

homestead

Officers

President Karen Breen-Bondie . . . 657 W. Drayton 399-2607 kbbondie@aol.com
 Vice President Carol Frederick 640 W. Woodland . . . 547-9389 bfrederick@wwnet.net
 2nd VP Anne Williamson 414 W. Lewiston . . . 542-3895 gwilliamson@ameritech.net
 Secretary Darcey McLaughlin . . . 241 W. Drayton 542-4682 darceym@comcast.net
 Treasurer Katrina Collins 550 W. Oakridge . . . 547-0609 katrinacollins@wideopenwest.com

Block Directors

Upper Oakridge 414-671
 Debbie Sobolewski . . . 641 W. Oakridge . . . 547-3918 ssobolewski2001@yahoo.com
 Lower Oakridge 225-391
 Andrea Townsend 321 W. Oakridge . . . 548-0531 bwartart@comcast.net
 Lori Kodan 229 W. Oakridge . . . 584-2709 n/a
 Upper Drayton 416-671
 Judy Garlock 615 W. Drayton 546-6563 jgarlock@berkley.k12.mi.us
 Lower Drayton 215-413
 Darcey McLaughlin . . . 241 W. Drayton 542-4682 darceym@comcast.net
 Upper Woodland 415-671
 Bill & Carol Frederick . . 640 W. Woodland . . . 547-9389 bfrederick@wwnet.net
 Lower Woodland 151-393
 Susan Nash 304 W. Woodland . . . 545-8561 nashco@www.com
 Upper Maplehurst 415-667
 Diane Dengate 436 W. Maplehurst . . 398-2251 dengate436@aol.com
 Sharon King 630 W. Maplehurst . . 542-2237 sharonking@aol.com
 Lower Maplehurst 156-391
 Allen Liggett 390 W. Maplehurst . . 541-0494 aliggettjr@comcast.net
 Lower Lewiston
 156-490 Even Anne Williamson 414 W. Lewiston . . . 542-3895 gwilliamson@ameritech.net
 Heather Kolwich 372 W. Lewiston . . . 545-9140 heatherkolwich@yahoo.com

Please note that Livernois is the dividing point of upper and lower addresses

FYI: Neighborhood House Count

Upper Oakridge 31	Upper Maplehurst 40
Lower Oakridge 20	Lower Maplehurst 48
Upper Drayton 40	
Lower Drayton 37	Lower Maplehurst 48
Upper Woodland 40	Lower Lewiston
Lower Woodland 43	(north side only) 27
	Total Households in WPIA 326

Historic Photos Courtesy of Ferndale Historical Museum
 Visit our website at <http://members.aol.com/wpiaferndale>

President's Corner

Happy Holidays to All!!

New Residents: Welcome to our unique neighborhood. The association was formed in 1924 and is the oldest neighborhood association in the state. We will be celebrating our 80th year in 2004!

Thank you for making this year a very active one for the association. It took many volunteers! As a result, this will be an expanded edition of the newsletter. This newsletter is usually published three to four times a year. Ferndale architect and Pleasant Ridge resident Marie Haener-Patti has offered to underwrite our cost of reproducing the newsletter. In exchange, we will be using her businesses' logo as advertising space.

Thank you, Marie, for your generous offer.

Bill and Carol Frederick are in charge of distributing luminaries to the block directors each year. They all do a wonderful job to make our streets look so festive. A huge thank you to everyone!! For many years, the block directors of our Association have placed white paper bags filled with sand and one votive candle up

and down our streets.

One of Upper Drayton's block directors, Nicole Cotter, has moved. Good luck Nicole in your new home and thank you for your years of dedication.

Each December we usually begin our sidewalk snow removal program. Part of our \$15 annual dues goes toward providing this service to our residents. Unfortunately we did not have enough money in the budget to make December's payment. We are in the process of negotiating services and hope to resume snow removal in January. If you haven't paid your dues through your block director for 2004, please do so as soon as possible. You can always pay for past years' unpaid dues, make advance payment for 2005 and beyond or even make more of a yearly contribution than \$15.

2004 Meetings:
 4th Monday - 7 pm
 1/25: Board Meeting
 Officers and Block Directors
 3/22: Annual Meeting
 All Welcome
 Roosevelt Elementary Media Center

Don't forget, your dues are tax deductible!



President

2003 Block Party Wrap Up

Thank you to **Judi Near-Hunt** who chaired this year's block party on Friday, June 13th. It was the first time in many years that we had to take advantage of the rain date! Spirits were high, and many neighbors-old and new-turned out. I would also like to extend a big thank you to those that helped Judi, including: **Nicole Cotter, Becky (Schmid) Dokho, Jeff Dokho, Catherine Ricassi Duning, Allen Liggett, Pat Dengate, Sean Collins, Katrina Collins, Darcey McLaughlin, Greg Parrish** and **Tracy Parrish**.

Please thank our sponsors: **Bourlier's Barbeque, Cordis Cardiology, Ferndale Foods, Holiday Market, Keith Weber, St. Luke's Church, Western Market** and **WOMC 104.3 FM**. Let them know how much we appreciate their contribution to our Association.

Neighborhood Historic Designation



As many of you know, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Main Street Center" is working with the Ferndale DDA to revitalize our downtown. I've made some inquiries into the process and qualifications of registering our neighborhood on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Register. It has only been a short while ago and I have not yet heard anything.

The first step would be to form a small committee and work together to complete the application. All applications are processed at the state level. Much, if not all, of the information is available online at the state's website. If you have an interest in this endeavor and would like to start up a committee of like-minded residents, please contact me.

hæner-patti architects

small project specialists
accessibility, code and specification consulting

- residential design: additions, renovations and new construction
- historic renovation/restoration
- sustainable design: "green" architecture
- hourly consulting for tiny projects too

marie hæner-patti, aia, csi
jeff hammond, aia, ases
members USGBC

415 e. nine mile road, ferndale, mi 48220 248.548.6440 hænerpatti@ameritech.net



West Nine Mile circa 1920s

Proposals B&C -- Defeated!!

In November, residents along Lower Oakridge asked for the Association's help to defeat the proposals by the city to place two parcels of land on the north side of the street up for sale. Fearing loss of a green belt and possible development, we, of course, supported them.

Thanks to their foresight and planning, we were able to get the message out. And, I'm certain, due to our neighborhood's involvement, the two proposals were defeated! It goes to show you that when we work together, we can make great things happen (or in this case, not happen).

WPIA Home Tour

As many of you know, Pleasant Ridge holds their annual home tour each December and the Ferndale Garden Club has their annual garden walk. Perhaps there is interest in an annual or biennial WPIA home tour. Perhaps you have a home that is in beautiful original condition, is recently remodeled or you simply would like to showcase or nominate a home.

Does this sound like something our Association should do to promote its status in the community? Please contact me if this sounds like a worthwhile venture and if you have any suggestions or thoughts.

2003 Beautification Award Winner

The winners of the second annual beautification contest are The Sullivans at 607 W. Woodland. Congratulations—and great renovation!



607 W. Woodland - Before



607 W. Woodland - After

Owners: Joe & Keri Sullivan

Children: Katie Rose, 2

Pets: Gus, their chocolate lab

Years at this Residence: 4

Year House was Built: 1927

Price Paid for House in 1999: \$79,000

Style: Bungalow to Craftsman Colonial

Square Feet: 1750 before, 2610 after

No. of Rooms: 12

Bedrooms: 5

Baths: 3.5 plus 2nd floor laundry

Interesting Facts:

Joe and Keri began the renovation in 1999, the year they bought the house. They started on the first floor interior. It had been so neglected it was not liveable. It has taken them a little over four years to get to the point where they are now. It had a lot of potential and the neighborhood was great. Raised in Ferndale, their parents both live nearby. The house was perfect for them and a future family.

The only work that they did not perform themselves was drywall on the second floor and refinishing the hardwood floors. Even after all that work, Joe said he would do it again. They love old homes and the work that brings them back to life. It was fun to research the craftsmanship and apply to today's materials.

It took four 30 yard containers to clean out the house. How lucky that they came across the original blueprints when doing so!

Do You Remember...

By John Clark

- The nice Radio City Theater on the west side of Woodward just north of Nine Mile? Local organizations would sponsor children's Christmas parties there.
- The Federal department store where Old Navy now stands?
- Schmidt Hardware on the east side of Woodward just north of Nine Mile?
- There used to be two, or was it three, "Five and Dime" stores along West Nine Mile too. I remember when F & M opened their first little store west of Woodward on the south side of Nine Mile. It is sad now to see their demise, but many other competitors have risen to challenge their pioneering effort.
- The old city hall on the northwest corner of Woodward and Eight Mile? The "new" city hall and library were a nice improvement.
- The Rialto Restaurant on Woodward just south of Nine Mile? We had many, many family meals there over the years. Now it's Dino's.
- The Grand Trunk Railroad ran commuter trains that ran from Pontiac to Detroit, with a Ferndale stop? The last steam locomotive on the GTRR ran in 1960. I remember going to see it because I'm a train buff.
- The Eastwood or Walled Lake Amusement Parks, with roller coasters? Or taking a cool, restful cruise on a 1902 steamer to Bob Lo Island? Ah, there were some good times when we were young.

The building of the Twelve Town Drain system in the 1950s or 1960s was also a big event. We along Pinecrest were at a higher elevation, but the homes along Livernois were often flooded in heavy rains. The drain system helped solve that problem. Now increased development has made it necessary to further expand the drains.

The biggest change I think I have seen in Ferndale is the population shrinkage. It's bad for the tax base, but good for reducing congestion. Every time I have to drive north on I-75 during rush hour, I'm thankful I don't have to do it every day!



667 W. Maplehurst

At our 2003 Annual Meeting in March, Mr. John Clark offered his house as the next home profile. He also provided some historical memories of Ferndale. Enjoy!

Owner: John Clark

Style: Spanish-style Ranch

Square Feet: 1649

No. of Rooms: 7

11'4" living room ceiling

Years at this Residence: 49

Bedrooms: 2

Year House was Built: 1922

Baths: 1

Price Paid for House in 1954: \$12,800

Interesting Facts:

People either love the house or hate it. Newspapers and magazines with articles about returning WW I veterans were found in the attic.

The addition we put on in 1961 doubled the kitchen size and added a sun room on the Pinecrest side of the house. It is identified by the marine plywood siding, in contrast to the stucco of the original structure. New roof and chimney repair in 2002.

We have spent most of our adult life here and have seen many neighbors come and go. My wife, Maryellen, died in February 2001, so I live alone now. The original homeowners of the neighborhood in the 1920s and 1930s were passing on, and we were the "second wave" in 1954. Now the third and fourth waves of younger families are moving in. It has been fun to be a part of the cycling of the generations.

Occasionally someone knocks on the door or leaves a note asking if the house is for sale.

Living in Ferndale

By John Clark

We moved here in 1954. Among my memories:

- Widening of Pinecrest in the 1950s. The city proposed widening Pinecrest from two to four, as it was south of Nine Mile. We neighbors protested and finally got a compromise to three lanes, as it is today. When the I-696 expressway was finished, Pleasant Ridge insisted, successfully against much opposition from Ferndale and Oak Park, that Pinecrest be dead ended at their north city limit. Pinecrest used to go through and connect with northbound Woodward. Rush hours cut through traffic was very heavy. I am forever grateful to Pleasant Ridge for their stand. They did more to improve my quality of life than the Ferndale administration, who never could see beyond moving traffic.
- In the 1950s and 1960s businesses along the west side of Woodward wanted to acquire lots in our subdivision for parking. The WPIA successfully fought it for a time at considerable expense, I guess for fear of breaching the deed restrictions in the sub. However, more recently the businesses such as Wetmore's and the former Higgins Pontiac dealership have been allowed to acquire lots in the sub for parking. I guess we felt it more important to help them stay viable, tax paying businesses.
- School busing in the 1960s and 1970s was also a hugely controversial issue in Ferndale. The Feds decided to make an example of Ferndale because our Grant School was all black. They proposed an integration plan involving lots of busing, including even cross district busing, and at one time even allowing students from Detroit into Ferndale schools. Ferndale spent years and lots of money fighting in courts, ultimately losing and accepting a Federal Court integration order. Busing from Detroit became part of a larger national issue and was finally dropped, however.
- Of course the enrollment has dropped greatly since we moved here in 1954. Now our problem is living with reduced state funding. Unregulated suburban sprawl has been almost unbelievable since I-75 and I-96 were built.



Wetmore's Packard Dealership & Service - 1938