



Celebrating Fifty Years.... cont'd

woodwork is used to create lines that emphasize the horizontal feel of the Prairie Style. The golden wood gives a pleasant warmth to every room. A long-hidden, hand-painted mural of poppies was discovered and restored and it now graces the dining room where even the china was designed by FLW. Every fixture and all of the furnishings and fabrics are either the originals or exact reproductions of Wright's designs. This home is a national treasure and we thank Steelcase for sharing it with us again this year.



**FOUNTAIN STREET CHURCH
HOSTS: THE CONGREGATION**

Fountain Street Church is also celebrating an important anniversary this year - 150 years as an evolving, spiritual community centered in one of Grand Rapids' finest examples of Romanesque architecture. This stone structure, with its beautifully-tiled floors and majestic coffered ceilings, is a landmark in our city. The members would like to welcome visitors to view their magnificent church, filled with precious Byzantine art, murals and mosaics. The history of this building and the story of the people responsible for its existence and continued growth as a progressive faith community is a fascinating one and an integral part of the history of the city itself.



**THE SWEET HOUSE
HOSTS: THE SWEET HOUSE FOUNDATION**

Martin L. Sweet built this ornate Italianate Style home in the early 1860's during the Civil War era. He was successful in a variety of businesses from lumber to banking and he was the first Republican Mayor of Grand Rapids. In the early 1900's the home was used as a music school and then a low-end boarding house before the Women's City Club purchased it in 1927 and restored it to its former glory, adding a dining room and an auditorium. From the widow's watch turret atop a roof with double-bracketed eaves to the portico-covered entry with its fan-light window, the façade is a work of art.

The original interior has a series of intimate rooms coming off of a central hallway. Members donated

exceptional antique pieces and fine art to furnish the home. The Women's City Club no longer uses the building, but the Foundation is maintaining it as an important part of Grand Rapids' history. It now serves as a special events venue.



**THE MUSEUM SCHOOL
HOST: GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Gone are the stuffed, rabbit-eating foxes and the grazing moose! Today the newly-repurposed building at the corner of Lafayette and State Street is filled with eager students in a state-of-the-art learning environment. This 1938 Art Deco Style building was the home of the Public Museum for decades and more recently was used for artifact storage once the museum moved to its new downtown location. Extensive renovation was required and funding was supported by a ten million dollar grant from the Gates Foundation which recognized the program for its innovative approach to learning. The Museum School is open to students in grades 6-12 and it will celebrate

the completion of its first year with students this June. GRPS invites the community to come and see the amazing transformation of the site and to hear about this exciting new learning opportunity for the children of our city.

The Hills Are Alive! HERITAGE HILL

GARDEN TOUR

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 / 9:00 A.M.- 2 P.M.



A work of art always looks better in a beautiful frame. That is the case too, for the architectural masterpieces of Heritage Hill. Surround a home with a purple rhododendron here, a crimson Japanese maple there, add a dash of color with a perennial garden, complement a special spot with a fountain, a statue or two and VOILA! - the colors, textures and patterns of nature, with a dash of human artistry, make for a more



stunning portrait of a lovely Queen Anne home or a stately Georgian mansion. This year's Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 15th from 9 A.M. until 2 P.M. A leisurely stroll through our neighborhood on a self-guided tour will lead you to small intimate gardens, wooded hideaways, pollinator-friendly gardens filled with blazing color and quiet retreats from the cares of the day. Over the years, more and more neighbors have been finding joy in the art of gardening and we would love to share the fruits of all the planning, planting, pruning and preening that have brought the Hill so beautifully into bloom.

Tickets will be on sale on the day of tour for \$10 at Central Reformed Church at 10 College N.E., where the church has generously offered their lot for free parking. There is additional parking at Elders Helpers at 500 Cherry S.E. and at the Children's Discovery Center at 409 Lafayette S.E. You may reserve tickets (\$8) ahead of time at the Heritage Hill Office or by ordering online at heritagehillweb.org or by calling (616) 459-8950 up to the Thursday before the tour. See you on the garden path!



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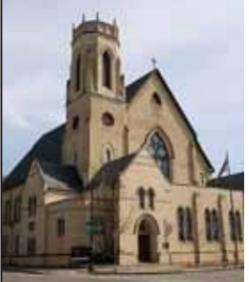


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Celebrating Fifty Years of THE HERITAGE HILL WEEKEND TOUR OF HOMES

FIFTY YEARS! Time flies when you're having fun! The founding members of the Heritage Hill Association who so earnestly fought to preserve the history, the architecture and the dreams of all those who believed in the neighborhood would be amazed to see how many homes have been restored, how many gardens have been planted, how safe and neighborly our tree-lined streets have become. From the beginning fifty years ago, the desire to share the beauty of these homes has been part of our mission and this year you will see some of the finest that the Hill has to offer. We are fortunate to have two of the homes, an impressive Georgian Revival Style mansion on Gay Street and an exceptional Craftsman Style home on College Ave. that were on the very first tour half a century ago. The seven homes, one apartment and four institutions on tour this year vary in style and decor, but what they all have in common is a beauty and character that shines through after all these years. Each home is as unique as the craftsmen who built it and as different as the current owners who have added their own personal sense of design to the treasures that are now in their care. We thank all the generous neighbors who have offered to share their homes and we hope that you will help us celebrate our 50th anniversary by joining us for a tour to remember- THE BEST TOUR EVER!



545 FOUNTAIN N.E.
HOSTS: JULIE & JOHN COLVIN

Built in 1892, this charming example of Queen Anne architecture is one of the older homes on tour this year. The exterior details include a two-story turret, a three-story tower, bay windows, front and side porticos and intricate shingle patterns, all beneath the eyebrow window and the six gables of the roof. This house was built for William Lamoreaux, a successful seed and garden supply merchant. It passed through several hands and was converted to a two-family dwelling over the years. The current owners have restored it to a single family with an artist's sense of whimsy and fun. Every room is a visual delight with paintings, sculptures and playful artwork of every kind, most of which was created by Julie or by other Michigan artists. The unique winding staircase, large windows, many with stained-glass, the handsome fireplaces and the beautiful woodwork create the perfect backdrop for the live-in art gallery that Julie and John have made for themselves and that they so graciously are sharing with us.



20 GAY S.E.
HOSTS: BARBARA & RON SCHULTZ

Perfection. Its the optimum word to describe this magnificent Georgian Revival Style brick mansion, built in 1908 by John and Margaret Duffy. Duffy was the president of the Grand Rapids Hardware Company, a bank chairman and an inventor of the large-scale architectural pulley system that made him his fortune. Known as a gifted vocalist and as president of the

Schubert Society, he carried his passion for music into the design of his home with a built-in pipe organ whose sound resonates throughout the house through vents in the floor. The front door opens to a spacious central foyer with an elegant staircase. To each side, large pocket doors lead to a mahogany-lined dining room with a crystal chandelier that took six men to install, a large kitchen with fireplace, a wood-lined library and a music room with a bright and airy sunporch that overlooks the patio and swimming pool. There is even a working elevator that can be taken to the four, second-story bedrooms, each with its own bath. The owners' collections of paintings, fine, antique furniture (much of it made by Grand Rapids craftsmen) and Persian rugs add a warmth and personal touch to this elegant home. The surrounding gardens complete the picture perfectly.



50 COLLEGE S.E. - HERITAGE PLACE
HOST: PURE REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT

This attractive apartment building, called Heritage Place, is the newest addition to Heritage Hill. The design was selected with input from the surrounding neighbors and the resulting plan blends in well with the surrounding neighborhood. Construction was recently completed and many of the 86 studio, one bedroom and two bedroom apartments have been rented. Originally, a home was built here in the 1900's by the Withey family when this block

was considered quite a posh place to live. It was torn down with several others on this side of the block soon after World War II and was replaced with a commercial office building. That outdated building was razed to make room for this new structure. Visitors will be able to tour the new apartment building as well as a restored carriage house that belonged to the original home and that has been restored and is now being used as a community center for the residents.



231 PARIS S.E.
HOST: KAY COURTNEY

This fine Italianate home has been transformed from the pariah of the neighborhood to the grand lady she is today thanks to the vision and determination of the current owner. Built in 1875, it is the oldest house on tour this year and it was definitely showing its age when Kay began the two-year-long restoration. The highlights of the interior include a stunning oak foyer, eleven-foot, high ceilings, arched doorways and ornate woodwork throughout the home. Fireplaces are focal points in two rooms and the oak-paneling in the office has the distinctive grain of old-forest wood. A kitchen/dining area was skillfully designed to use every possible space in a former parlor. The show-stopper is a two-story, oak-lined library that the original owner, a noted Grand Rapids lawyer named Roger Butterfield, had built to replicate one found in the Scottish castle of Sir Walter Scott. The faux marble columns, a limestone fireplace, floor-to-ceiling oak bookcases and wrought iron railings all contribute to the grandeur of the room. As you leave, a stroll through the garden is recommended as the flowers that surround the home should be lovely at this time of the year.



332 COLLEGE S.E.
HOSTS: CHRIS & TOM TRUESDALE

Built for Frank Voigt, son of the Voigt Museum family of Carl and Elizabeth, this Queen Anne Style home has Craftsman Style flourishes that add to the exterior's charm and character including the bay windows, a Juliet porch and stucco and wood patterns in the gables. If it should rain for tour, you can exit your horse and carriage under the protection of the *porte cocheres*. Frank was used to only the best, as the interior of this home will show. Three species of wood were used in the first floor rooms- oak in the foyer where

an ornate stairway with stylized floral carving welcomes you as you enter, butternut borders the floor-to-ceiling windows in the parlor and the slate fireplace and the bay window in the dining room are surrounded by the soft glow of maple wood. Impressive wood columns separate the two rooms. A rare ondoyant glass window, similar to one in the Voigt house, illuminates the landing as you head upstairs. A lattice work ceiling and a decorative trailing vine pattern create a quaint country garden theme in the kitchen that connects the interior to the winding paths in the wonderful, backyard, hosta-filled gardens.



440 COLLEGE S.E.
HOSTS: JANE & REID TAYLOR

This American Foursquare Style home was a wedding gift to his daughter from George L. Keeler (as in the Keeler Brass Company) when she married Earl S. Clarke, a sales manager for the company, in 1909. With recent renovations and impeccable taste in furniture, artwork and other design elements, the current owners have created a masterpiece in which every element fits perfectly into the Arts and Crafts theme that is carried throughout the home. Stickley furniture with inlaid designs grace every room and art and artifacts collected

on world-wide travels add a personal touch. Also on display is a collection of beautiful and unusual musical instruments. The dining room and kitchen have recently been remodeled and the results are a perfect blend of form and function. Everything in the kitchen was planned down to the smallest detail including a fireplace with cozy chairs nearby, just right for sipping coffee on a winter's morning, a skylight with stained-glass and a window seat in the bay where the cats love to curl up in the sun. From the bay window, there is a sweeping view of the new screened porch, a patio area and a gazebo with a pleasant garden bordering it all.



455 COLLEGE S.E.
HOST: KITTY CAIRNS

How many homes have a working garden fountain INSIDE the house! That is only one of the wonders of this amazing home that was built in 1893 for Charles Heald, president of the Pere Marquette Railroad. He loved the house so much that, after moving away when the railroad offices left for Detroit, he bought the house back when he returned to Grand Rapids twenty years later. It's easy to see why. As you enter the elegant

foyer with its parquet floor and broad, inviting staircase there is a music room with stained-glass windows and a large, tiled sunporch with the afore-mentioned fountain. To the left is the living and dining rooms with leaded windows and an eclectic collection of rare antiques. Kitty designed a spectacular kitchen by converting several oak furniture pieces into cupboards with beautiful countertops and a hammered-nickel, smoothie sink. The stove is tucked into a stone "cave." Natural materials were used throughout including a slate floor and a tin ceiling. The dramatic Craftsman Shingle Style exterior of this home with its stacked bay windows and imposing arched, front gable contains one of the most unique homes in the Hill. Added to all this is a backyard pool that looks like a natural pond with a tumbling waterfall surrounded by well-tended gardens.



501 MORRIS S.E.
HOSTS: CATHY & MIKE BOSSCHER

John Burch was an executive with Burch Fabric and Upholstery, a supplier to the furniture trade in Grand Rapids. He and his wife asked well-known architect, Pierre Lindha, to custom design this stately American Foursquare Style home in 1924. There are touches of the Prairie Style in the overhanging eaves and horizontal expanses of windows. The current family has remodeled

the kitchen, but few structural changes have ever been made to the home perhaps because it was designed so well. The original lighting and plumbing fixtures have been preserved. Large French doors line both sides of the hallway, giving a light and airy feel to the first floor. The living room extends the full length of the house with an imposing fireplace as a focal point and a sunporch extending out that is perfect for a summer's day, shaded by a glorious maple tree. In the dining room, dark oak woodwork is the backdrop for antique pieces passed down through the family. Three bedrooms, a sleeping porch and two full baths upstairs, a finished basement with a pool room and fireplace and an attached heated garage complete the layout of this family-friendly home.



MEYER MAY HOUSE
HOST: STEELCASE CORPORATION

The Meyer May House, built in 1909 is a Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie Style masterpiece that has been meticulously restored down to the finest detail. The exterior is made of long, narrow bricks, with wide, low eaves that extend outward and long bands of windows that all contribute to the horizontal

feel typical of a Wright building. A discreet side entryway leads to a close stairway that opens to a spacious living room. There, the glowing, earth-toned, stained-glass windows flood the rooms with light that reflects off of the tiles in the fireplace. Ubiquitous oak

(Cont'd on pg. 12)