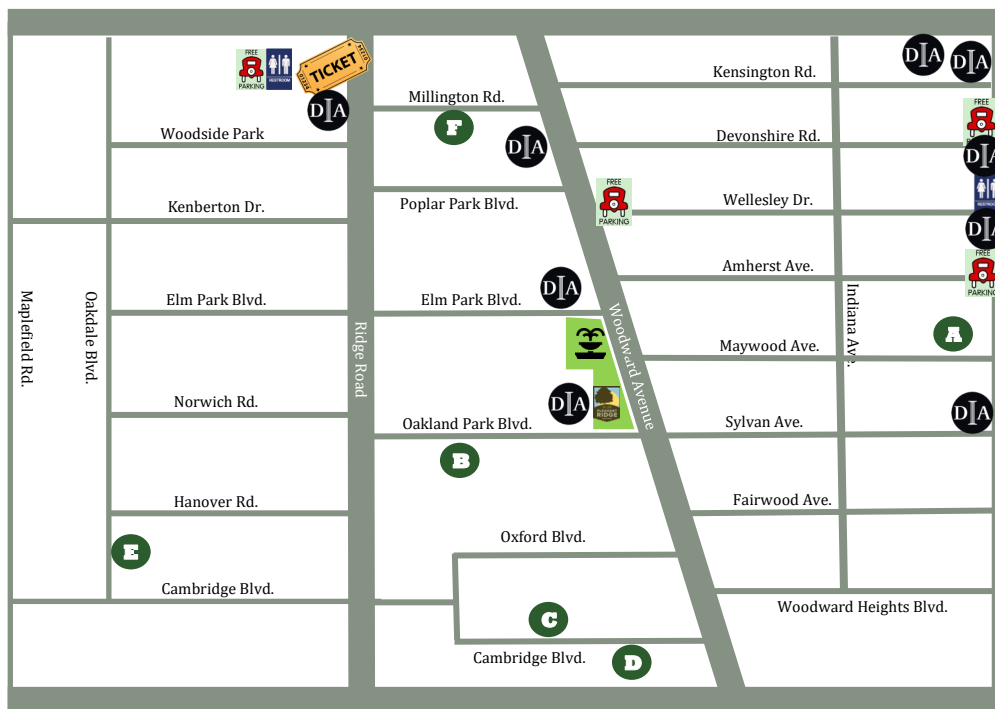
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Restrooms & Parking



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