

## CELEBRATE!

PALMER WOODS CENTENNIAL GALA

Detroit Golf Club Saturday, September 19, 2015

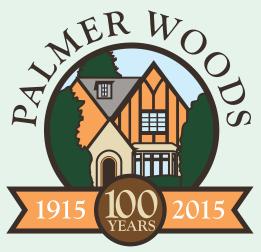
### Palmer Woods Centennial Logos

s part of the Palmer Woods 100-Year Celebration, the Palmer Woods Centennial Committee sponsored a design competition to create a new visual logo for the neighborhood's Centennial year. Artists were invited to submit their vision for a Centennial logo. The following artists submitted the winning logos:

#### **PHIL LEWIS** – 1st Place Winner

The winning logo was conceived by Phil Lewis, a lifelong Detroiter, Cass Tech graduate and recipient of a BFA from the Center for Creative Studies majoring in Illustration. "My mother used to say I was born with a paintbrush in my hand. Drawing was an escape for me," remarks Phil. His natural ability was honed at Cass Tech under the tutelage of well known teachers such as Dr. Cledie Taylor, Marian Stephens and Irving Berg.

Entering the contest to design a logo in celebration of the Palmer Woods Centennial was an easy decision for Phil. He loves the city of Detroit and considers Palmer Woods one of Detroit's jewels. Even though he does not live in the neighborhood, he is good friends with residents and very aware of the community. Phil's logo design was inspired by the beauty, history and character of the homes. Consequently, his logo effectively captures the spirit of our strong and beautiful community.



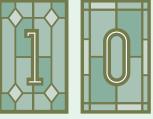
Currently Phil is the owner of Phil Lewis Studio and a Digital Content Artist for MRM McCann Advertising. As the winning artist for the neighborhood contest, Phil's logo is featured on banners that are be placed on light posts within and along the perimeter of the neighborhood.

#### **JEN STEFANEK** – Runner Up

Our runner up, Jen Stefanek, was easing her way back into the traditional working world after being a stay-at-home mom, when she ran across the notice for the Palmer Woods Logo Competition. Jen's previous knowledge about Palmer Woods was limited. However, it did not take her long to realize Palmer Woods was a premier Detroit neighborhood that has long been recognized for its beauty, history and special architectural details. All of these thoughts permeated her imagination when she developed her winning logo. "The leaded glass windows, colors, and stylized font are indicative of the origins of the neighborhood" states Jen.

Looking at her logo, it is obvious she was successful in incorporating this image into her work. Currently, Jen lives in Novi with her husband of 17 years and two adolescent sons. She is doing more freelance graphic design projects and artmaking. The BFA she received from the University of Michigan in 1995 is being well utilized. You can see more examples of her work at jenstefanek.com or her blog: thepicadillyproject.com.

## PALMER WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD • DETROIT





1915 • YEARS • 2015

#### KELLY GRAY - Runner Up

Kelly Gray's memories of Palmer Woods began when she was a child going to the Michigan State Fairgrounds. "I remember the beautiful homes," states Kelly, a lifelong Michigander, wife and mother of two, who received a BFA with a graphic design emphasis from Grand Valley State University. "Graphic Design has been my work for 20-plus years and currently I work full time as an art director in Farmington Hills." However, she consistently finds time to indulge her passion for logo designs by entering art/design contests. When she heard about the Palmer Woods Logo Competition, she knew she would be a contestant. "Palmer Woods is a beautiful community and I wanted to represent that in some



way. The tree lined streets inspired me ... making me think of family," reflects Kelly. As a result, we have another of our winning logos.

During the evenings and weekends, Kelly is a fine artist and watercolor is her favorite medium. "Most of my work has a lightness to it and a sense of movement which watercolor allows me to express beautifully," states Kelly. You can find more examples of her work on Facebook: www.facebook.com/KellyWojdylaGrayArtist.

The logos created by all three artists are now featured on commemorative items to highlight our neighborhood Centennial. A list of these items is on the website, palmerwoods.org.



#### PALMER WOODS CENTENNIAL GALA

Detroit Golf Club Saturday, September 19, 2015 6:30-11:00 PM

COCKTAILS	South Lounge
WELCOME	Ballroom
REMARKS	Honorable Mike Duggan, Mayor of Detroit Palmer Woods Resident 2011-2014
INVOCATION	Reverend Dr. Georgia Hill Assoc. Pastor Plymouth United Church of Christ Palmer Woods Resident 1968-1993
DINNER	Ballroom 7:30
MUSIC	Ballroom Chuck and Gwen Scales
Historical Dis	<b>play</b> Sunroom
Video Presentation	

#### Palmer Woods Centennial Gala Menu

**Cocktail Hour:** Bubbly champagne will be passed and our signature Palmer Punch will be flowing. Enjoy the specially created hors d'oeuvres.

Bruschetta with Mozzarella and Basil

Chicken Quesadilla Cones topped with farm fresh Guacamole Smoked Bacon-wrapped Dates • Smoked Bacon-wrapped Scallops

**Strolling Dinner:** Allow yourself to mix and mingle with new and old friends as you enjoy the sumptuous dinner offerings.

Iceberg Wedge Salad Board • Grilled Watermelon and Asparagus Salad

Chicken Tosca • Scottish Salmon

Smoked Gouda Mashed potatoes • Seasonal Locally-Grown Vegetables
Assorted Breads

**Dessert:** Celebration Cake

## P.O. Box 21086, Detroit, MI 48221 • palmerwoods.org

#### Palmer Woods Association Board

Craig Vanderburg President Jodee Raines Vice President Marjorie Curtis-Porter Secretary Jed Durkin Treasurer Richard J. Bowers, Jr. Karoy Brooks Evan Burkholder Lynne Carter Keith Michael Einheuser Chris Iackson Emily Moorehead Dale Morgan Joel Pitcoff Ruth Stallworth Michelle Story-Stewart

## Greetings from the Palmer Woods Association President

Dear Neighbors & Friends:

Congratulations on our first 100 years!!!

As we approach our Centennial I would like to thank the many residents who worked diligently over the years to preserve the distinctive architecture and landscape of our neighborhood. It is truly remarkable that Palmer Woods still has its original beauty and grandeur from the time it was first developed.

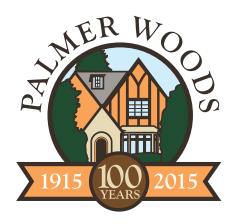


Special mention should be given to those residents who took extraordinary steps to assure that our quality of life was maintained. Over the past decade we have completed essential upgrades to our infrastructure and developed innovative ways to fund various beautification projects. Although much has been accomplished, there is still more to be done.

While historic preservation has been vitally important to sustaining our neighborhood, it is meaningless without a strong, cohesive sense of community. I have spoken to countless past and current residents who treasure their time as members of the Palmer Woods family. This has been the most important aspect of living here for all of us, and must be retained going forward.

It is my hope that future generations demonstrate the same commitment to Palmer Woods and continue its legacy as a great place to live.

Kind Regards,



#### Welcome Palmer Woods Centennial Celebration Guests!

One hundred years ago, Senator Thomas Palmer and Mr. Charles Burton could not have imagined this much success for their dream of developing a unique Detroit neighborhood. Creating a park-like setting for what became three hundred architecturally distinct and memorable homes built on winding tree-lined streets, hidden but still a part of the city of Detroit, defines a dream come true.

The neighborhood is thriving one hundred years later and so once again is the city of Detroit. The enduring spirit of Palmer Woods remains a sanctuary for families; people from diverse backgrounds continue to nest in the Woods, thriving in the energy of our cohesive and active community, marveling at the enduring beauty of our homes, streets and gardens and benefiting from our proximity to destinations both urban and suburban.

As current or former residents, we all share similar stories from people whose parents drove them through the neighborhood at Christmas to see the lights or during the Spring or Summer to see the blooming flowers and manicured lawns. We have been given a grand legacy and it is our job to maintain it for the next generations.

Share your stories tonight, enjoy seeing some of the historic artifacts and photographs.

It is very exciting to be part of history.

We hope you have a memorable and wonderful evening.

Lynne Carter Keith & Margo Norris Co-Chairs Palmer Woods Centennial

## Testimonial Resolution

#### Palmer Woods Centennial

WHEREAS The Detroit Palmer Woods Historic District was named after United States' Senator Thomas W. Palmer whose ownership stretched on both sides of Woodward, from Six Mile Road to Eight Mile Road; and

WHEREAS Senator Palmer donated land to the city of Detroit, for the development of Palmer Park as well as additional land to the state of Michigan, for the Michigan State Fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS Charles W. Burton, a Detroit real-estate developer purchased the land two years after the death of Senator Palmer, with a vision to create the current exclusive Palmer Woods Historic District; and

WHEREAS Palmer Woods unique landscape design with elm-lined streets, brick and stone Tudor styled houses has been the home to many prominent residents; and

WHEREAS

The Fisher Brothers built a 62 room Tudor Mansion and donated it to Bishop Michael Gallagher, of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese. The home designed by ecclesiastical specialist McGinnis and Walsh, the largest home within the Detroit city limits, later became home to Cardinals Edward Mooney and John Frances Dearden and John Salley, of the Detroit Pistons; and

WHEREAS The Palmer Woods Historic District is the model, of a strong economically and socially diverse community, that stands with resilience and grace, in the city and the state; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED That the Councilman George Cushingberry, Jr. and Honorable Members of the Detroit City Council hereby praise and commend Palmer Woods, on this Centennial Anniversary.

COUNCIL MEMBER





COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER 2 WOODWARD AVE., SUITE 1126 DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226 PHONE 313\*224\*3400 FAX 313\*224\*4128 WWW.DETROITMI.GOV

September 19, 2015

Dear Friends,

I would like to offer greetings to everyone attending the Palmer Woods Centennial Gala.

Incorporated in 1915, the Palmer Woods Community is one of Detroit's most beautiful residential neighborhoods. Boasting well-maintained

historic homes in a viable neighborhood, Palmer Woods has truly upheld their mission of maintaining a prestigious community and choice area for residents and families in Detroit.

As you join us to celebrate the centennial, please take the time to experience Palmer Woods and its rich history through all of the special events offered such music, historic architecture and beautiful the Palmer Woods Garden Tour & Soirée.

On behalf of the citizens of Detroit, again, I welcome you to the Palmer Woods Centennial Gala. I applaud the efforts of the organizers, volunteers and participants for their positive contribution towards this evening.

Please accept my wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

Mike Duggan, Mayor GARY C. PETERS

SUITE SRC-2 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510 (202) 224-6221

#### United States Senate

September 19, 2015

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to join the Palmer Woods Association in welcoming you to the Palmer Woods Centennial Gala. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this significant milestone in the history of this premier neighborhood, and would like to thank the Centennial Committee for making this event possible.

For a century, Palmer Woods has stood as one of the strongest neighborhoods in the City of Detroit. Its strength is due to more than its economic wellbeing. It is rooted in the diversity and resilience of its residents, whose dedication to community spirit and civic engagement serves as an example to us all. The Palmer Woods Association is committed to providing fellowship to its members and promoting the needs of its community. It plays a key role in annual events designed to share the history of Palmer Woods with those within the neighborhood and throughout the broader community; especially the architectural charm and significance of the neighborhood's 300 beautiful homes. I applaud the residents of Palmer Woods for their steadfast dedication to tradition, as well as their continued efforts to strengthen connections between themselves and communities throughout the region.

Again, it is my pleasure to join Palmer Woods Association in welcoming you to the Palmer Woods Centennial Gala. I wish you a memorable evening and look forward to continuing to work together as we strengthen neighborhoods in the City of Detroit and across Michigan.

Sincerely,

Gary C. Peters United States Senate



DEBBIE STABENOW

United States Senate

731 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2204 COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTHITION, AND FORESTRY
BUDGET
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
FINANCE

September 19, 2015

Palmer Woods Association PO Box 21086 Detroit, MI 48221

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your Centennial Gala. Congratulations on 100 years of successful stewardship!

Palmer Woods is a beautiful, diverse and vibrant neighborhood that is home to some of the most architecturally distinct and historically significant homes in the City of Detroit. I enjoyed visiting with you earlier this year and commend for your commitment to preserving its history and creating a strong sense of community. This is truly a treasure for the City.

I hope you have a memorable evening.

Sincerely,

Debbie Stabenow United States Senator

### MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

#### September 2015

A Hearty Salute to Palmer Woods on its Centennial Celebration

The centennial of Palmer Woods provides an opportunity to observe a significant milestone of our community. It also offers a time to acknowledge some of the characteristics that make it special, including numerous homes with distinguished architectural design, impressive home and garden tours, and a robust focus on arts and culture. We are amazed by the quality and breadth of your Music in Homes series that spans jazz, classical, and world music.

Palmer Woods holds a special connection to Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT). Many residents subscribe to MOT opera productions and dance presentations at the Detroit Opera House. Palmer Woods was the first of 14 newly established neighborhood opera clubs created by our MOT colleague and Palmer Woods resident Arthur White. Palmer Woods is also home to many MOT volunteers and trustees.

We take enormous pride in joining our neighbors to celebrate the remarkable energy that is ever-present in our immediate community. Thank you, fellow neighbors, for your collective efforts in making our neighborhood a special place that we are proud to call home.

Best wishes for a joyous Centennial Celebration!

Warm regards.

Wayne S. Brown President & CEO Dr. David DiChiera

Founder and Artistic Director



September 9, 2015

Norman Silk Dale Morgan 2760 West 7 Mile Road Detroit, MI 48221

Palmer Woods Association Detroit, MI

Dear Palmer Woods Neighbors,

For thirty years, Dale and I have enjoyed making our home in Palmer Woods.

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of our beloved Palmer Woods neighborhood, we wanted to make a lasting gift that will be enjoyed for the next generation of residents.



Three Northern Red Oaks have been planted among the mature oaks at 7 Mile and Woodward to commemorate the occasion.

We are looking forward for many years to come.

Sincerely

Norm Silk

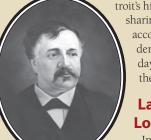


## 100 Year Anniversary History DETROIT'S PALMER WOODS

#### **Our Centennial Year**

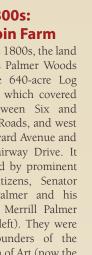
In 2015, Palmer Woods marks its landmark 100th Anniversary. Throughout this centennial year, the Palmer Woods Association will celebrate our neighbor-

> hood and its contributions to Detroit's history, rediscovering and sharing its history and the accomplishments of its residents, from its beginning days in the early 1900s to the present.

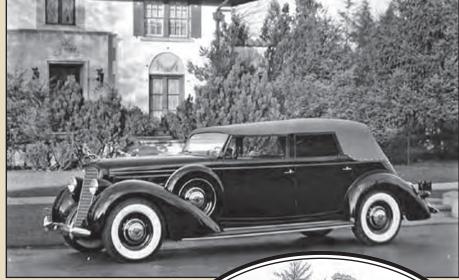


#### Late 1800s: **Log Cabin Farm**

In the late 1800s, the land now known as Palmer Woods was part of the 640-acre Log Cabin Farm, which covered roughly between Six and Eight Mile Roads, and west of Woodward Avenue and east of Fairway Drive. It was owned by prominent Detroit citizens, Senator Thomas Palmer and his wife Lizzie Merrill Palmer women's suffrage.



(pictured at left). They were among the founders of the Detroit Museum of Art (now the Detroit Institute of Arts); and while in Congress, the Senator was known as an advocate for



Above, a 1936 luxury Lincoln in front of 1530 Wellesley.

Right, 1700 Lincolnshire may be the first Palmer Woods home. Richard Marr designed it for Palmer Woods developer Charles Burton in 1915 (it was moved in the 1930s from its original location at 19237 Gloucester so the Fishers' could enlarge their gardens).

According to historian Stephen Williams, Burton was able to purchase the land and honor Senator Palmer's mandate that the neighborhood be built

with first-class homes that respected and maintained the natural elements and space. He believes that 1915 is the year of the approval of the Palmer Woods Platted Site Plan. Burton himself made his home in the neighborhood. Two of the seven

Fisher Brothers (owners of Fisher Body), Alfred and William, also lived in the neighborhood, as did many other of Detroit's most prominent citizens,

such as the Van Dusens, the Prentises, the Sanders, and Briggs.

Planning this new 188-acre subdivision carefully, Burton strove to take advantage of the natural beauty of the terrain. Ads announcing the opening of the subdivision stressed "the charm of winding drives,

Palmer and his wife Lizzie Merrill Palmer.

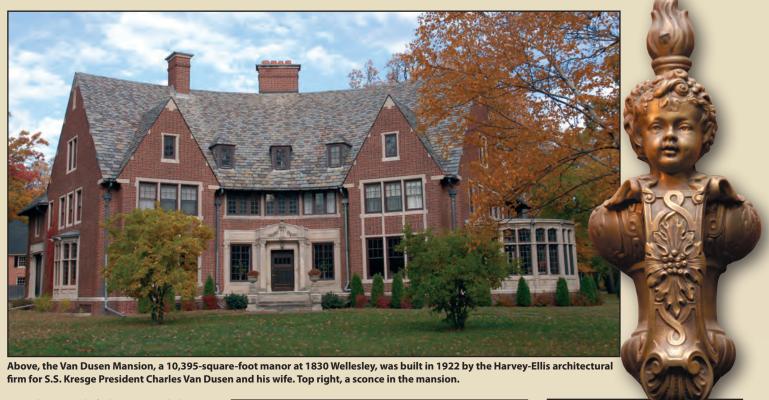
**Senator Thomas** 

In 1895, Senator Thomas Palmer made a generous gift to the City of Detroit of the first 140 acres of his farmland on the northwest border of the city. He requested that it be used as a public park, "for the good of all." By 1897, thanks to Palmer's additional donations, the beautiful forest and open spaces of Palmer Park expanded to most of today's 296 acres. The Park's historic Log Cabin was the Palmer's summer retreat (a very modern Victorian home wrapped in a log cabin façade that remains a landmark in the Park). Another portion of Log Cabin farm was sold and became the Detroit Golf Club.

#### 1915: The Beginning of **Palmer Woods**

In 1915, the Palmer Estate sold land north of the Park to developer Charles W. Burton for a residential subdivision.

> "The charm of winding drives, wooded vistas and artistically grouped shrubbery... Situated next to Palmer Park and the Golf Grounds, fronting on Woodward Avenue, but screened from its dust and noise, Palmer Woods is a safeguard from the encroachments of commercialism." ~Ad for Palmer Woods, 1920s



Far right, a panel of a large stained glass window adorns the Prentis Mansion at 1905 Balmoral.

Right, the 1924 Alfred Fisher Mansion library, 1771 Balmoral, is filled with elaborately carved walls and intricately painted ceilings.

wooded vistas and artistically grouped shrubbery... Situated next to Palmer Park and the Golf Grounds, fronting on Woodward Avenue, but screened from its dust and noise, Palmer Woods is a safeguard from the encroachments of commercialism."

### **Creating a Unique Neighborhood:**

#### **Landscaper Ossian Cole Simonds' Vision**

To create this vision, Burton hired famed landscape architect Ossian Cole Simonds, who was a founding member and president of the American Society of Landscape Architects. He laid out the streets of Palmer Woods as curving avenues, breaking the rigid gridiron tradition of Detroit. To control traffic patterns and maintain privacy, he designed the subdivision with few through-streets and no raised curbs. It maintained a park-like atmosphere, incorporating canopies of abundant trees and island gardens throughout. Building lots were irregular in size and shape, no two being alike. In 1938, Palmer Woods received the Michigan Horticultural Society's Award of Merit for being the finest platted subdivision in the state.

#### A Window into 20th Century Wealth & Opulence

According to *The Wall Street Journal* in 2013, "Palmer Woods homes are a window into the wealth and artistic expression that flowed from Detroit's breakneck expansion in the early 20th century and earned the city the nickname 'Paris of the Midwest.' They feature elevators and grand ballrooms, large mahogany-paneled music rooms and marble crafted by artisans brought in from Italy. There are libraries with moving walls (Prohibition-era wet bars concealed behind them) and colorful tile





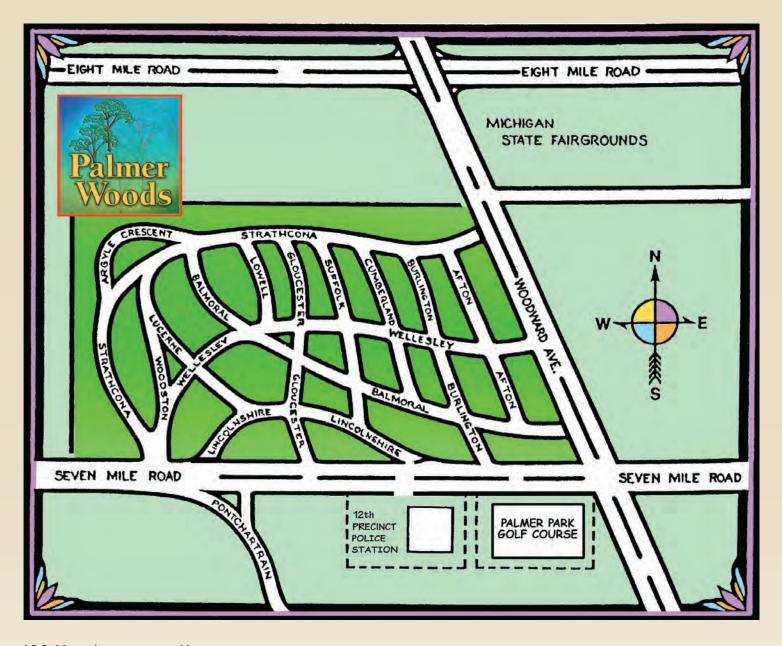
· RESIDENCE F. MRCW. BURTON.

In 1929 Richard Marr designed 19440 Afton for the first developer of Palmer Woods, Charles Burton.

work by celebrated potters, including Detroit's own Pewabic Pottery."

Street names such as Gloucester, Balmoral and Cumberland reflect the influence of English history, and, similarly, the most prevalent residential

Continued on page 12



## 100 Year Anniversary History DETROIT'S PALMER WOODS

Continued from page 11

style found in Palmer Woods is derived from the English Medieval and early Renaissance architecture of the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods (1588-1625). This revival of forms, generally termed Tudor Revival, was the most characteristic style found in Detroit from 1890 to 1930.

Stressing structural integrity, quality materials, and fine craftsmanship, Tudor Revival is characterized by medieval design elements such as twisted chimney stacks, half-timbering, and heraldic stained glass. Predominant materials include red brick, stone, stucco, and slate, often found in combination. Other architectural styles include Arts and Crafts, Georgian, Mediterranean, English Cottage, Streamline Moderne, and Mid-Century Modern, to name a few.

Palmer Woods contains many of the finest examples of creative residential design in the city because the development of the subdivision coincided

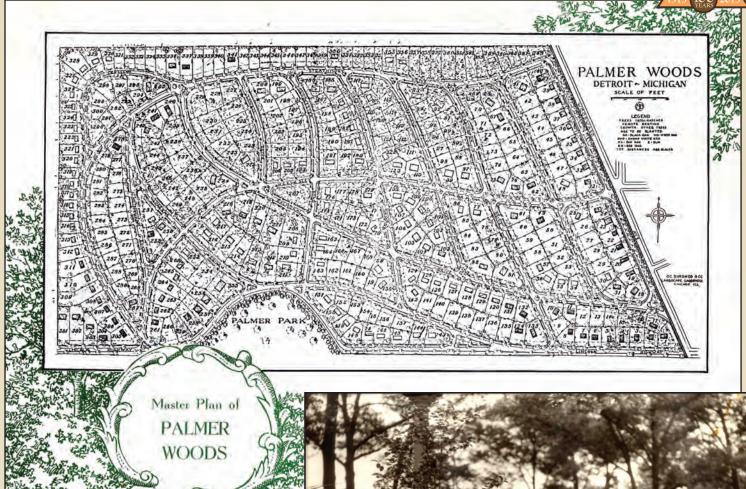
with the rapid expansion of Detroit's auto and retail industries. In the early 1900s, many major business executives built homes and lived a life of opulence in Palmer Woods. The classic heritage of this unique neighborhood is still appreciated by the current residents of these magnificent homes, who take great pride in historic preservation.

Palmer Woods has a wide diversity of homes designed by world-acclaimed architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Minoru Yamasaki, Albert Kahn, and Maginnis & Walsh, as well as many of Detroit's most talented architects, including Alvin E. Harley, Clarence E. Day, Richard H. Marr, William Kuni, J. Ivan Dise, C. Howard Crane, Wallace Frost, Herbert and Frances Schmitz, and the firms of Pollmar & Ropes, and Baxter, O'Dell & Halpin.

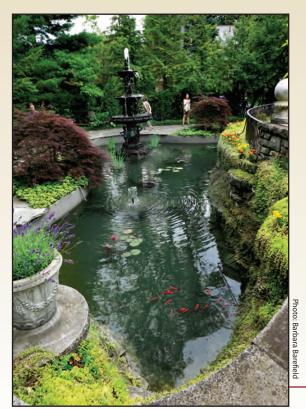
The Palmer Woods Historic District is located directly west of Woodward Avenue and directly north of Palmer Park. The district is bounded by Woodward Avenue, Seven Mile Road, the southern edge of Evergreen Cemetery, Strathcona Drive, and Argyle Crescent.

We welcome you to visit the Palmer Woods Historic District — join us at our annual Music in Homes concerts, Garden Tour, and other events.

For more details, visit palmerwoods.org



O.C. Simmons's design for Palmer Woods.



Above a couple, perhaps William Fisher and his wife, in the garden of the Clipper Fisher Mansion, mid-1920s.

Left: A pond featured in the 2015 Palmer Woods Garden Tour.

## CLIPPER Fisher Estate

#### A Lost Treasure of Detroit

Photos by Barbara Barefield Interior photos of 1791 Wellesley by Jerry, a former Palmer Woods Mailman, & former owners



The Clipper Fisher Mansion at 1791 Wellesley Drive tragically burned in January 1994, four years after the home was featured on the first Palmer Woods Home Tour.











A desolate field replaces the space where once stood an irreplaceable palace in Palmer Woods. The home was one of six showcased on the first Palmer Woods Homes Tour in 1990. This description of the home was written for the Tour's program book by former neighbors Henry and Maureen Petrucci.

In 1925 William A. Fisher, then President of Fisher Body Corporation and Vice President of General Motors, constructed this palatial mansion in the heart of Detroit's exclusive Palmer Woods. Built at the same time as the famous New Center landmark which bears his family name, the Fisher Building, this magnificent home was know as the Clipper Estate due to the motif of the clipper ship repeated throughout its 48 rooms.

Constructed at great expense from red brick with limestone trim, this imposing house features a multi-hued slate roof. Within and without, the Clipper Estate reflects the lost era of opulence in the consistent use of superior craftsmanship and materials. The central gable and flanking bays contain antique stained glass windows brought from European castles.

The grand foyer is a dazzling delight of many different types of marbles with gilt and



brass appointments in the Italian style. Marble is used freely as flooring throughout the home and combined with rococo carved alabaster to create many ornate

and unique fireplaces. Chandeliers were specially commissioned

from Irish Waterford crystal and the famous artisans of Fabergé. Light sparkles from bountiful fixtures of crystal, silver, gilt, pewter and ornate brass.

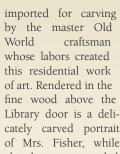
Music once filled this American castle from the Greta Room's powerful pipe organ whose pipes reach throughout the length of the house. The intricate ceilings were sculpted and hand painted by Corrado Parducci, the foremost architectural sculptor of Detroit in the 1920s. Woods were











elsewhere are carved details and flourishes.

The breakfast room is floored in Pewabic tile and bordered in colorful Portuguese majolica. The main dining hall is a visual feast of magnificent carved Michigan walnut, sent to Italy to be crafted and returned for installation. This fantastic room was once host to elegant parties where guests, provided with silver spoons, searched sand filled centerpieces for precious stones to be taken home as the evening's favor.

A stunning symbol of Detroit's glamorous era of industrial wealth, the Clipper Estate, designed by Richard Marr, stands as a timeless reminder of superior taste, craftsmanship and quality.



## A Tale of Two Mansions

#### Attempts to save palatial homes lead to past dispair and new hope

#### By Barbara Barefield

The mysterious mansion which consumes the corner of Balmoral, Wellesley and Lowell has been the source of whispers and speculations for years. Overgrown with vines, trees and other dead and straggling vegetation, the camouflaged home was referred to by many as the "haunted house." Rumor included tales of a reclusive, solitary woman who lived at 1830 Balmoral for decades. Few had been in the home for many years.

This summer, while my husband and I walked our dog, we observed an unfamiliar pickup truck in the home's driveway. This was a period of alert in the neighborhood as tens of thousands of dollars of copper gutters, plumbing and sculptures were disappearing. We decided to investigate, cell phone in hand ready to dial 911.

We entered the hidden driveway on Lowell and snuck up on the back of the home to see two men with the truck. We asked for the homeowner, and they called to her. As we introduced ourselves as her neighbors, we explained our concern for her safety and security because of the increased crime. She assured us she was fine.

But fine she was not. A respected psychiatrist, she and her husband, also a doctor, raised their son in the home. Her husband died years ago, her grown son left, and she lived an increasingly isolated life.

A few months following our encounter at her dwelling, it was claimed to the fate of some one in five Detroit homes. Foreclosure proceedings and eviction followed—all the doctor's furniture and possessions were crassly thrown into several dumpters situated around the property.

As the home was emptied and padlocked, the doctor's son, with a team of neighbors, worked round the clock to save the more precious items to place in storage, and to help clean up the remaining possessions and debris. Soon thereafter, the doctor tragically passed away.

#### A neglected treasure

As the future of this approximated 8,000-square-foot, neglected home sat in limbo, the fear of vandalism hung in the air. Neighbors and the Palmer Woods private security patrol, Securitas, as well as

the Detroit Police Department, kept an eye on the home, hoping it would be sold and protected before irreversible damage could be inflicted.

Originally built in 1922 for the Van-Dusen family, details of the glory of the home spread. It was built by famed architect Richard Marr, who also designed the irreplaceable Prentis home a few doors down at 1905 Balmoral, and the two Fisher mansions on Balmoral and Wellesley. Only one Fisher mansion remains the "twin" was bulldozed after a fire left it

#### A devastating fire

Fourteen years ago, on a wintry Sunday evening, January 2, 1994, I stood on the curb across from 1791 Wellesley as flames licked the sky and curled through walls and the slate roof of the 23,000-square-foot Fisher mansion. New owners Charles and Peggy Harrell had purchased the home for \$300,000 and were renovating the home when a propane heater used to keep the pipes from freezing in the basement may have exploded. The Harrells claimed it was their dream home, but after



On January 2, 1994, the Fisher Mansion at 1791 Wellesley burned, leading to its final demolition the following year. Many believe that the home was sacrificed because selling the valuable architectural artifacts was more expedient and profitable than renovation or selling to an new owner.

swirling in controversy to determine whether it could be restored. More than a year later, demolition following extensive stripping won out.

Curiosity about the VanDusen mansion rose among neighbors and those interested in architectural history. Descriptions of a third-floor ballroom, Pewabic tile and valuable handcrafted lighting and chandeliers spread. If vandals did not break in to steal these treasures, would a new owner follow in the footsteps of reprehensible profit-seekers who strip and sell a home's gems and antiques, and administer superficial repair without regard to architectural integrity and quality? Would it be tossed from owner to owner, each looking for the fast profit?

more than a year, they decided the devastation was not worth the price of restoration. Despite the efforts of a number of hopeful purchasers, including Kenan Bakirci, one of our Palmer Woods neighbors, the home was razed and everything which could be sold was removed.

According to the *Detroit Free Press*: "Since a fire...DuMouchelle Art Galleries Co. has been removing all remaining valuables—from the fireplaces to sculptural stones and even the iron fence. The fixtures join others that DuMouchelle has been holding since 1991, when they were consigned there by the previous owner, a notorious Detroit house stripper, Willie Ozier."

A court order, filed by Palmer Woods





Above: New owner Kenan Bakirci stands in front of 1830 Balmoral, while a crew cuts and removes overgrown trees and dead vegetation to reveal the stately home. Right: Rooms and details from the home, which include a ballroom and billiard room on the third floor; on the second floor there are seven bedrooms; there are five full and four half baths and four fireplaces in the main house. There is also a two-bedroom carriage house/garage.

neighbors, including attorneys Michael Einheuser and Mary Ann Helveston, had stopped the sale of those fixtures and Ozier lost the house in foreclosure.

The remains of 1791 Balmoral now lay under a grave of grass and weeds, with the salvaged treasures spread to undisclosed locations.

"It was a tragedy," states Realtor Kenan Bakirci. "I was not alone in attempting to purchase the home. It could have been and should have been restored."

The memory of the debacle still haunts Bakirci, who is devoted to preserving and renovating old homes. He sells homes in Detroit's historic districts and owns a home in Indian Village, and now two homes in Palmer Woods—Kenan and his wife Angie have just purchased the "haunted house."

"When 1830 Balmoral was foreclosed, I could not bear the thought of it falling into the hands of greed and ignorance. These grand homes contain the art and labor of

artisans which is irreplaceable and the architecture is priceless," explains Kenan.

He knew that he had to make sure that whoever purchased the mansion had to respect the history

and craftsmanship and be devoted to maintaining and restoring the home with integrity and artistry. And then he decided he had to buy it.

"I am ready to move into it today, if I

could sell my other homes [1541 Balmoral in Palmer Woods and 1089 Iroquois in Indian Village]," Kenan states, although the home needs a great deal of work to repair Continued on page 18

The sunroom, above and ballroom,

#### **Two Mansions**

Continued from page 17

water damage which has caused rotting wood and plaster to crumble, peel and crack from ceilings and walls. The house also needs extensive cleaning and updating, but it is extremely well-constructed and repairable.

There is new hope on Balmoral. The Bakircis are committed to restoring their new home to its original glory.

However, several other homes on the block are still in a questionable state. The home next to it at 1860 Balmoral, where former Governor George Romney and his family lived in the late 1940s and early 50s, has been largely gutted and left to ruin with a skeleton roof. The most recent

owner claims he cannot afford to finish the renovations and the financing bank may not want to be left with the prospect of tens of thousands in back taxes, hundreds of thousands needed to rebuild the home, and the additional loss of hundreds of thousands which will not be paid back if the home is foreclosed.

The adjacent home at 1884 Balmoral, a lovely, sprawling brick structure, has also fallen victim to years of neglect. It is now in foreclosure, however the bank has been making efforts to clean and secure the home. Hopefully it will be sold to responsible owners.

At this time, Detroit leads the nation in foreclosed homes. For Palmer Woods, it presents an opportunity to purchase



homes which may have been unaffordable previously. However, the taxes are often excessive and the costs to repair and maintain the homes are high.

The challenge remains to attract honest, responsible purchasers who understand the importance of protecting and preserving the architectural treasures in our neighborhood. To those people, we issue a hearty welcome, a sincere thank you, and an invitation to please join us in our urban renaissance.

## Van Dusen Home, Update After several years of extensive repairs, including reproducing sections of the elaborately decorated plaster ceilings, the Van Dusen home is well on its way to its former glory. Several Music in Homes concerts and Home Tour Soirées have been held in the home, including

a holiday concert in Dec. 2011 with Off-Broadway star, former Detroiter Miche Braden, left. Below, Kenan, left, talks with Barbara Van Dusen (the granddaughter of the family who built the home) at a Home Tour Soirée in Dec. 2010. Current owners continue to restore the home.



### 1884 Balmoral Drive From foreclosure to fabulous

Like the Van Dusen home, 1884 Balmoral, right next door, has

had major challenges. After much hard work over more than five years by its current homeowners, it is now one of our neighborhood's prime examples of devotion to historic preservation. Its transformation from foreclosure and devastation to fabulous continues in many other Palmer Woods restorations.

Just shy of 7,000 square feet, 1884 Balmoral is a charming Dutch Revival home completed in 1928 by Robert O. Derrick, notable architect of the Henry Ford Museum at Greenfield Village (recognized by the Department of the

Interior as a National Historic Landmark), as well as many other prominent buildings in Detroit (Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse), the Grosse Pointes (Punch and Judy Theater), and Pontiac.





#### 19301 Burlington

This Italian Memphis-style house is one of the more recently built homes in Palmer Woods. It is an ultra-custom, one-of-a-kind contemporary home constructed in 1979 for prominent Detroit couple Dr. John and Victoria Suanne Loomis. This spectacular residence features an open floor plan and aesthetics ahead of its time, including incredible use of angles and curves. The house also includes wonderful light infusion through a surprising use of windows and skylights throughout. Mark W. Steele of the Steele Bos group in Birmingham, Michigan, was the architect commissioned to design the 7,500-plus square-foot home. It was one of the last houses Steele designed in Michigan before moving to California, where he has become very famous. It is a great home for entertaining, and current owners have hosted recent Home Tour and Garden Tour Soirées.

## Here is a New Home on Burlington

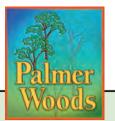
Excerpted from a Palmer Woods Post from the late 1970s.

Palmer Woods is known for its grand, beautiful old homes — most of which are over 50 years old. But we are sure that you have all noticed the construction of a spectacular, beautiful, contemporary home on Burlington being built by Dr. John and Suane Loomis. As the older homes were impressive and among the best of homes being built at their time (the late 20s and 30s) the Loomis' home is similarly outstanding and impressive when compared with contemporary homes now being built. It is a real asset to Palmer Woods and will serve as a worthy example in the future of a home representing this era as do our homes for an earlier period. If you have not seen the back or the inside of the Loomis home, you are in for a surprise. It is an architectural gem a real beauty. After the Loomis' have completed and furnished it and feel up to visitors. Perhaps we might be able to persuade them to permit a tour. If so, you are in for a treat!

### Vintage Cars at 2015 Garden Tour

Neighbors and visitors were delighted to view vintage cars parked throughout Palmer Woods for the Centennial Garden Tour.





## Detroit's Palmer Woods Ti

Research: Jed Durkin, Denise Yezbick, Emily Moorhead • Design & Research: Barbara Barefield

1701

Antoine de La Mothe Cadillac establishes a French settlement, Fort Ponchartrain du Détroit 1796

U.S. forces capture Detroit from the British. 1816

Construction of a road from Detroit to Pontiac along a former Native

American trail begins. Now known as Woodward Ave. 1837

Michigan becomes the 26th state of the U.S. Detroit is its first capital. 1849
The first

annual Michi held in Detro be first state f

1760°

Britain wins the city from the French.

1802

Detroit becomes a chartered city; by 1815 population is about 850.



1820s-1865

Detroit vital to Underground Railroad, often the final stop before freedom in Canada. Some 200 Underground Railroad stops in Michigan.



1776

The thirteen colonies demand independence from Britain.

1812

U.S. declares war against Britain due to trade restrictions and interference in westward expansion. 1837

Samuel Morse patents the electrical telegraph.

1848

The first wo convention Seneca Falls by Elizabeth and local fer

1899

Detroit Golf Club formed.

1906

Completion of the 18-holes

**1914** Expands to 36 holes and 149 property lots

**1916** Completion of the Albert Khan designed Clubhouse

1913

Sen. Palmer passes away. His land (what is now Palmer Woods, Golf Club Community, Palmer Park, etc.) inherited by family. 1915

Sen. Palmer's family sells land north of 7 Mile to Charles Burton; Palmer Woods becomes first platted subdivision in Michigan. First building permit, 19221 Strathcona. 1916

First Palmer Woods homes built: 1700 Lincolnshire and 1810 Wellesley by architect Richard Marr



1910

Ford opens Model T Ford Highland Park Plant designed by Albert Kahn. In 1913 it becomes the first facility to implement

production assembly line.



1915-

Burton hires famed landscape architect Ossian Cole Simonds, who designs Palmer Woods' streets as curving avenues, retaining park-like natural beauty.



1914

\$5-a-day wage for Ford autoworkers set off seismic shifts in U.S. A tidal wave of job seekers from the South and around the world flood Detroit. 1914

The U.S. enters WWI declaring war on Germany. 1919

18th Amendment prohibits the manufacture, sale, and transportation of liquor. 19th Amendment gives women right to vote. 1920s

Auto manufactor of other industrial wealth in Det building of buil



Frank Couzens 56th and 58th Mayor of Detroit between 1933-1938. He built 14 homes in Palmer Woods starting is the 1920s.

1940-

Edward Jefferies 60th Mayor of Detroit between 1940-1948. Resident of Palmer Woods, 19241 Afton.

Second wave of more modern homes begin to be built following World War II, including one designed by Minoru Yamasaki, architect of NY's World Trade Center (1952).

1955

Frank Lloyd Wright's Turkelhouse, commissioned by parking-lot heiress Dorothy S. Turkel. Purchased in 2006 by Norman Silk and Dale Morgan, co-owners of Blossoms, a local floral business.



## meline 1701-2015



gan State Fair it. Thought to air in U.S.

#### 1861

The Detroit Police Department is formed.

#### 1863

Streetcars pulled by horses are first used on Woodward and Jefferson Avenues charging 5 cents.



1894

Senator Palmer donates over 120 acres of his Log Cabin Farm for a public park that would become Palmer Park.



1861

Michigan is one of the first states to send volunteers to Washington, D.C. at outbreak of Civil War.



1883

First electric arc street lighting installed on Jefferson and Woodward Avenues.

#### 1896

Henry Ford test drives his first automobile on the streets of Detroit. The last horse-drawn street cars are replaced by electric trolleys

men's rights is held in , NY organized Cady Stanton male Quakers.

1860-61

Abraham Lincoln elected 16th president of U.S. South Carolina secedes from Union. Beginning of the American Civil War.

End to the Civil War. 13th Amendment abolishes slavery.

15th Amendment ratified, African American males given right to vote.

#### 1881

Detroit Wolverines join Nation Baseball League. They win the "World Series" in 1887. Become the Tigers in 1895.



1916-1929

Dozens of mansions and estates built in Palmer Woods by acclaimed architects such as Marr, William Kuni, Leonard Willeke, Clarence Day, Alvin Harlin, W.C. Morris, C. Howard Crane, McGinnis & Walsh, Wallace Frost, others

#### 1915-present

In Palmer Woods, 202 homes were constructed between 1915 and 1940. 95 constructed after 1940.



Palmer Woods receives Michigan Horticultural Society's Award of Merit for being the finest platted subdivision in Michigan.



1920-1960s

market crashes and

precipitates the

Great Depression.

Detroit's Black Bottom-Paradise Valley area, where African Americans were allowed to live and shop, is densely-populated, impoverished, but culturally rich. Displaced in late 1950s-60s by freeways and urban renewal.

#### 1925

1800 Strathcona homeowner attorney Walter Nelson houses famous civil rights lawyer Clarence Darrow and helps defend Dr. Ossian Sweet, whose family was attacked



when integrating a white neighborhood.



1929 cturing and growth The U.S. stock

stries create great roit, leading to oth opulent and nomes.

#### 1935-

United Auto Workers was founded in Detroit, May 1935. Under leadership of Walter Reuther it grew to 1.5 million by 1970s.



1941

Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. The U.S. enters World War II. 1945, U.S. drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

#### 1943

Racial tensions explode on Belle Isle. Federal troops regain control after three days. 34 killed, 344 wounded.



1990

Palmer Woods Home Tours begin



1994-

Dennis Archer, resident of Palmer Woods (1642 Lincolnshire) becomes 67th Mayor of Detroit (1994-2001). Clipper Fisher Mansion burns down (1994).



40,000 sq-ft Bishop Gallagher house, the largest residence in city limits sold by Catholic Church to former Piston John "Spider" Salley.



Palmer Woods Music in Homes begins

2014 Mike Duggan, resident of Palmer Woods, becomes 75th Mayor of Detroit

2015 Palmer Woods Celebrates 100 years with Gala at Albert Kahn designed Detroit Golf Club

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## National Media Shines a Light on Palmer Woods

Read The Wall Street Journal article at http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424127887324461604578191983681691560 Read The Atlantic article at http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1969/12/the-other-detroit/8403/

### THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

#### Detroit Classics, Priced to Move WHO LIVES HERE

With grand homes built for the titans of industry, Palmer Woods still draws Motown's elite, while bargains tempt suburbanites; a new neighbor's big plans

#### By CHRISTINA ROGERS

Updated Jan. 18, 2013 3:30 p.m. ET

Ed Welburn, chief designer for General Motors, was in the company archives years ago when he spotted something familiar in a framed 1930s Cadillac ad hanging on the wall: a row of white stones along the roadside grass, similar to the ones outside his house.

MOTOWN CLASSICS FOR A SONG



The 10,000-square-foot Van Dusen Mansion in Detroit's Palmer Woods, built in 1922 for a retailing executive, is listed under \$700,000. FABRIZIO COSTANTINI FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

As he dug deeper, looking through more vintage luxury-car ads—many set against backdrops of Tudor-style mansions with grand front lawns—he soon realized he was looking at pictures of his own neighborhood,

"Some of the homes haven't changed at all," says Mr. Welburn, who has lived in the historic Detroit enclave for about 30 years. Among the images in the archive, Mr. Welburn recently discovered one of his own house, a 1927 Georgian colonial, with a gleaming 1930 L

by stately of Frank

1910s, it

The Atlantic

#### The Other Detroit

The city's grandest enclave clings to the dream.

TA-NEHISI COATES April 2011 Issue

KAREN BATCHELOR'S FAMILY moved into Palmer Woods in 1967, part of the first cadre of African Americans to integrate the affluent neighborhood on the outskirts of Detroit. They moved in December, after the long-simmering city had burst into racial violence that summer. Batchelor's father, an internist, had witnessed Detroit's previous race riots in 1943. Out on a date at Belle Isle—the flash point of the '43 riots—he was injured in the melee. He had no interest in reliving the experience, so he and his wife decided to move their family out.

Their 16-year-old daughter liked her old home, and was leery of being on the vanguard of integration. But her new house helped. "I remember seeing my bedroom, and it was pink, and it had a chandelier in it," she told me. "We came from a very lovely home. But this one had seven bedrooms, five bathrooms, a swimming pool, a cabana, and three kitchens." By her memory, the Batchelors were the ninth black family to move into Palmer Woods, a neighborhood of nearly 300 homes. The following year, several families from her old neighborhood followed—including Karen's best friend—and the path

Today, the neighborhood remains a haven for leaders in business and the arts, as well as doctors, lawyers and university professors. More recently, it has managed to attract some newcomers from the suburbs, a significant achievement in a city that has lost more than half its population in the last 50 years. One of the newest immigrants to Palmer Woods is Mike Duggan, a former county prosecutor who recently stepped down as head of the Detroit Medical Center to prepare a bid for mayor of Detroit.



Palmer Woods homes are a window into the wealth and artistic expression that flowed from Detroit's breakneck expansion in the early 20th century and earned the city the nickname "Paris of the Midwest." They feature elevators and grand ballrooms, large mahogany-paneled music rooms and marble crafted by artisans brought in from Italy. There are libraries with moving walls (Prohibition-era wet bars concealed behind them) and colorful tile work by celebrated potters, including Detroit's own Pewabic Pottery. One home has a pub fitted into its basement, its pieces dismantled and shipped over from England.

Yet today, because of the deterioration in the city's economic fortunes—not to mention the houses themselves—even some of the most distinctive Palmer Woods homes are priced as garden-variety colonials would be in other

property now on the market is a 10,000-square-foot mansion built in 1922 by rles Van Dusen, then president of S.S. Kresge Co., precursor to Kmart Corp. The has seven bedrooms, nine bathrooms, a walnut-paneled entrance hall, carved

#### Palmer Woods





Spencer Barefield speaks to the crowd at the beginning of a Mardi Gras jazz concert held in a mansion in Palmer Woods. Spencer and his wife Barbara organize monthly concerts in various homes in the neighborhood as part of the Music in Homes Conce Series. (GREG RUFFING/REDUX)

SLIDESHOW: Touring Detroit's Architectural Splendor

Batchelor's parents eventually moved from Palmer Woods, but many of her friends and neighbors did not. Indeed, Palmer Woods now sits on a census block group that, according to the most-recent available data, is 81 percent black, and it is arguably the American black elite's most majestic enclave. When I first visited, in the fall of 2009, I was awestruck. I had seen wellheeled black neighborhoods before—the prosperous suburbs ringing Atlanta and Washington, D.C., Chatham in Chicago, Baldwin Hills in L.A. But the gates of Palmer Woods are a wormhole out of the angry city and into an opulent idyll. Sleepy curvilinear streets with names like "Strathcona Drive" and "Argyle Crescent" snake through the 188-acre hamlet and its sprawling, irregular lots. Across Seven Mile Road sits the venerable, members-only Detroit Golf Club, which remained all-white until 1986.

Even as Detroit groaned under the weight of crime, failing schools, and high

## ARCHITECTS

#### World Class Creators of Palmer Woods Homes

Text by Jed Durkin & Barbara Barefield • Photos of homes by Barbara Barefield



#### 1700 Lincolnshire Drive~The Charles Burton House

This brick and stucco colonial with unusual tile roof was designed by Richard Marr for Charles Burton, the developer of Palmer Woods, in 1915. Originally located at 19237 Gloucester, the home was moved in 1930 so Alfred and Alma Fisher could expand their gardens. It is the oldest home in Palmer Woods.

#### 1810 Wellesley

Designed by Richard Marr, this home is thought to be built in 1916, one of the oldest in Palmer Woods.





#### 19201 Strathcona Drive

A 4,700 square-foot Italian Renaissance home, the façade of this stately manor is adorned with limestone Doric columns, accents and keystones, balustrades, and arched windows over the main entrance. It was designed by Richard Marr in 1929. Its huge backyard has been restored and redesigned by current owners, who are landscape architects.



#### 1530 Wellesley Drive

Boasting a lovely conservatory that enhances its unique appearance, this stately Mediterranean-style villa with its Spanish-tiled roof was designed by Richard Marr in 1923 for I.H. Nie, an automotive executive with the Fisher Body Corporation.



#### 1905 Balmoral Drive~The Prentis House

Designed by architect Richard Marr, this mansion was built in 1929 for Anna and Meyer L. Prentis, a renowned Michigan philanthropist and Treasurer for the General Motors Corporation. The Prentis House encompasses an imposing 12,000 square feet, reflecting a combination of Tudor and Early English Renaissance styles.

## Architect: RICHARD H. MARR

Born in Detroit in 1886, Richard Marr attended Harvard and received a degree in architecture in 1911. After practicing for two years in Boston, Marr returned to Detroit, where he specialized in designing homes and apartment buildings in Detroit and its suburbs. The Architect's Building in the Cass Corridor and the Palmer Park Boulevard Apartments District on McNichols are on the National Historic Register of Places.

Known as the "architect to millionaires," Marr designed over 14 homes in Palmer Woods in a variety of styles between 1915 and 1931.





#### 19221 Strathcona Drive

This stately Greek Revival designed by Marr sits on the first Palmer Woods lot sold in 2015. Its building permit was issued in 1916, and was occupied in 1922, although not completed until 1927.



#### 19375 Cumberland Drive

From the enclosed porch embellished with decorative wrought iron, to the intricate plaster moldings and ceiling medallions, stained glass detailing, carved wood and sweeping staircase, this 4,800 square-foot Tudor built in 1926 exemplifies gracious living.

## Architect: CLARENCE E. DAY

Clarence Day was born in 1886 in Detroit and apprenticed at several area architectural firms in 1905. He then opened his own practice in 1915, specializing in eclectic revival homes. His crowning achievement was likely the Neo-Tudor Scripps Mansion in Lake Orion.

With the onset of the Depression, the private home business declined, and Day shuttered his practice in 1935. He later collaborated with Harley and Ellington, Inc., and in 1939 merged firms to form Harley, Ellington, and Day (now Harley Ellis Devereaux), where he was a partner for 20 years. The group designed numerous landmark buildings (see Harley's bio), and forged a close relationship with famed sculptor Marshall Fredericks, whose works were often integral parts of the designs. Known as the "Designer of Town and Country Homes," Day designed 14 homes in Palmer Woods between 1920 and 1929.



#### 19275 Burlington Drive

Built in 1929, this beautiful 6,360 square-foot Tudor Revival features a magnificent, massive two-and-a-half story Great Room complete with vaulted ceilings and hand-chiseled beams with a transverse stirrup.



#### 1441 Strathcona

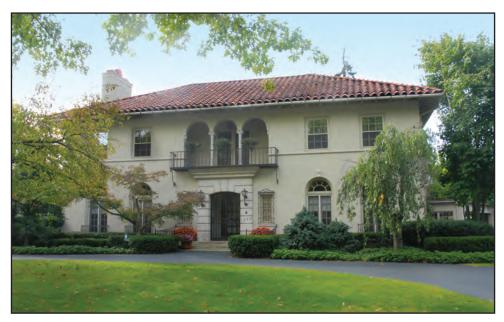
Sitting impressively on the corner of Strathcona and Cumberland, this 6,000-plus square-foot English Tudor Revival was built in 1921 for Carl B. Tuttle, treasurer of the S.S. Kresge Company.

#### **Architect: ALVIN E. HARLEY**

Alvin Ernest Harley was born in 1884 in Portage LaPrairie, Manitoba, Canada. After high school, he moved to the booming Motor City and found work as a draftsman and apprentice with two of the city's leading architects, first Albert Kahn, and then George D. Mason. It was with this rich background that Harley launched his own professional practice with another Mason co-worker,

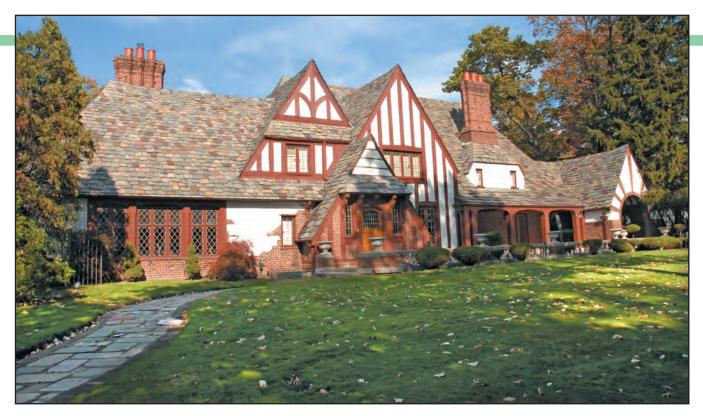
Norman Swain Atcheson in 1908. This dissolved and Harley formed his own practice in 1912 and had a partnership with Richard Marr. In 1933 he joined forces with Harold Ellington and then merged with Clarence Day in 1939.

Although most well known for his residential work, he was involved in the design for many of Detroit's iconic buildings, including the Rackham Building, the exposition buildings for the Michigan Fairgrounds, State Vernor's Bottling Plant, the south and north additions to the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the City County Building. Harley designed eight homes in Palmer Woods in the late 1910s to early 1920s, transforming Detroit farmland to an elite neighborhood.



#### 1525 Wellesley

This stunning two-story stucco and tile Spanish Colonial was completed in December 1924.



#### 1630 Wellesley Drive

Completed in 1929 for Detroit theater and radio station entrepreneur John Kunsky, this massive home with its asymmetrical roof line, irregular gables, and soaring, clustered chimney stacks, compromises over 9,000 square feet. The highlight of this spectacular residence is the studio — a 1920's version of the modern "Great Room," which Kunsky used as a projection room.

#### **Architect: C. HOWARD CRANE**

Born in 1885, Charles Howard Crane, a young architect from Hartford, Connecticut, arrived in Detroit in 1904 and worked for Albert Khan for a short time before starting his own office. From the very beginning, Crane specialized in the design of movie palaces and grand theatres. His unique skill was in such demand for an extended period that he designed more than 50 theaters

in Metro Detroit and 250 others nationwide.

His legacy in Detroit, however, is undoubtedly the theatres he designed around Grand Circus Park, including the Adams, Broadway Capitol, Fox, Madison, State, and United Artists, as well as Detroit's acclaimed Orchestra Hall and the Detroit Opera House.

In addition to the theaters,

Crane also designed
Olympia Stadium,
which was home
to both the Detroit Red Wings
and the Detroit
Pistons. He designed very few
residences in
his career, but
two of them are

in Palmer Woods.



#### 1900 Lincolnshire Drive

Designed in 1938 by famed Detroit architect C. Howard Crane, this 4,000-square-foot home is a gorgeous example of English Tudor Revival style.



#### 1580 Lincolnshire Drive

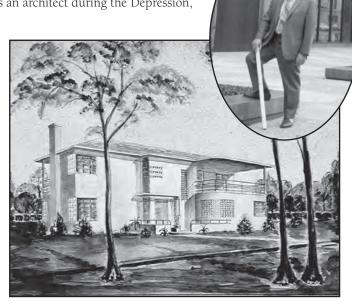
In the 1930s, Farmer Jack's founder Tom Borman purchased a lot in Palmer Woods to build a family home. He found inspiration when he met artist/architect Louis Redstone. The Borman residence was Redstone's first major commission in the U.S., though he had already had a major influence in the ultra-modern city of Tel-Aviv. Completed in 1939, the home is a prime example of the Streamline Moderne style that was wildly popular for a brief period during the late 1930s.

#### **Architect: LOUIS REDSTONE**

Louis Redstone was born in Grodno, Russia in 1903. In 1920, he went to Palestine to help build a Jewish homeland, moving to Detroit three years later. Redstone enrolled in the University of Michigan College of Architecture in 1925. Unable to find employment as an architect during the Depression, he worked as an artist and sculptor.

In 1933, Redstone returned to Tel Aviv, working as an architect and later helping to design the Palestine Pavilion for the 1937 World's Fair in Paris. Shortly thereafter, he moved back to Detroit, where he started his own architectural firm specializing in architecture, engineering, interior design, and urban planning. His buildings include the Michael Berry International Air Terminal at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Manufacturers Bank Operations Center, Jewish Community Center, Congregation Beth Achim, and the business administration building at Lawrence Technological University.

In 1978, Redstone was awarded the Gold Medal of the Michigan Society of Architects, the organization's highest honor. The next year, he was elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts at the Hague. The home designed by Redstone in Palmer Woods is a rare example of Streamline residential architecture.





#### 19631 Argyle Crescent

In 1952, attorney S. Brooks Barron and his wife Florence (an interior designer), commissioned Minoru Yamasaki to design this T-shaped house. By means of geometric patterns, rich materials, and unexpected visual components, the architect masterfully balanced the mysteriousness of his (then) radical design with the adjacent exterior elements visible from within. Each major room in the house looks out onto the Japanese garden, the reflecting pool or both.

## Architect: MINORU YAMASAKI

Minoru Yamasaki was born in 1912 in Seattle to Japanese immigrants. At age 16, Yamasaki enrolled in the University of Washington's architecture program. After college, Yamasaki received his master's degree from New York University. In 1945, the large architectural Detroit firm of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls recruited him to become its chief designer; one of his projects was a modern addition for the Neoclassic-style Federal Reserve Bank building. He left SHG in 1949 to start his own firm.

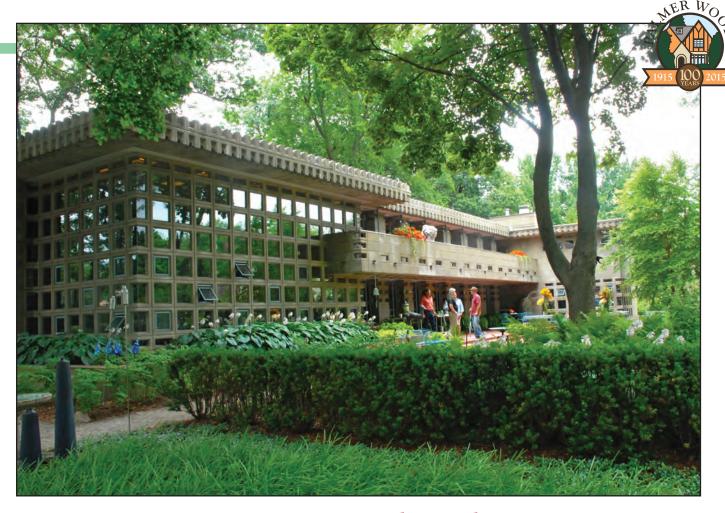
The McGregor Memorial Conference Community Center at Wayne State University in Detroit, completed in 1958, is a widely admired example of how he used interior and exterior design to convey feelings of serenity and delight. Another outstanding structure, the Reynolds Metals Company Building, also in Detroit, made use of skylights, plants, and pools.

Yamasaki is perhaps best known for the World Trade Center — its 110-story twin towers were among the world's tallest structures. The American Institute of Architects awarded him three AIA First Honor Awards, and in 1963, named him an AIA Fellow.

Yamasaki designed at least one home in Palmer Woods, possibly a second.



Photo: Tony Spin



#### 2760 Seven Mile Road

Commissioned in 1955 by Dorothy G. Turkel, the "Usonian Automatic" design was to be a low-cost building system. However, the original construction costs neared \$100,000, no small sum in the mid-1950s. Wright's method using pre-cast blocks as basic building elements nonetheless created an elegant simplicity of design which remains timeless, stately and inspiring. The Turkel House is the only two-story "Usonian Automatic" design in the world and is Wright's only building within the Detroit city limits. More than 50 years later, it has undergone extensive renovations by its new owners, who strove to pay homage to Wright's 70-year legacy of creating designs that revolutionized the art and architecture of the 20th Century.

## Architect: FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

Known in the U.S., Europe, and Japan as one of America's most creative architectural geniuses, Frank Lloyd Wright would redefine American comfort in his affordable renditions of houses, churches, and buildings. His talent lay in what would become known as the "Prairie Style," a design that would change the face of residential design across the U.S. and the world. Using materials usually reserved for commercial buildings, they were able to build spacious homes that were also comfortable and easily heated and vented.

By the 1930s, Wright's fame had grown worldwide and he received commissions to design colleges, universities, homes, museums, and government buildings. One of his most revered works is the Guggenheim Museum and the Marin



In 2008, Palmer Woods Music in Homes presented A. Spencer Barefield, Kathy Kosins and Paul Keller at the Frank Lloyd Wright Turkel home.

County complex. His books, *Organic Architectures*, *American Architectures*, and *A Testament* are all brilliant works from this prolific author, architect, and artist. Wright designed two houses in Palmer Woods, but removed his name from one of them after changes were performed on the house at a later date.



#### 1611 Lincolnshire Drive

A classic Georgian colonial, this 3,000 square-foot home was designed in 1935 by Albert Kahn and Associates for Kahn's brother Moritz Kahn and his family. Moritz was an engineer in the Kahn firm.

#### **Architect: ALBERT KAHN**

Albert Kahn was born in Germany in 1869. When he was 11, his family moved to the U.S. and settled in Detroit. In 1902, after working at a number of well-known architectural firms in Detroit, Kahn started his own practice.

While building factories for Packard, the young architect found that swapping reinforced concrete for wood or masonry sped up the construction of manufacturing plants considerably. Reinforced-concrete buildings needed fewer load-bearing walls, freeing up space for massive industrial equipment.

"Architecture," Kahn liked to say, "is 90 percent business and 10 percent art." His buildings reflected this philosophy: they were sleek, flexible, and above all functional. Besides all that utilitarian concrete, they incorporated huge metal-framed windows and garage doors, and acres of uninterrupted floor space for conveyor belts and other machines. Kahn's first Ford factory, the 1909 Highland Park plant, used elevators and dumbwaiters to spread the Model T assembly line over several floors, but most of his subsequent factories were huge single-story spaces: Ford's River Rouge plant (1916) and, perhaps most famous of all, the half-mile long Willow Run "Arsenal of Democracy," the home of Ford's B-29 bomber in Ypsilanti.

Kahn's work is an integral part of the Detroit landscape, having designed the Fisher Building, Belle Isle Conservatory, the Detroit Golf Club, the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Detroit Free Press Building, and many others.

Known as "the man who built Detroit," Kahn and his assistants built more than 2,000 buildings in all, mostly for Ford and General Motors and one in Palmer Woods.



### Palmer Woods Picnics

#### A Whole Lotta Shakin' and Other Fun

Each summer, Palmer Woods residents gather for a joyous afternoon filled with food, frolic, friends, fun and lots and lots of dancing. Often, the event coincides with ARISE! Detroit's Neighborhood Day. In more recent years, families danced the hustle, the twist, the swim and freeformed it to music by DJ Ronald Rambus in 2014, and Luther Keith Blues Band in 2015. They ate hot dogs fresh from the grill, sno-cones and an array of delicious homemade casseroles, salads and desserts prepared by their neighbors. The kids bounced in the bounce house, had their faces painted by neighborhood artists, and played frisbee, football, piñata, hula-hoop and other games. Families of all ages renewed old acquaintances and made new ones. In 2014, Terrance Keith signed copies of his newly published photo essay *Sunrise on the Detroit River, A Love Letter to Detroit*. In previous years, we have had visits by the Detroit Fire Department and petting zoos, and had fur with rounds of old-fashioned

tug-of-war. As summed up by Ruth Stallworth, one of the picnic coordinators, "Oh, the joy in gathering together! It's one time you are guaranteed to see a smile."

Updated from Fall 2014 Palmer Woods Post article by Jodee Raines; photos by Barbara Barefield



## GARDENS

#### Flowers, ponds and nature in Palmer Woods

Article by Jodee Raines excerpted from Summer 2014 Post • Photos by Barbara Barefield

n Saturday, July 19, 2014, despite a light, intermittent rain, more than 600 people toured six splendid gardens on the first Palmer Woods Garden Tour since the 1930s. Each garden was distinctive and absolutely spectacular! Our islands and surrounding neighborhood landscaping were spruced up in anticipation of the tour. More than 125 of the 600 participants (including former resident Mayor Mike Duggan and his wife Lori) purchased tickets to attend a pre-tour strolling dinner soirée on Friday night, graciously hosted by Norm Silk and Dale Morgan at their Frank Lloyd Wright designed home (aka The Turkel Home).

The tour raised over \$12,000 for future neighborhood beautification projects. Moreover, participants left with very positive impressions of Palmer Woods. The soirée and tour were featured in the *Detroit MetroTimes*, which noted, "Long considered one of Detroit's premier neighborhoods, Palmer Woods strives to preserve both its history and its majesty."

Thanks go to the Garden Tour Committee (chaired by Dale Morgan), Landscape Committee (chaired by Gwen Graddy-Dansby), homeowners (John and Karen Barnwell, Severine and Tony Jeanpiere, Dan Jones & Brian Rankel, Dale Morgan and Norm Silk, Janice and Larry Warren, Roger and Tonya Yopp), house captains (Lynne Carter Keith, Jim and Nancy Lewandowski, Gwen Graddy-Dansby, Dan Treder, Mimi Helveston, Janice Warren) and numerous other volunteers who acted as docents, sold tickets and otherwise helped with the event. Special thanks go to Barbara Barefield, who



coordinated the entire event, including creating all print and electronic materials, organizing logistics for the event and setting up online ticket sales.

In 2015, our Centennial Garden Tour was held on July 18, with a soirée held at the home of Rick Bowers and Dan Treder the night prior. Despite sweltering weather, the gardens were filled with smiles and appreciation and the gardens were magnificent. The addition of vintage cars throughout the neighborhood added a grand sense of history for a neighborhood of homes built by many giants of

the car industry. Special thanks to garden owners Everton Swearing and Arthur White, John Sayah and Terrie Morgan, Jodee and Roy Raines, Rose and Larry Brinker and Chris and Linda Cardine.



















## HOME TOUR

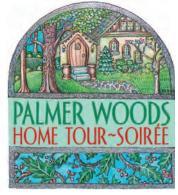
## Since 1990, Holiday Home Tours showcase magnificent living in Palmer Woods

Photos & article by Barbara Barefield

In years past, countless visitors braved the winter weather to tour and learn about the mansions and historic homes in Palmer Woods. For years, the tours were held the first Sunday in December, often in frigid weather. Each year, the history and architecture of five to six homes were researched and docents prepared for months so as to share their knowledge at the Home Tours. Homeowners decorated their homes for the holidays, and presented enchantment and elegance year after year. The home tours were successful fundraisers for the neighborhood, and helped to create a buzz about the treasures in Palmer Woods.

But in 2007, the economic tide in Detroit was shifting and homeowners were reluctant to open their homes to thousands on a single day. That is the year the Palmer Woods Home Tour took a hiatus. The following year, the Home Tours were reinvented.

A Saturday night Soirée at one of the larger homes serves as our "Party Central" with live jazz, wine and food, while buses shuttle guests from home to home. Often interior designers, art and antique experts and historicans serve as docents. The new Home Tour is more intimate — about 200 guests — and homeowners are more





comfortable opening their homes. Often, one of the homes is a Designer Showcase, featuring the furniture, designs and artwork of a number of local designers. The Tours, although different from its initial legacy, continue to thrive and keep Palmer Woods in the limelight.

We hope you will join us for our Centennial Home Tour on Saturday, December 5, 2015. For more information and to sign up to join our email list and receive invitations for all our events visit palmerwoods.org.





























# MUSIC IN HOMES

## Jazz, Classical & World Music in Magnificent Mansions and Cool Palmer Woods Historic Homes

By Barbara Barefield & Fredie Carter Bonner • Photos by Barbara Barefield

any homes in Palmer Woods were designed with spacious rooms ideal for presenting music. When Barbara and Spencer Barefield moved into the neighborhood in 1987, they looked at their living room and thought "stage." Soon after they were presenting concerts in their home with musicians from around the world, following concerts that jazz guitarist/composer Spencer directed at the Detroit Jazz Festival and the Detroit Institute of Arts.

In 2007, with the news that the Home Tours were on hiatus, the Barefields proposed a collaboration with their arts organization, Creative Arts Collective, and the Palmer Woods



Marcus Belgrave and Michéle Ramo. Below: Shahida Nurullah









Rayse Biggs

Association to produce a concert series. Some 75 soldout concerts later, we have been privileged to present some of the finest musicians in the world who have roots in the Detroit area.

> From December through June, our guests are "edutained" by some of Metro-Detroit's most talented jazz, classical and world music and musicians in the intimate settings of our Palmer Woods castles, mansions and cool homes. Between sets, they dine at a reception catered by our Palmer Woods Food Committee. Our guests' experience is enhanced in the aura of rich architecture and decades of history from times when artists handcrafted many components of a home's structure and decor with the finest of materials. Our series raises funds to improve our neighborhood and support the arts. It also promotes Palmer Woods as a world-class community committed to sharing Detroit's proud and stellar musical traditions with thousands from far and wide who attend.

To enrich the younger generation, Creative Arts Collective also presents free concerts for children prior to several of the evening events. Visit palmerwoods.org to join our email list.

Left: Xiao Dong Wei with violist Hang Su and cellist Dave LeDoux from Detroit Symphony. Below: Orquesta La Inspiracion with Armando Vega and Dolce Checkler.







Alvin Waddles and his Fats Waller Review Band, with Gene Park on sax, Marion Hayden on bass.



**Thornetta Davis** 



Vocalist Kathy Kosins with pianist Cliff Monear, bassist Marion Hayden, drummer Sean Dobbins, and guitarist A. Spencer Barefield.



Violinist Jannina Norpoth and bassist John-Paul Norpoth perform on a children's classical concert.



A. Spencer Barefield



Michéle Ramo's World Jazz Ensemble with Heidi Hepler.



Emily Hall and Larry Gabriel at the Mardi Gras concert.

## Volunteering in Palmer Woods

Palmer Woods is a neighborhood of active participants who work together to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood and in Detroit. In doing so, we often become friends and extended family, transforming our Palmer Woods into a caring village. We organize events, such as home and garden tours, concerts (including free concerts for children), picnics, social and educational gatherings, and children's activities, as well as plan and implement beautification and physical improvement projects. We participate in Motor City Cleanup, collect clothing to donate to worthy institutes, and raise money through our concerts and tours to donate to charities that serve those in need and our community. Volunteers also help protect empty homes, welcome new neighbors, and much more.

#### Palmer Woods Music in Homes Food Committee:

Left to right: Fredie Carter-Bonner, Ann Smith, Sloba Breinager, Clint Griffin, Eva Garza Dewaelsche, Kim Potts, Tracv Betina Foster, Abe Gurewitz, Michella Elias (missing: Rob Dewaelsche, Marjorie Porter, Alesia Williams, Jeanette Godfrey; others who regularly pitch in for welcoming and food are Vickie Elmer and Mark Loeb).



**Centennial Committee** 

Lynne Carter & Margo Norris

Children's Committee

**Emily Moorhead** 

**Communications Committee** 

Mimi Helveston

**Estate and Yard Sale Committee** 

Kellie McFarlin & Janice Warren

**Landscape Committee** 

Gwen Graddy-Dansby

**Music in Homes** 

Spencer & Barbara Barefield

#### **Music in Homes Food Committee**

Fredie Carter-Bonner & Eva Garza Dewaelsche

**Public Utility Liaison Committee** 

Lynne Carter Keith

**Security Committee** 

Evan Burkholder

**Standards Committee** 

Mike Finheuser

**Traffic Committee** 

Joel Pitcoff

**Vacant Property Committee** 

Robert Dewaelsche & Rochelle Lento

**Welcoming Committee** 

Fredie Carter-Bonner & Ruth Stallworth





Left to right, front row: Mimi Helveston, Michelle Story-Stewart, Rochelle Lento, Barbara Barefield; middle row: Everton Swearing, Brian Rankel, Bunia Parker, Pat Brochstein; back row: Linda Johnson, Steve Breinager, Abe Gurewitz, Rob Dewaelsche

**Left: Motor City Cleanup 2013** was a day of hard work, tons of trash collected, and multigenerational comraderie.







#### **Palmer Woods Association Board of** Directors

Front row, I-r: Joel Pitcoff, Lynne Carter Keith, Emily Moorhead, Craig Vanderburg, Ruth Stallworth, Jed Durkin; back row, I-r: Mariorie Curtis-Porter, Dale Morgan, Chris Jackson, Jodee Raines, Rick Bowers, Michelle Story-Stewart, Evan Burkholder, Karoy Brooks, Michael **Einheuser** 

#### Excerpted from an old issue of the Palmer Woods Post, circa 1950.

#### The first election of officers of our organization after its revival was held January 31, 1937. The following officers were elected: Floyd R. Wertman, president, J. E. Walsh, vice president, Mrs. Lola Jeffries Hanavan, secretary, and Mrs. Laura Avery, treasurer.

The directors elected at this time were Lola J. Hanavan, Laura Avery, Floyd R. Wertman, J. E. Walsh, A. J. Fisher, A. C. Marshall, and K.T. Keller.

One of the original boosters who did more than "belong" was the late Chester Morse. He became president of the Palmer Woods Association in 1941, following the memorable tenure of James Walsh.

Mr. Morse was determined to keep Palmer Woods the fine neighborhood it had always been. He worked long hours at it, heading our association's fight for extension of restriction agreements past the year 1950. The campaign was a house-to-house, door-to-door effort. Mr. Moore, a lawyer, drew up agreements for every resident. Today, we are reaping the benefits of the memorable tenure of Mr. Moore and the fine men and women who helped him. The example they set should be our guide today; and if we remember that, we shall not fail in the heavy responsibilities that are ours in these times.

### **PWA: History of Building** A Strong Neighborhood

#### **Palmer Woods Association Vision**

To be a viable neighborhood organization whose function is to provide focused service for the residents while promoting continuous improvement in all aspects of maintaining a prestigious community and to make Palmer Woods the first choice area for residents and families looking for well-maintained historic homes in Detroit.

#### **PWA Mission**

To promote ongoing improvement of the Palmer Woods neighborhood, a premier, preferred, and secure historical area, by creating a safe, cultural and educational environment for its residents who are motivated to upgrade their homes and property while maintaining the prestigious climate of a historic community.

#### palmerwoods.org

P.O. Box 21086 Detroit, MI 48221

#### 2015-16 PWA Board

Craig Vanderburg, President Jodee Raines, Vice President Jed Durkin, Treasurer Marjorie Curtis-Porter, Secretary Mike Einheuser, Compliance Officer Ruth Stallworth, Financial Secretary

> **Emily Moorhead** Children's, Communications

Karoy Brooks Block Captains, Public Utility Rick Bowers

Landscaping, Centennial, Lights, Traffic

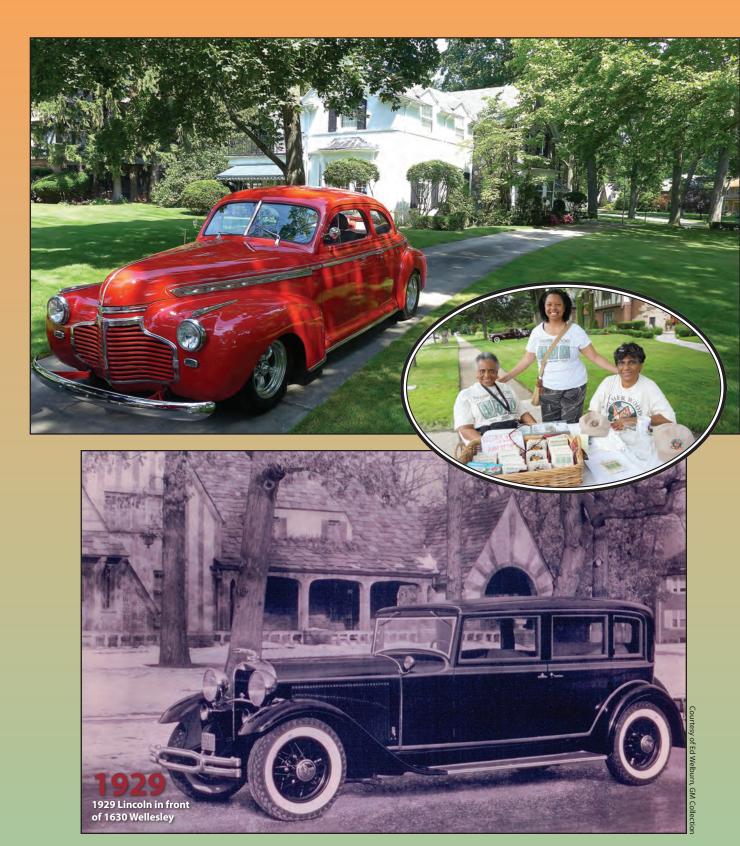
Evan Burkholder Security, Communications

Lynne Carter-Keith, Centennial Communications, Public Utility Liaison

Chris Jackson

Community Outreach, Public Utility Dale Morgan, Home Tour, Membership Joel Pitcoff, Communications, Lighting, MIH, Traffic, Standards, Public Utility

Michelle Story-Stewart Finance, Children's



#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

It takes a community of volunteers to maintain a community such as Palmer Woods. The following people and companies were instrumental in creating the Palmer Woods Centennial Commemorative Book:

Barbara Barefield (design and photos), Fredie Bea Carter, Jed Durkin, Vera Heidelberg, Mimi Helveston,
Lynne Carter Keith, Terrance Keith (photos), Florene McMurtry, Emily Moorhead, Margo Norris,
Jodee Raines, Ethlyn Rollocks, Ruth Stallworth, Craig Vanderburg, Denise Yezbick,
DTE Energy Foundation, St. John Providence, Clark Graphics (printing)

Thank you for all you did and all you do! palmerwoods.org