

Garden has artistic touch

BY MARTY FIGLEY
SPECIAL WRITER

The Lathrup Village Historical Society will host its second annual Home & Garden Tour 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 13.

Some very interesting homes in Lathrup Village will be open for visitors and the gardens chosen for this year's tour are outstanding. A garden boutique near the complimentary refreshment area in Sarrackwood Park will feature plants, garden statuary and unusual garden accessories.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 on the day of the tour. Seniors (60+) are offered a discounted entry price of \$8. Tickets may be bought at the Lathrup Village City Offices, 27400 Southfield Road. For more information, call Karen at (810) 559-0087, or Barb at (810) 559-4867.

An artist cares for one of the gardens on this tour and it is bright, happy and colorful. Kathryn Prince has used her artistic ability to combine color combinations that many gardeners would be afraid to try. The landscaping was typically evergreen shrubs before she and her husband decided to renovate it. For several years they have taken out one or two of the overgrown shrubs and she has changed the complete look of the property.

The soil was built up in the front beds to cover the old roots and so that

there would be good soil when new plants were put in. This buildup allowed a low stone wall to be erected, which adds dimension and interest.

The bones of the garden are a very tall old spruce tree that was retained. It stands in the corner, and three birds nest spruce and three buzzing bush are surrounded by a pink spirea, purple iris, orange and yellow lilies, a large pink hibiscus, blue veronica, blue delphinium, hostas and even a pink hollyhock.

Interspersed throughout the beds are chrysanthemums that Prince rescues from plants brought into her office. In a corner beside the front door two climbing roses scramble up the wall. One of them originally had all peach blossoms and this year it has reverted to all red.

Beyond the front entrance a tall chimney is covered with ivy and original bushes are trimmed into a neat line. On either side and in front of these shrubs lavender, tall blue delphiniums, yellow evening primrose and blue and pink bachelor buttons (all started from seed) grow along with the mums, yellow coreopsis and purple liatris. Near the driveway Prince trims a barberry into a tree form for added interest and to give room for flowers to grow beneath.

Pots of bright colors set on the porch on top of and underneath a bench on which Prince has painted a pretty decoration.

As you enter the side yard through a fence a variety of plants, yellow potentilla, white daisies and pink and white astilbe grow along the flagstone path. Many sunflowers are scattered throughout various areas of the garden. A butterfly home sits on a pole waiting to be discovered.

The raised deck in the back yard is set off with deep lavender monarda, a red rose, yellow evening primroses, pink astilbes and other bright flowers.

All through the garden the beds curve gracefully. They are all filled with a variety of flowers.

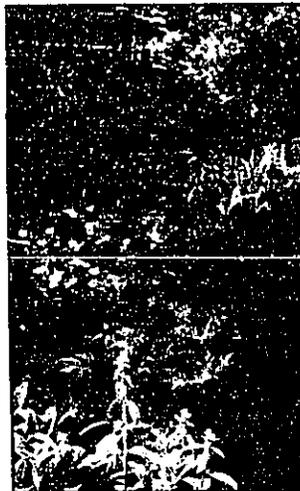
"If I fall in love with a plant I can't say no," Prince said.

Many perennials have been given to her by friends and on the day I visited there were flats of plants waiting to be tucked into their place in this carefree garden.

"I like heights and contrasting colors. It's a real bright garden, especially with the dark pinks."

Prince has a fondness for small things and often buys bargain plants and nourishes them to good health. That is the case of the hibiscus, which "was a little twig in a tiny pot and will be four to five feet tall by the summertime and bloom with pink saucer-sized flowers."

Back to those mums. Every two weeks they are replaced in the office



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Pleasant surroundings: Colorful plants surround the backyard deck.

where Prince works and she brings them home, cuts them down to the base and lets new growth sprout. At other times she takes cuttings and they root in two weeks. When they are strong enough and are about five inches tall they are put into the garden.

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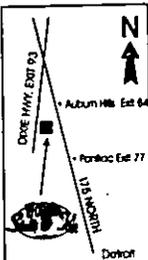
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