



garden spot

Loving touch: Garden holds interest

A telephone call from Genevieve Sidney of Livonia prompted me to visit her neighbor, Sharron Reska in Livonia, to see her well cared for garden.

Edward and Sharron have lived in

their home 32 years and have lovingly developed the landscape.

The first impression I got as I drove in the driveway was neat and tidy. Several island beds have been constructed

in the front yard, with white marble stones surrounding the plants. The beds are edged with either gray or red bricks that make a perfect mowing strip around them.

Evergreens are carefully pruned along the front of the house and a small bed in the shape of a heart centers the yard.

In two beds rug Junipers have been pruned very low to form a pattern. One surrounds a light fixture with sedum and begonias interspersed.

A purple lace-leaf Japanese maple has been planted about a foot higher than other plants in the second bed that also features the pruned Juniper. Red barberry frames it. The level of the tree was raised to provide good drainage. The Junipers are trimmed twice a year.

A lovely arbor festooned with pink/purple clematis, with color-matched blooms of liatris standing all alongside, leads into the back yard.



MARTY FIGLEY

Edward, Sharron's husband, created this handsome piece.

Here the patio is surrounded by additional beds. Sharron likes the combination of purples and reds evident in the landscape. Brick chips as well as the white marble have been used in some areas.

In one bed a bottle brush has been trimmed like a small tree. Its tall purple foliage matches the smoke bush on one side and a small maple tree (with a lighter shade) on the other.

"If I want something to grow out of the ordinary, I trim it until I get my desired results," Sharron said. "I have never lost a plant (due to pruning)."

There is something to see at every turn in this garden. "I love garden art," Sharron said, and many different examples have been used.

Driftwood has been artfully placed, wind-driven pieces add interest and wind chimes add a tinkling sound. Hanging baskets add color as do other containers set on bricks, logs, etc. If there isn't enough color to suit, artificial flowers are mixed with the real or used to fill in.

Please see FIGLEY, D5

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Attractive arbor: Sharron Reska sits beside the beautiful arbor that Edward made. Photo by Marty Figley.