2007.10 woodland park improvement association



President's Page

What's new and what's been going on in our neighborhood since the last newsletter

Featured Residence

Take a look inside 631 W. Drayton, a renovated Dutch colonial built in 1919

WPIA in 1969

Stormy weather during a neighborhood wedding rehearsal

Beautification Award

All about the most recent home to win our beautification award

> Michigan's Oldest Block Association Formed in 1924

> > About | Archives: vpiaferndale.org



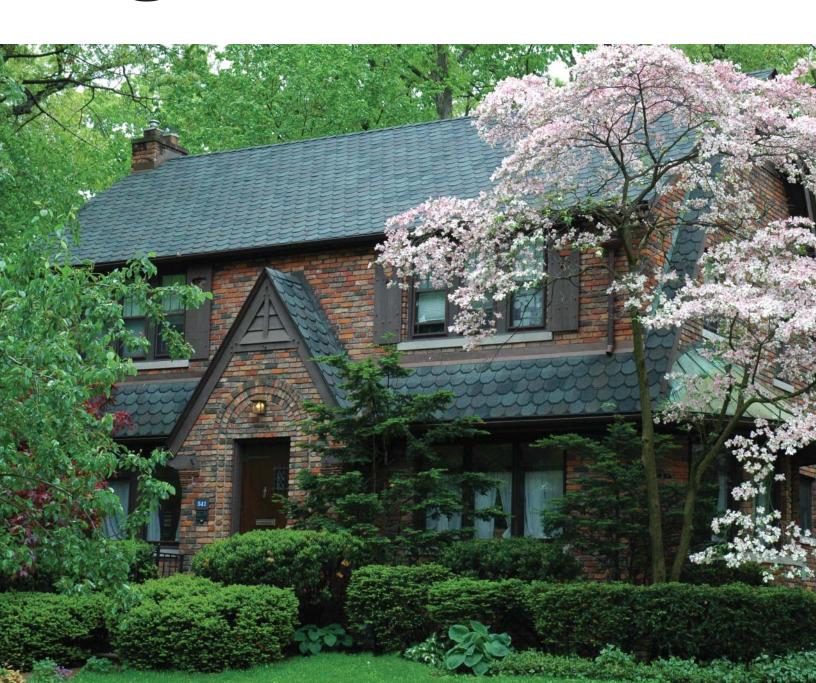


President's Page

I hope absence makes the heart grow fonder, as I'm sure some of you have been curious what's been happening over the last few years with our block association. There's a contingent of new residents (Welcome!) who must be curious about us as well. To avail yourself to our purpose and activities through the years, please visit us online at www.wpiaferndale.org. A newsletter archive is also available in PDF format. Please visit often for updates.

Where to begin? We've been able to continue to provide snow plowing services through the same contractor for a few years now. Unfortunately our collections have significantly declined and we sought other means to supplement our collections. We were also duped \$220 for an order we placed with our previously reliable beautification plaque vendor.

And for those reasons, you are reading the first all-electronic edition of the Woodland Park newsletter. When each newsletter is available online, your block director will distribute a small flyer to residents as the notification process. Block directors may survey their blocks to see if there is a need to print out copies for those that cannot access the internet (internet access is available



free at our library). The added benefits to providing the newsletter online are • we are not limited to length or printing in black and white • internet links are active • we save printing costs and this format also • allows opportunty to showcase the beauty of our neighborhood.

We were able to secure monies from local businesses in exchange for advertising space. That's a first. And because I am tardy producing this newsletter, my apologies to our advertisers. Without that advertising revenue—which was substantial—we would not have been able to pay our snow plow contractor last winter. If you or any business you know is interested in advertising, please contact me. I hope the new look and content length of this issue can somehow compensate for its absence.

Being able to pay our monthly winter snow plowing bill has become tenuous each passing year. I remain hopeful that dues collection will increase and we can continue to provide wonderful benefits for everyone (luminaries on Christmas Eve, sidewalk snow plowing, Annual Beautification Award, organized yard sales every 18 months, an online presence, a newsletter, etc.) year-after-year.

It's never too late or too early to pay your \$15 yearly dues. Refer to the list on the last page for block director information.

I would also like to express special thanks to those residents—you know who you are—who have supported our association above and beyond, whether it's through volunteer efforts or those who generously give more to either cover dues for a neighbor or pays an extra \$50 a year. It is extremely kind of you to help and make a difference.

The beauty of our neighborhood always enthralls me. The multitude of architectural and landscape details is stunning. Thank you for making Woodland Park the best place to live!

hund bei



Treasurer's Report and Update

Katrina Collins reports that our bank balance is \$836.30. This isn't enough money to make our first payment prior to December 1st, so please pay your dues as soon as possible.

There is no need to wait until your block director makes their rounds. If we don't have the money for the first installment payment of \$1,000 before December 1st, we will not have sidewalk snow plow services. Alternatives to a continued shortfall include discontinuing snow removal for March and/or raising dues.

Street	2007	High1
Upper Oakridge	75%	88%
Lower Oakridge	15%	95%
Upper Drayton	93%	95%
Lower Drayton	73%	84%
Upper Woodland	50%	93%
Lower Woodland	51%	95%
Upper Maplehurst	85%	95%
Lower Maplehurst	58%	75%
Lower Lewiston	64%	80%
Total ²	65%	

2007: 211 of 325 homes paid

¹Highest percentage collected since 2001 ²Includes donations by residents

Valuable Coupon





Some members of the wedding party in the backyard of 333 W. Woodland, August 16, 1968.



"For some reason, I'm playing with a yo-yo," Jeff says. "It may have been a gag gift".



A groomsman's Volkswagen Beetle slightly afloat in front of 333 W. Woodland

Stormy Night

How a neighborhood wedding rehearsal turned very wet.

Two years ago I was contacted by Jeff Renner, who discovered our association's website and recognized the photo of his wife's maternal aunt and uncle's home (333 W. Woodland). Their names were Joyce and Eddie Myron. Jeff says Joyce and Eddie lived in the house from the 1950s to the 80s. The Myrons may have bought the house directly from Lyman and Ada Gardner, his wife's paternal aunt and uncle.

On August 16, 1968, Jeff and his fiancée, Nancy Gardner, had a wedding rehearsal dinner at the Myrons' home and then proceeded to Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church for the rehearsal. Toward the end of the rehearsal, a huge thunderstorm began. There were flying branches and debris everywhere. Power lines were down. There was speculation that it may have been a tornado.

Jeff explains, "We sat on the inside steps at the back of the church and watched the storm. Trees around the parking lot were blowing like trees in a hurricane."

"There were downed trees blocking Woodland," Jeff continues. "I rolled up my trousers and waded to a darkened 333 W. Woodland. The whole wedding party played cards by candlelight. All of the streets were flooded. The water came part-way up front lawns making the neighborhood look like a lakefront community. A groomsman's Volkswagen Beetle was slightly afloat at the curb in front of the house. He had to head back to Ann Arbor and water flooded the floor when he opened the door since the level was still high. The car still started and he was on his way."

"Thankfully, the wedding day was beautiful. However, the Zoo lost many old, big trees and it took weeks to clean up," Jeff recalls.

Jeff's wife, Nancy, grew up on Sherman Avenue in Oak Park. They met at U of M. Her father was A. K. Gardner, a physics teacher at Ferndale High from the 1930s through the 1960s. His wife, Virginia, was a school librarian in the Oak Park Schools from the 1950s through the 1970s.

Jeff and Nancy are still married and live in Ann Arbor. They have two children, Matt, 32 who is stationed in Virginia Beach as a F/A-18 pilot. He just finished three years as a TOPGUN instructor. Their daughter, Emily, is 28 and married with a nine-month old daughter. She lives in LA.

Jeff operates a wholesale French bread bakery in their home and Nancy works at U of M Hospital as a hematology lab administrator.

Stories such as these add to the character of our neighborhood. Do you have an interesting neighborhood story or old photographs from the neighborhood or of downtown? Want to share a story? Send an email to kbreenbo@comcast.net.

Did You Know?

Some interesting facts were discovered upon review of our archives.

- Drayton was formerly named Elmdale Avenue.
- Livernois was named Stafford Avenue.
- Oakridge was originally given the Boulevard designation, as was Woodland.
- The entire strip of Pinecrest was originally named Ridge Road. In 1925 when Woodward was widened and the association was formed the year prior to prevent property condemnation by the state, our properties were subdivided and streets were renamed with the "west" directional.
- 1/2" iron pins in the ground near the street intersections and alleys are from survey teams that originally platted the neighborhoods.
 They go down 18" into the ground.
- In 1948 the asking price for 436 W. Drayton was \$30,000.

Source: 1914 and 1925 Plats filed with Oakland County that map our entire association. Click here to view.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of association records prior to the 1940s, please contact Karen Breen-Bondie at 248.399.2607. It appears our archives are not complete.

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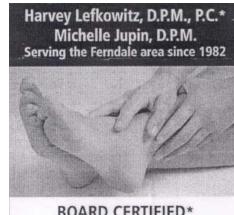
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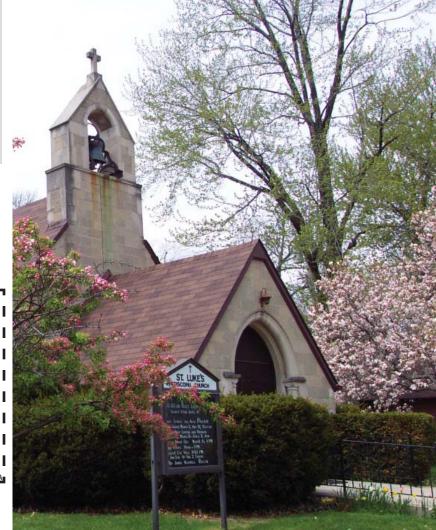
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Sherwin Williams Offer

In 2005, we distributed a Sherwin-Williams paint store discount card to each household. The discount program is called "Neighbor-to-Neighbor."

When you use the card at any Sherwin-Williams store, you receive a 20% discount on any regularly priced item and 5% off any sale priced item.

Our association receives a yearly accumulated cash-back bonus with each purchase. We have received \$115.20 thus far! Thank you to everyone who bought items and used their card.

If you have family or friends who would like to receive this card, email kbreenbo@comcast.net.

Historic Designation Vision

As an ongoing project, I have been documenting each home for neighborhood-wide registration application for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I've been working on this project, off and on, for a few years now; if you'd like to see the photos that have been taken of our neighborhood over the last few years, here is the link.

In addition to helping to maintain the character of homes and neighborhoods of a historic district, historic designation of the association allows property owners within the district to enjoy tax breaks for improvements they make on their property. Homeowners are eligible for state tax breaks of up to 25 percent of the cost of the rehabilitation project, while commercial or rental property owners can take advantage of a combination of state and federal tax breaks of up to 25 percent.

Designation alone does not restrict a homeowner to certain standards, only if a homeowner seeks to take advantage of the tax breaks. Residents can also apply for tax credits for work retroactive five years.





Classic Style

Homeowners Edward Repka and Charles Robrecht's first home was in Royal Oak. They looked south to Ferndale when they wanted a larger home.

They have lived in this home on West Drayton for only three years with their dog, Murphy, a golden retriever, yet they have transformed a rather ordinary Dutch colonial into a classy abode. They're no strangers to Woodland Park either. They previously lived at 334 W. Oakridge and were transferred out-of-state for two years. When it was time to return, they didn't have to look any further than our charming neighborhood.

It is easy to note the exterior changes: a new portico with four substantial columns, a two and half car garage and a self-designed landscape plan. Nothing short of traditional architectural splendor. Inside they have added on to the first floor to include a den, relocated the half bath and completely renovated the kitchen.

The house is approximately 2,000 square feet with nine rooms, four bedrooms and one and one-half baths. They've designed everything themselves.

Research discovered that the home was built in 1919. The previous owners purchased the house in 2001 for \$219,000. Ed and Chuck purchased this house for \$298,500 in 2004.

According to the archives available at the Ferndale Historical Museum, the original owners were Carleton A. and Olga S. Shafer from 1928 through 1959, when records cease. Carleton was an attorney with Truscon Laboratories in Detroit, then Parker Wolverine, Modern Homes, Inc. and Erb Lumber Company on Main Street in Royal Oak (now Haberman Fabrics). John P. and Cher VastBinder lived there during the 80s until 2001.

What's next? Chuck and Ed have set their sights on renovating the second floor. See additional photos of this gorgeous home here.

Thank you for sharing your beautiful home with us.

Would you like to feature your home in the next issue of Homestead? Don't be shy! Email kbreenbo@comcast.net.



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2004 Beautification Award Winner

382 W. Oakridge

Owners: Eric Johnson & Hildy Fleming

Square Footage: 1,950

Baths: 1.5

Price Paid in 1989: \$98,500

Style: English Tudor

Bedrooms: 3 **Year Built:** 1931

Years at this Residence: 18

"We moved into the house in 1989, as the third owners," Hildy states. "One very cool feature is the chunks of coal that are incorporated into the brick work." She adds, "I don't know why, but it's a distinctive part of the house's personality.

Since we moved in, we have made a few minor improvements in the house and one major one: the sun porch, which was built in 2003. We used a wonderful architect who managed to make the addition seemless to the rest of the house. A lot of people don't believe us when we say it's an addition."

Hildy and Eric both exclaim, "We are proud Ferndale residents. We have wonderful neighbors and a neighborhood we're happy to call home!"

Congratulations on behalf of the Beautification Committee. The committee continues to investigate the availability of a beautification plaque at a reasonable price in order to continue this tradition.

Ferndale Historical Museum

Trace your home's history and former owners by visiting our very own Ferndale Historical Museum located at 1651 Livernois. Open every Saturday from 2:00 – 4:00pm. Won't you consider joining the Ferndale Historical Society? Yearly membership is \$10 and includes a very informative quarterly newsletter. Here is an application to join the Ferndale Historical Society. If anyone knows the names of the original home builders in our area, please contact Karen Breen-Bondie, 248.399.2607 or kbreenbo@comcast.net.

Diane O'Neill, at the Museum, spent 10 years researching data for previous owners' of all Ferndlae homes. They are kept in binders by street. Stop by to see them.

12'x 12' historical plaques are available to purchase for your home online for \$85 through the Ferndale Historical Society's website at http://historicferndale.org/store.php. Provide year of house.

Available Online: Historic Downtown Ferndale Photos

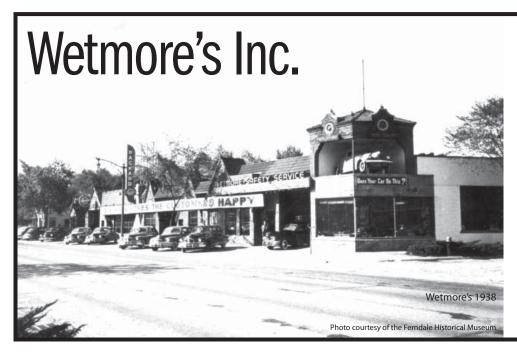
Over the last few years, I have had the opportunity to research historic photos for various projects that the Ferndale Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has worked on through its "BUILD" program. They're compiled and available online for viewing here. Have any photos to add to the collection? Contact Karen Breen-Bondie through channels mentioned above.

Recent NW Ferndale Home Sales

Address	Date ¹	Price
418 W. Maplehurst ²	8/5/07	\$91,000
711 W. Oakridge³	3/11/07	457,000
985 W. Oakridge ³	4/14/07	303,000
220 W. Drayton	9/17/06	110,000
619 W. Woodland	9/10/06	350,000
303 W. Woodland	9/10/06	175,000
261 W. Maplehurst	8/20/06	225,000
272 W. Drayton	6/18/06	242,000
312 W. Woodland	5/14/06	250,000
630 W. Drayton	5/14/06	299,000
202 W. Lewiston*	3/29/06	400,000
641 W. Drayton	3/5/06	298,000

¹Date published in Detroit Free Press

Did you know that zillow.com lists most of our property values? Sales records trace back to at least 1987. If you'd like to see sales records of real estate in our area, click here for the Excel file. Archives go back to 1992.



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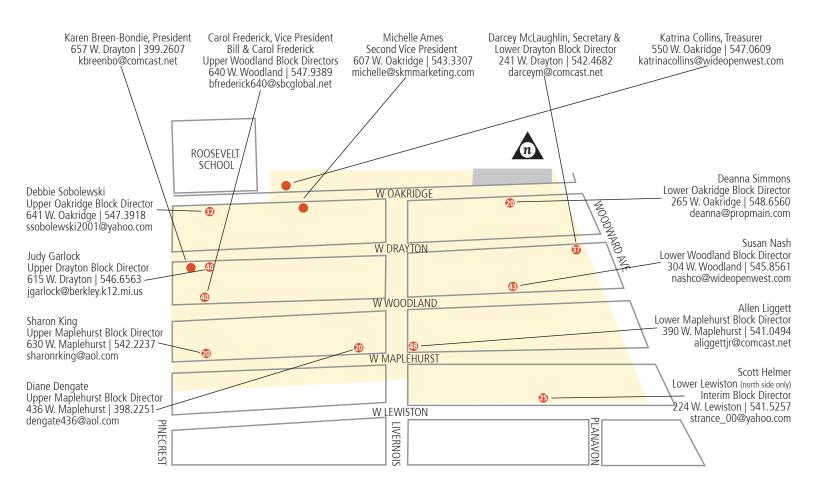
²Land and garage only

³Outside of WPIA border

^{*}Property tear-down due to Woodward Avenue Lofts parking lot



Officers & Block Directors



Featured Photography

Cover - 444 W. Woodland, 371 W. Oakridge

Page 1 - 541 W. Oakridge

Page 2 - 470 W. Lewiston

Page 3 - 657 W. Drayton

Page 4 - Photos courtesy of Jeff Renner

Page 5 - St. Lukes Episcopal Church

Page 6 - (I) 424 W. Oakridge (c) 360 W. Oakridge (r)

631 W. Maplehurst

All color photos by Karen Breen-Bondie

Feedback

Do you have information, suggestions (that you are willing to back) or would like to offer your home to be featured in a future edition of this newsletter, please contact kbreenbo@comcast.

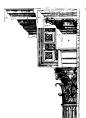
Dues

Your association membership dues are now due and owing. Please keep our long-standing traditions in place by continuing to pay \$15 each year. Drop off payments to your block director (see above) and include your name, address, phone number and email address on your payment. Thank you!

The newsletter of the Woodland Park Improvement Association is produced with the intent to keep residents informed. Please report news to the association president.

2007.10
Produced and Published by

Karen Breen-Bondie , President 657 W. Drayton Avenue, Ferndale, MI 48220-2749 (248) 399.2607 kbreenbo@comcast.net www.wpiaferndale.org



Woodland Park

Improvement Association

march 2011



What's new and happening in our neighborhood since the last newsletter

Featured Residence

Take a look inside 641 W. Oakridge, a Sears kit home built in 1925

WPIA in 1926

An original resident enjoys a visit with present-day owners

Beautification Award

Continuing our annual plaque presentation to a derserving resident



Michigan's Oldest Block Association Formed in 1924

About | Archives: www.wpiaferndale.org

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President's Page

Not unlike everyone else, I often wonder where the time has gone. It was not too long ago that I revamped this very newsletter—proud to have turned out a virtual mini-magazine—when time just slipped away. Lo and behold it's more than three years later and another edition is finally complete.

For those new residents who are are reading this publication for the first time, welcome! We are a friendly group who strives to provide ameneties for the benefit of all. Our block directors (a list is at the end of this issue) are your first line of communication. They ensure that you receive timely notice of meetings, help to distribute the luminaries on Christmas eve, attend board meetings on your behalf, communicate your concerns and praises to the board, distribute notices to all on your block throughout the year, obtain signatures for block sale permits and, of course, collect yearly dues!

Thank you to Bill Frederick (U. Woodland), Sue Nash (L. Woodland) and Judy Garlock (U. Drayton) who have served for many years as block directors. It was a pleasure working with you and we so appreciate your time and efforts over the years. In addition, we welcome Kerry Keener (U. Woodland), Tiffani



(L. Woodland), Jessica Gustke (L. Oakridge) and Garry Andrews (U. Drayton) as new block directors. Thank you for volunteering, Kerry, Tiffani and Garry. There was also a vacancy on Lower Maplehust and I am pleased to announce that Pat Omrans has filled that vacancy. Pat's husband, Mike, will assist her to serve the largest block of our association. Thank you again, everyone.

There have been a few changes to the executive board of officers. At the last board meeting in the fall, two officers stepped down. Carol Frederick, our long-serving vice president, has stepped down. I personally would like to thank Carol for not only her years of service as an officer, block director, block party and yard sale organizer, but for her expertise, knowledge and guidance throughout my tenure as president. Your years of volunteerism are not overlooked by those who know the contributions you have made over the years.

The president's position is also vacant. After 12 years in this position, it is time to move on. I will remain in the capacity of ex officio president until the 2012 annual meeting and will continue on as newsletter publisher and historian.

Please join us on Monday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. at Roosevelt Elementary to see who the nominations committee presents as candidates for this election. In addition, block directors from Oakridge, Woodland and Lewiston are up for election. Nominations from the floor are also accepted. Terms for officers are one year and two years for block directors.

It hasn't been difficult to gather stories or ideas for this issue. They often times present themselves. However, my attention to detail can be my stumbling block. I work hard to present a newsletter that is eyecatching, provide a new perspective on our unique neighborhood and hope the information contained within is enjoyable.

If you have any story ideas and especially old photographs, please contact me at kbreenbo@comcast.net.

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Treasurer's Report and Update

Katrina Collins reports that our bank balance is \$4,833.47. All bills have been paid as of February 22.

February was officially the second snowiest on record and it is has been a difficult year to find a place to put all the snow. It has been way too much for our snow removal Contractors equipment. We will be reviewing our options at our annual meeting. Please join us!

Dues are submitted to your block director. See page 13 for a list of block directors.

Street	2011	High ¹
Upper Oakridge	81%	88%
Lower Oakridge	75%	95%
Upper Drayton	90%	95%
Lower Drayton	67%	84%
Upper Woodland	55%	93%
Lower Woodland	54%	95%
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¹Highest percentage collected since 2001

Valuable Coupon



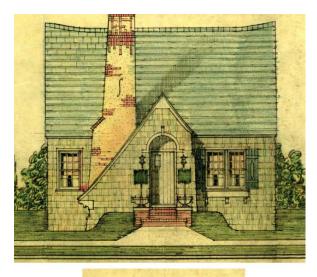


²Includes donations by residents

Jean Dickey Baltzer's family on the porch of their new Ferndale home.



Jean Dickey Baltzer then and now.



· FRONT · ELEVATION ·

The architect's original rendering of 436 W. Maplehurst.

Her Last Visit

Residents visit with original 436 W. Maplehurst occupant.

By Pat Dengate

On a sunny Saturday morning in June of 2006, I went out onto our front porch to find an elderly lady walking up to our house at 436 W. Maplehurst. She smiled warmly and introduced herself as Jean Baltzer. She told me her parents had built our house in late 1925/early 1926, when she was a toddler, and she lived here until the late 1940's! Mrs. Baltzer, whose maiden name was Dickey, was in Michigan from California to bury her husband's ashes in his native Petoskey, and before she went home she wanted to take what might be her last look at the house where she spent so many of her formative years.

I have an intense interest in history, and not two months earlier had said that I wish I had some early photos of our house and knew more about its history. I invited Mrs. Baltzer in, and after helping her up the steps, sat her down in the dining room. What followed was a very pleasant hour visiting, with stories about her family, and what it was like living in our house in the 1920's, '30's, and '40's. Mrs. Baltzer described various neighbors, and also gave me three small photos of the house when it was new.

She was also able to explain some of the quirky things about the house's design, which, through my extensive renovation work, had puzzled me. One example of this is the way a portion of the back of the house (the kitchen) sticks out about 2 feet further than the rest of the house. Doing this required the carpenters to change the pitch of the house in a small area, and created an odd open space above the foundation under which cold winter air sweeps and makes that part of the kitchen floor icy cold. Why on earth did they do this, I wondered? Her father made this design change so that the ice box could sit at that end of the kitchen floor, and drain directly through the floor to the outside! This made it unnecessary to empty a drain pan of melted ice every day. I would never have guessed this explanation.

Regrettably, my wife Diane was not home that day, but our children Liz and Andrew had the opportunity to meet this original occupant of the house they themselves grew up in. Mrs. Baltzer and Liz shared the same bedroom . . . 60 years apart!

The visit was poignant, and when I asked her if it felt strange to be sitting in the house again after so many years, she said, yes — so many memories. We exchanged a few letters after she returned to California, and she very kindly sent me another treasure: the original architect's drawing of the front of the house. I feel very fortunate to have met Mrs. Baltzer. What a great experience.

Stories such as these add to the character of our neighborhood. Do you have an interesting neighborhood story or old photographs from the neighborhood or of downtown? Want to share a story? Send an email to kbreenbo@comcast.net.

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Source: 1914 and 1925 Plats filed with Oakland County that map our entire association. Click here to view.

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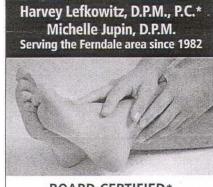
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Home Security Information

This tip came from Lower Drayton resident Neil Wilson. Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will go off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

Try it the next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away. It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the burglar won't stick around and after a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out of their window to see what is going on drawing unwanted attention to the criminal.

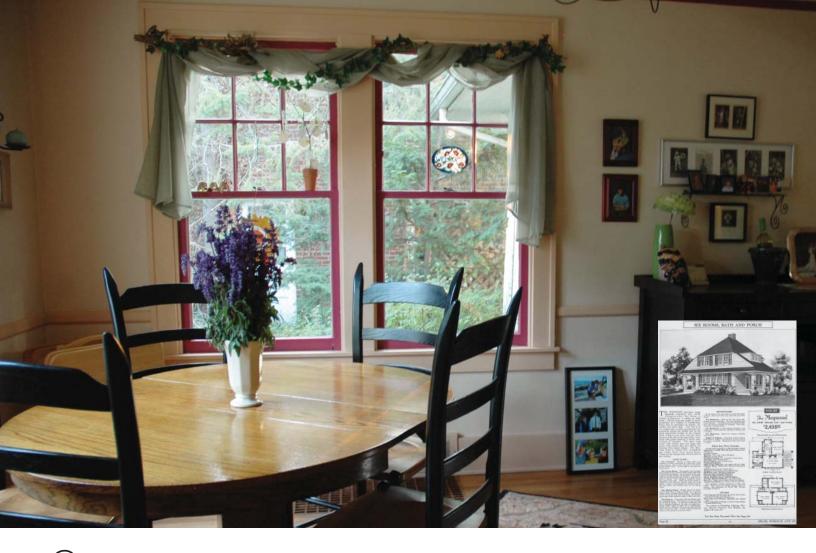
Suggested Plantings

Our resident landscape architect, Stacey Tobar (540 W. Drayton), recommends the following trees, partially because they already exist as street trees in our neighborhood. Most trees that are considered fast growing are weed trees: messy, shallow root system that can damage adjacent pavements and drain pipes.

Tree size matters. If affordable, a 3' caliper tree (diameter of trunk 3' from the ground) that is best for survival and impact of leaf foilage.

Red maple, upright oval shape Honey locust, smaller leaves, round shape Zelkova Gingko, slow growing Any of the new elm hybrids such as Homestead, Allee or Prairie





Sears Mail-Order Home

When Scott and Debbie Sobolewski purchased their home in 1993, they had no idea it was an infamous Sears Mail Order home. It wasn't until the "Maywood" model was located within Ferndale Public Library's own collection of architecture books entitled, "Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company" by Katherine Cole Stephenson that the identification was made. And they were thrilled!

The home was built in 1925 and the Sobolewskis are the third owners. Their sons, Trey (16) and Camden (13) are the first children to live in the home. There are three bedrooms and two full baths. Legend is that the original owner, Mr. Davies, a salesman, invented the banking industry coin change machine. After he had them manufactured, he went on the road and sold them to banks.

The home's interior is pretty much unchanged. At some point, the second owners enclosed the side porch. Also interesting to note is that the house had original air conditioning units with an electrical hookup. The furnace is approximately 50 years old and a heating and cooling expert told them there was no need to replace it, that it's a workhorse and parts are readily available.

The basement was renovated a few years ago but they never found any interesting artifacts in the house. A few years back they attended the Pleasant Ridge arts and crafts show and saw an artist selling a small watercolor of their home. Debbie and Scott were afraid that if they pointed it out to the vendor, suddenly the price would escalate. The artist said she painted it by mistake and confused it with a house she was actually commissioned to paint on West Drayton. The Sobolewskis immediately thought it was another yellow Dutch colonial and were surprised to hear that it was actually a brick house that she had mistaken it for! They purchased the watercolor for \$10. A bargain indeed.

The Sobolewskis truly love our historic neighborhood and were always attracted to living in an older home. They have also enjoyed living across from Roosevelt Elementary. During the PTA's June Fair, they host an annual yard party for their friends.

Would you like to feature your home or nominate the next featured home for the next issue of Homestead? Don't be shy! Email kbreenbo@comcast.net.



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"A Family Commitment of Funeral Service to the Community Since 1927"



2005* Beautification Award Winner

426 W. Maplehurst

Owner: Pam Cummings **Square Footage:** 1,100

Baths: 1.5

Price Paid in 1998: \$124,000

Pam moved into our neighborhood in 1999. She absolutely loves living here and loves her home. She and her brother designed the side portico/arbor because she thought the house needed a little customization and she knew she wanted to incorporate lattice into the design.

She has not uncovered any historical treasures while living there but was thrilled a few years ago when she was approached to use her home in a DTE commercial! They used both the interior and exterior during the all-day shoot. She was thrilled

Style: Frame bungalow

Bedrooms: 3

Year Built: 1924

Years at this Residence: 12.5 years

to see the results used for a new DTE billing system promotion. She recalls that they also used another home in Northville in the same campaign. A few years prior to that her garage was used for a Delphi still advertisment.

Congratulations Pam!

^{*}Our committee was on hiatus until funding could be restored for this worthwhile project and we are happy to report that this great tradition will continue.

Ferndale Historical Museum

Trace your home's history and former owners by visiting our very own Ferndale Historical Museum located at 1651 Livernois. Diane O'Neill, at the museum, spent ten years researching data and archiving Ferndale homeowner information. Information is kept in binders according to street name. Stop by to see them.

If anyone knows the names of the original home builders in our area, please contact Karen Breen-Bondie, 248.399.2607 or kbreenbo@comcast.net.

Won't you consider joining the Ferndale Historical Society? Yearly membership is \$10 and includes a very informative quarterly newsletter. Here is an application to join.

Museum hours: Open every Saturday from 2:00 - 4:00pm.

Available Online:

12" x 12" historical plaques are available to purchase for your home online for \$85 through the Ferndale Historical Society's website at http://historicferndale.org/store.php. Provide the year of your house.

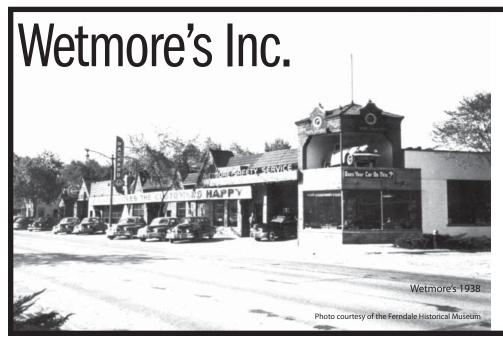
Also, over the last few years, I have had the opportunity to research *historic photos* for various projects that the Ferndale Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has worked on through its "BUILD" program. They're compiled and available online for viewing here. Do you have any photos to add to the collection? Contact Karen Breen-Bondie through channels mentioned above.

Recent NW Ferndale Home Sales

Address	Date ¹	Price
466 W. Drayton	12/3/10	\$162,500
437 W. Drayton	5/26/10	219,000
393 W. Drayton	5/24/10	131,462
630 W. Drayton	3/24/10	185,000
372 W. Lewiston	11/1/09	208,000
361 W. Drayton	3/22/09	127,000
361 W. Oakridge	12/28/08	182,000
886 W. Drayton ²	12/21/08	219,000
531 W. Oakridge	8/3/08	189,000
722 W. Oakridge ²	3/23/08	510,000
245 W. Lewiston ²	3/2/08	252,000
661 W. Lewiston ²	12/30/07	216,000
2271 Pinecrest ²	10/7/07	388,000
227 I I III CCICSC	10/7/07	300,000

¹Date published in Detroit Free Press or zillow.com ²Outside of WPIA border

Did you know that zillow.com lists most of our property values? Sales records trace back to at least 1987. If you'd like to see sales records of real estate in our area, click here for the Excel file. Archives go back to 1992.



A Family-Owned Business Since 1928

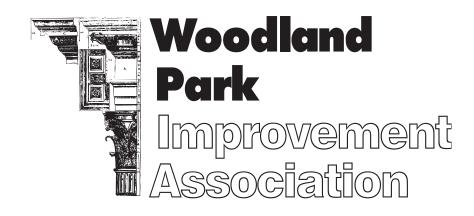
23459 Woodward Avenue Ferndale, Michigan 48220 248.544.2100

www.wetmores.com

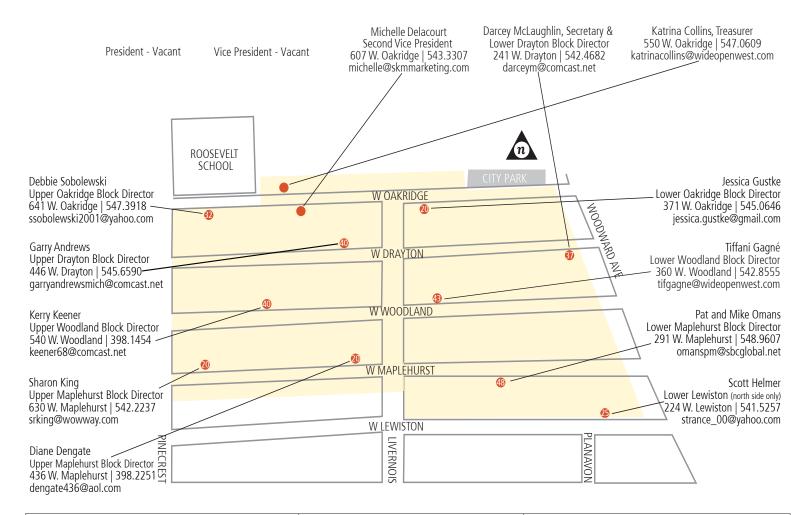
Coupons available online

Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Officers & Block Directors



Featured Photography	Your Feedback is Welcome!	Dues
Cover - 215 W. Woodland, 333 W. Woodland Page 2 - 419 W. Drayton Page 3 - 250 W. Maplehurst Page 4 - Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church Page 5 - Photos/Images courtesy of Pat Dengate Page 6 - 189 W. Maplehurst Page 7 - (I) 445 W. Oakridge, (c) 303 W. Woodland, (r) 619 W. Maplehurst Color photos by Karen Breen-Bondie	Sidewalk snowplowing, always a contentious subject, will be discussed at our annual meeting. Please join us and help us to problem-solve this ever-challenging topic.	Your association membership dues are now due and owing. Please keep our long-standing traditions in place by continuing to pay \$15 each year. Drop off payments to your block director (see above) and include your name, address, phone number and email address with your payment. Thank you!
	•	1.70

The newsletter of the Woodland Park Improvement Association is produced with the intent to keep residents informed. Please report news to the association president.

march 2011

Produced and Published by

Karen Breen-Bondie, Ex-Officio President 657 W. Drayton Avenue, Ferndale, MI 48220-2749 (248) 399.2607 | kbreenbo@comcast.net

www.wpiaferndale.org

The newsletter of Ferndale, Michigan's Woodland Park Improvement Association November 2011

WINTER SNOW PLOW INFORMATION

EMERGENCYPreparedness

HOUSE NUMBER CREATIVITY

291 W. MAPLEHURST through the years

BEAUTIFICATION AWARD UPDATE

New Officers & Block Directors



President's Page By Darcey McLaughlin

Happy November! As your new President of the Woodland Park Improvement Association I would like to introduce myself and then on to the business of our wonderful organization.

You may see me walking our yellow Labrador retriever ("Mac") very early every morning along Livernois. I am a lifelong Ferndale School District resident, growing up on the east side of Pleasant Ridge as Darcey Finwall and now living with my husband Paul and two sons, Justin and Brian at 241 W. Drayton (the green house with the five white pillars).

We have lived here since 1990 and had barely unpacked when there was a knock at the door. Our wonderful neighbor (the recently deceased) Kurt Kusch informed us with enthusiasm that every single person who ever lived in our home had been the block captain, and said, "Congratulations!" I'm still laughing about it still and have had a blast with those responsibilities as well as holding the secretary position on the WPIA Board for many years as well.

Our other adorable neighbor, Diane Mato, proclaimed me the "block head" instead of the block director, as she and others believed that was much more fitting. That's what I love about this neighborhood! The great folks who live, work and play here.

The Snow Plowing Committee and the Board are currently determining who will provide our sidewalk snow plowing this winter. Admitting that the plowing has not been perfect for a couple of years, including not providing it for a year at all due to a budget shortfall, please remember how important it is to our neighborhood school children, the elderly and others.

We have been providing snow plowing service since 1954; that is quite a tradition. Realtors have mentioned that it is an interesting selling point to potential buyers. So please pay your membership dues promptly when your block head director begins collections.

Speaking of block directors, a huge shout-out to all of them for their efforts over the years. They aren't thanked enough and perform and creatively expand their duties every single year. We owe them a debt of gratitude!

Extra special kudos to Diane Dengate, Chris Milosovich and Katrina Collins, all the volunteers, the bands that performed ("Woodman" and "Songs from the Moon"), Woodward Avenue Brewers, who donated kegs of beer, and Western Market, who donated flowers and tshirts for prizes. You did an awesome job of bringing back our end-of-school-year-neighborhood block party on Livernois last June with a vengeance. I hope that everyone is looking forward to next year's as well.

Goals for this year include increasing membership participation • continuing to provide snow plowing services • a smaller, more frequent electronic newsletter • and an active Facebook page. Our annual meeting and guest speaker will be communicated to you soon through your block director and more information on our semi-annual neighborhood block sale as well. So please, let's all keep in touch. You can always reach me at darceym@comcast. net or 248-542-4682. Hope to see you

Darcey Mc Laughli

Treasurer's Report Ry Katring Collins

As of November 2nd, our account balance is \$4,485.34. We have collected from 72% of the association. This is the highest participation in several years. With money in the bank we have been able to reinstate the beautification award and the annual block party.

Thank you neighbors for making the Woodland Park the best neighborhood in town.



WPIA Volunteer Opportunity: Advertising Coordinator

As our three-issue agreements with current advertisers comes to a close, we are seeking an individual who is interested in coordinating the advertising opportunities of this newsletter. This position provides a chance to work with Ferndale businesses and a terrific revenue generating opportunity for the WPIA.

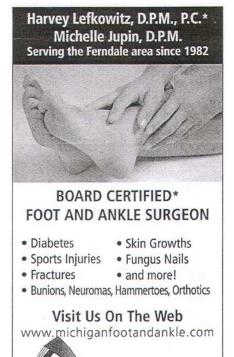
Advertising rates and sizes are pre-determined. Contact Karen Breen-Bondie (248-399-2607 | kbreenbo@comcast. net) for details.

Sidewalk **Snow**Plowing

After requesting bids for sidewalk snow plowing this year, it was determined at our last board meeting to contract with Belbot Services for our winter season (December 15 through March 15).

Please make sure that any ornamentation, sprinkler heads, etc. that is near the sidewalk is either moved or well-marked as we cannot guarantee they will be undamaged.

Please view Belbot Services' Facebook page.



641 W. 9 Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI 48220

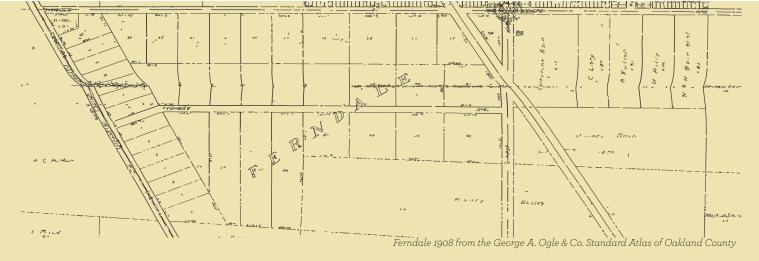
(248) 548-7363



EmergencyPreparedness

The Labor Day weekend storm-officially described as excessive straight-line winds-took us all by surprise, especially since many in the neighborhood were out-of-town.

Perhaps most of you have already given a neighbor your emergency contact information but it bears reminding that it is a good idea to do so if you haven't.



The More The Merrier

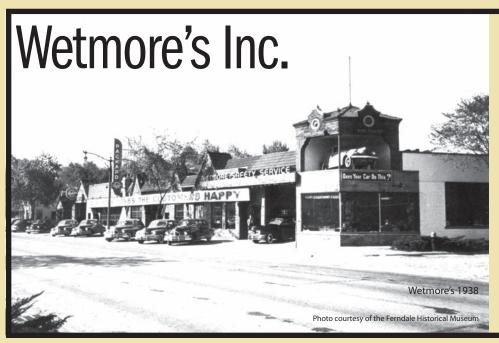
By Stacy Schaffer-Helmer

The WPIA Board voted this past summer to temporarily annex the south side of Lower Lewiston to the association. That annexation included 26 more friendly households to the WPIA. It was unusual that Lower Lewiston is the only WPIA block that was split in its inclusion of the WPIA due to the way the original 1914 neighborhood plat map was drawn. This move makes sense and ensures consistency in the WPIA footprint. We will vote whether to permanently annex the south side of Lower Lewiston at our annual meeting this spring.

Over the years, residents on both sides of Lower Lewiston have questioned the reasoning and history of the WPIA map and its impact on Lewiston. Now appears to be the right time to make the change as making the change should contribute substantially to funding for our snow removal service with little added cost. Adding Lower South Lewiston could possibly generate an extra \$400 dollars annually for the WPIA.

My husband Scott has been block director of Lower North Lewiston for the last six years and one of our favorite activities has been setting up the luminaries on Christmas Eve. As beautiful as they are, our block has historically decorated only one side. Strange! We look forward to sharing the fun with the Kern family this year, as we endeavor to fully light the block this year.

Please welcome Peter Kern, 215 W. Lewison, who will be acting as the block director for Lower South Lewiston. Peter and his family have lived at that address for 12 years and are excited to be part of the WPIA. Welcome Kern family and all Lower South Lewiston residents!



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www.wetmores.com Coupons available online

Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

"Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters or delivering your new refrigerator."

Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address. This applies to any social network site. Do not tell people where you are at times. Some people do hack others' identities and will pretend to be your friend.



"Sometimes I carry a clipboard. Sometimes I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never ever look like a crook." Ask for ID, copy it down, call the company, then call the police.

"I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets." If you find someone peeking into someone's home, call the police. Better to be safe than sorry. Your neighbors will be glad you did that.



"Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it." If you are away, have a neighbor remove the newspapers and any other notices ASAP. Hold your mail at the post office.

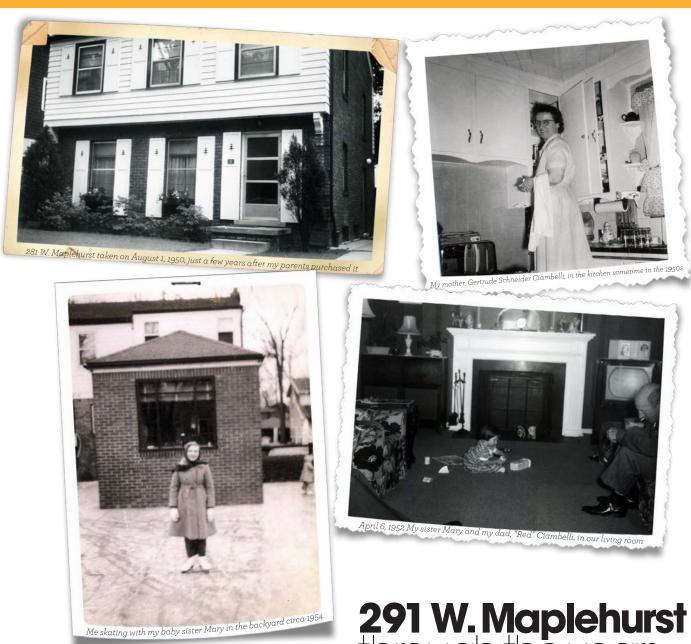
tips from a burglar

"The three things I hate most are loud dogs, nosy neighbors and well-lit exteriors."

"Thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier." Any time you let someone in the house, do a walk-through and check all doors and windows after they leave.



"I'll break a window to get in even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears a loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature." Neighbor safety is priority one! If you hear a loud noise from next door, go over and check on your neighbors to make sure they are all right.



291 W. Maplehurst through the years

By Pat Omans

The original owners of the residence, Harold and Izetta Simpson, bought the parcel in 1935 and had the home built to their specifications in 1940. In 1942, the home was sold to Grace Worden, who sold it to Rollon and Leonide Parker in 1945, who sold it to William and Helen Voisine in 1946. My parents, Gertrude & Albert "Red" Ciambelli, rented the home in late 1946 and then purchased it in the fall of 1947. My husband, Mike, and I are its sixth owners.

Thanks to Mom, we have the original abstract which traces this piece of property from December 5, 1833 when the U.S. Government conveyed it to Mary A. Chappell. The abstract search was completed by the Fred Burton Abstract Co. (formerly located on Woodward in Pleasant Ridge) on October 2, 1947. We also have the blueprints from

November 1939 and many of the original receipts from various projects and special items. Click here to view online.

When Mom passed away in 1997, she deeded the home to my siblings, Tony, Cathy, Mary, and me. Mom's brother Tony, "Unc," lived with our family and we all agreed that he should remain living here as long as possible. After "Unc" passed away, the house went on the market and in February 2003, Mike and I purchased it. We moved here from Berkley, Michigan, where we had lived for thirty years. Our sons, Matt, Dan and Tim all came with us, but have since moved out on their own.

The house is a three bedroom, one and one-half bath brick colonial with a full basement. The front of the house has not



changed much. However, there was a screened-in porch off the back of the dining room which my parents had enclosed in 1948, at a cost of approximately \$2,500, which included the lumber, hardware, bricks, plaster, tile floor, windows and roof. We call it the sunroom because there are windows on three sides which make it a bright and inviting area. There was a dust porch above the sunroom off the south bedroom, which was enclosed at that time and became a walk-in closet.

When the Simpsons helped design this home, they made sure that every inch was put to good use. One of the home's special features is that there is a working fireplace with a mantel in the living room and one in the master bedroom too. The large walk-in closet at the head of the stairs, we dubbed "McGee's Closet," and was designed with built-in drawers and cupboards.

The name comes from the radio show, "Fibber McGee and Molly." McGee's closet is memorable in that it is the best-known running sound gag in American radio's classic period.

This property originally had five large oak trees on it; now

only two remain. All that shade made it impossible to grow grass in the back yard. Dad decided to have the back yard covered in concrete in 1952. Badminton and shuffleboard court lines were painted on. We roller skated, made chalk drawings, and, in the winter, Dad would flood it and we could ice skate out there. We think we may have one of the biggest patios in captivity!

Thanks to Mom, we have the original abstract which traces this piece of property from December 5, 1833 when the U.S. Government conveyed it to Mary A. Chappell. Vinyl windows were installed in the 1990s and the kitchen had some updates over the years, but when we moved in we had more kitchen cupboards made just like the original ones rather than replacing them with modern ones. That just seemed right.

Mike and I are truly thankful we made the decision to move here. It is a lovely neighborhood and we have great neighbors. Our relatives are also

happy that we were able to keep 291 in the family. Mom and Dad's kids, grandkids and great-grandkids are still able to share the Memorial Day tradition of gathering to watch the parade come right down our street, make chalk drawings, share a potluck, enjoy each others' company and share lots of memories, all the while creating new ones.



Spaulding & Curtin

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www.spauldingcurtin.com

Patrick J. Curtin

"A Family Commitment of Funeral Service to the Community Since 1927"



Stacev Schaffer-Helmer. Beautification Committee co-chair, presents Garry Andrews with this year's plaque.

WPIA Beautification Award Update

The WPIA Beautification Committee is pleased to report that this great tradition will continue since funding has been restored. Thanks to those who have paid their dues which allows funding for this special project. The award will be voted and presented in odd-numbered years. Thanks, also, to the residents who voted when ballots were distributed by your block director earlier this year.

The Board decided that it would be worth knowing who received votes, so what follows is a tally:

W. Oakridge - No ballots returned W. Drayton - 437 (1), 445 (1), 446 (10), 447 (1), 615 (1), 668 (1), 671 (4) W. Woodland - 352 (2), 416 (2), 518 (1), 519 (1), 528 (1), 565 (1)

W. Woodland - 352 (2), 416 (2), 518 (1), 519 (1), 528 (1), 565 (1) W. Maplehurst - 169 (1), 174 (1), 184 (1), 202 (2), 261 (3), 281 (2, 290 (1), 323 (1), 350 (1), 375 (1), 419 (1), 575 (1)

W. Lewiston - No ballots returned

Additionally, in order to win, the home with the most votes must be up-to-date in dues payments.

To view these homes, follow this link.

2011 Beautification **Award Winner**

446 W. Drayton

Owners: Garry Andrews and Jeff Taylor

Style: Federal-style colonial

Square Footage: 2,000

Bedrooms: 3 **Baths:** 1.5 Year Built: 1935

Price Paid in 2007: \$290.000 **Years at this Residence:** 5

Garry and Jeff were drawn to our neighborhood and the interior of this home. It was built by Henry Ford's executive contractors and none of the home's interior woodwork had been painted. The sills were marble and the hardwood floors were never carpeted and in superb shape. In the basement they found the original mahogany doors for the enlarged archways throughout the home. A two-season sun porch has become a fourseason room.

The home has its original bathroom but the kitchen has been updated with cherry cabinetry, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and slate floors. The basement includes an office and library. In keeping with the home's traditional style, it is furnished throughout with Colonial, Federal and Victorian pieces.

Power washing brightened up the façade and then shudders and landscaping were added. The lawn was leveled and the two men set out to design a front garden knowing that growing grass would be difficult beneath a maple tree. The flower beds are bordered with flagstone and include shade-loving perennials and annuals.

In addition to winning the WPIA Beautification Award, Garry and Jeff were also bestowed with the September 2011 Ferndale Community Beautification Award and were acknowledged by Mayor Coulter and the City Council. They are honored that their home is being admired and enjoyed by both the neighborhood and the community-at-large as well.

Congratulations Garry and Jeff!



Finding Resources for Historic Colors

When deciding on exterior colors for your historic home, many resources are available to help you with your selection. Different house styles have different color schemes. Below are a few suggestions, or do your own research online by searching for "historic paint colors."

Sherwin-Williams

Sherwin-Williams offers several historically accurate color plaettes based on house style and time period. Some of the collections available include: Arts and Crafts, Victorian and The Jazz Age. Visit a local Sherwin-Williams location for color swatches or explore online.

Valuable Coupon



Save 15% with this ad excludes usps

Shipping FedEx, UPS, DHL, US Mail & Freight
Packaging Custom packaging & crating
Documents Copies, Faxes, Notary
Supplies Packaging, Postal & Office supplies

22967 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 543-3097

National Trust for Historic Preservation
The National Trust for Historic Preservation partnered with Valspar Corporation (available at Lowe's) to develop a selection of colors appropriate for historic

homes. It features 250 colors certified by the National Trust. For a list of colors visit their webpage.

Old House Colors

Articles and suggestions including a 1917 house color chart. Visit their webpage.

Other ways to determine appropriate colors are to look in books and magazines: *This Old House, The Old House Journal, American Bungalow* and *Arts & Crafts Homes and the Revival.*

Valuable Coupon

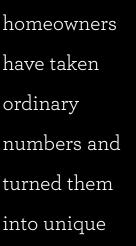




HOUSE NUMBER CREATIVITY



This photo gallery features examples of how



Whether traditional or

contemporary,

way to create

visual interest.



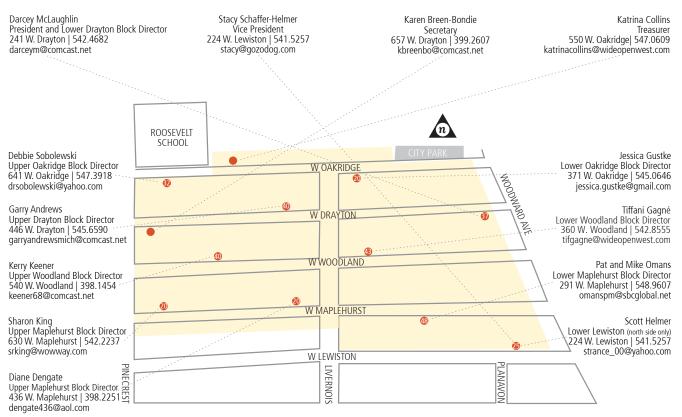








Officers & Block Directors



Formed in 1924 • Incorporated in 1946 • Providing sidewalk snowplowing since 1954

Committees

Beautification Award	Block Party	Block Sale	Communications	Nominations	Snow Plowing
August of odd numbered years	June 14, 2012	Third Weekend in May 2012	Ongoing	Ongoing	December 15 - March 15
Garry Andrews Stacy Schaffer-Helmer	Katrina Collins Diane Dengate Chris Milosovich	Garry Andrews Tiffani Gagné	Karen Breen-Bondie Stacy Schaffer-Helmer	TBD	Scott Helmer Kerry Keener

If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact the WPIA president

Designed and Published by

Karen Breen-Bondie, Secretary 657 W. Drayton Avenue, Ferndale, MI 48220-2749 248.399.2607 | kbreenbo@comcast.net

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The newsletter of Eerndale, Michigan's Woodland Park Improvement Association

March 2013

SUMMER Block Party RETURNS!

PAY DUES online!

Annual

BEAUTIFICATION AWARD NEWS



President's Page

By Darcey McLaughlin

Am I alone, or are many of you anxiously waiting to see the Dutch pear trees bloom in the middle of Livernois? Spring is nearly here and we have almost made it through Winter! I would like to personally thank everyone who has paid their dues on time so that we can continue to provide sidewalk snow plowing (after 1.5 inches). As with every year – it's not too late! You can pay your dues year round, and we hope that you will do so.

Your block directors are our unsung heroes. They continue to pass out notices, keep us all informed, collect our dues, etc. If you are new to our neighborhood and don't know your block director (listing is on last page), please reach out to them to say hello and provide your contact information. In 2013 we will make a concerted effort to become more electronic with our notices, collections, etc. via email, Facebook, and our webpage, www.wpiaferndale.org. It's important that we have your current email address, and please rest assured, it will never be shared or used for anything other than to keep you informed of neighborhood happenings.

On behalf of the entire WPIA organization, I would like to thank Bill Frederick and his family for once again coordinating and delivering our luminary supplies to our block captains, who in turn helped distribute to all of our homes. Christmas

Eve is such a beautiful sight in our neighborhood because of them. Thank you to all, but especially to Bill!

Please read on for more information on our upcoming annual meeting, officer and block director nominations and elections, our annual neighborhood block party in June, and upcoming block sale to be held this year in the fall, as we are on an 18 month spring/fall alteration schedule.

I look forward to seing as many of you as possible who attend our block party in June! You can always reach me at darceym@comcast.net or 248-542-4682.

Darcey Mc Taughti

AnnualMeeting

Wednesday, March 27 at 7pm Roosevelt Elementary School Gymnasium

Please join us for our annual meeting! Guest speakers will be Gary Meier, Ferndale Public Schools Superintendent and a Ferndale Police Department representative delivering a safety update.

Agenda items will include the annual officer elections, annual block director elections for Oakridge, Woodland and Lewiston, the secretary, treasurer and other committee reports, old and new business and Q&A time.

Haven't paid your dues? Bring your checkbook to the annual meeting!

Treasurer's Report Ry Katring Collins

Our Block Directors have been very busy this year and have collected \$3,500. That means about 70% participation from our neighbors. Between snow removal and the Christmas Eve luminaries there have been \$2,500 in expenses, leaving a balance of \$7,374 in the Woodland Park Improvement Association account.

Thank you so much for participating and if you haven't already paid your dues of \$15.00 you can still drop them off with your block director and they will be happy to forward them on to me.

Biennial

Beautification Award

This year marks the return of the beautification award. It has been suggested that we try another selection method. Instead of having all the block directors cast their vote neighborhood-wide, block directors will select homes on their block and the committee will randomly select a winner.

The winner will be announced at the block party. As soon as spring arrives we can begin the curb appeal movement!

Which also brings up an issue that was discussed at the last board meeting. The county, and specifically our neighborhood, has been infested with rats. It is not wide-spread, as there seemed to be many block directors that were unaware of a problem. However, it was suggested that residents can help to prevent the problem.

Attractors are bird feeders; plastic garbage bags not kept in sturdy,



Block Party!

By Katrina Collins

The 2012 Block Party was a huge success and fun was had by all. We had live entertainment, great weather, delicious food and we ate 200 hotdogs!

The 2013 Block Party is being planned for the last day of school, Thursday, June 13th. Anyone wishing to help plan the event can e-mail me at katrinacollins@ wideopenwest.com.

covered containers; wood piles not elevated; and not picking up dog and cat feces reguarly. Please keep an eye on these and others to help curb and eventually eliminate the problem.

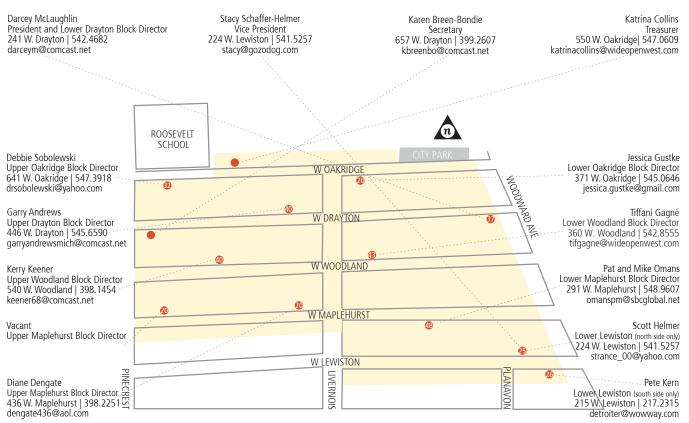
Introducing:

Pay Your Dues Online!

We will soon be introducing an additional dues payment option to our website via PayPal. Watch our website (www.wpiaferndale. org) for this feature!



Officers & Block Directors



Formed in 1924 • Incorporated in 1948 • Providing sidewalk snowplowing since 1954

Committees

Beautification Award June of odd numbered years	Block Party	Block Sale	Communications	Nominations	Snow Plowing
	June 13, 2013	Fall 2013	Ongoing	Ongoing	December 15 - March 15
Garry Andrews Stacy Schaffer-Helmer	Katrina Collins Diane Dengate Chris Milosovich	Garry Andrews Tiffani Gagné	Karen Breen-Bondie Stacy Schaffer-Helmer	Garry Andrews Tiffani Gagné	Scott Helmer Kerry Keener

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