

Bridge Communities, Inc.
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Spring into summer with the Glen Ellyn Garden Walk Saturday, June 19th

For many area gardeners the Glen Ellyn Garden Walk, sponsored by Bridge Communities, has become an annual rite of passage from spring into summer. Each year they are delighted by gardens that are formal, whimsical, grand and diminutive, with plantings done primarily by the homeowners themselves.

This year's Garden Walk will be on Saturday, June 19th from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and will feature six private gardens, including an English rose garden with more than 30 varieties of roses and breathtaking Grecian four-acre estate. Other private gardens range from a woodland country charmer highlighted by a pond and creek, to a family-friendly entertaining haven with in-ground pool and treehouse and finally two nature lovers gardens that overlook a forest preserve.

Master Gardeners from University of Illinois DuPage County Extension will be available at select gardens to speak on gardening topics and to answer gardening questions.

Glen Ellyn restaurants have partnered with the Garden Walk to donate a portion of their lunch proceeds to Bridge Communities. Danby's Station, Tap House Grill, European Deli and Market, Honey, Bells N' Whistles and Shannon's Irish Pub have all committed to donate 10-15% of their June 19th lunch proceeds. Walkers are encouraged to stay in Glen Ellyn and enjoy lunch at one of the participating restaurants.

Tickets are \$20 through June 16th and \$25 beginning June 17th. Tickets can be purchased at www.bridgecommunities.org, and beginning May 10th at McChesney & Miller grocery store, Harris Bank and The Bookstore in Glen Ellyn.

All proceeds benefit Bridge Communities Transitional Housing Program which connects homeless families in DuPage County to a permanent housing and self sustaining independence.

Harris Bank, Bruss Landscaping, Glen Ellyn Bank and Trust and Suburban Bank and Trust are generous sponsors of the Glen Ellyn Garden Walk.

Featured Gardens:

Stathopoulos Garden

Simply breathtaking – this four-acre estate will keep you wanting more. The winding driveway is flanked by mature red sunset and Japanese maples. A rose garden will lead you to one of many entertaining areas nestled under a canopy of flowering pear trees. Skyrocket Junipers, Nikko Blue Hydrangeas, dozens of roses, Oriental Lilies and thousands of annuals overtake your senses. A curved wrought iron bridge draws you to a Queen of the Nile Weeping Willow. A few more steps and you are introduced to a vegetable garden and fruit trees. Beautiful statues and stately evergreens are disbursed throughout the grounds.

Deitch Garden

The lush front yard foundation plantings only provide but a hint of the beauty awaiting you as you step into a back yard oasis. Prepare to be overwhelmed by the colorful beauty of a most extensive collection of heirloom, shrub and climbing roses paired with more than 15 varieties of clematis and other flowering perennials. This English-style rose garden also features a lovely shady border bursting with unique hostas and other shade-loving plantings.

Coombes Garden

Lovingly tended for more than 15 years, the Coombes have created an entertaining haven in south Glen Ellyn. You will admire the lipstick pink flowers of the horsechestnut tree, the delicate flowers of the fringe pear and the long fuzzy blooms of the chenille plant. Catch some sun in the colorful gardens surrounding the in-ground pool or play in the shade gardens at the foot of the children's treehouse. Lilies abound in the front door garden combined with nearly 1000 annuals started from seed.

Merlo Garden

Take your time as you meander through this large cottage style garden that features three separate garden "rooms", each with their own unique personality. Born from the homeowner's passion for flowers, decorating and entertaining you will discover funky art staged beautifully with (describe some of the plantings).

Moelmann Garden

The Moelmann garden is a canvas of lush textures and colors that invite you to explore. An intricate patio and knock-out roses in a sunny front yard will 'knock you over' with their beauty. Walk a natural pathway that leads to a hidden shade garden. A clematis adorned arbor leads you to a 'park like' back yard that overlooks a forest preserve. Take note of a special arctic kiwi vine, nearly two dozens potted annuals, and unique hydrangeas.

Zito Garden

Tranquility is what you will experience in this surprisingly large shade garden. Spotlit in the heart of the outdoor living area is a magnificent pond with a waterfall surrounded by ornamental grasses, pines and seasonal perennials. Mature trees, ferns and flowering shrubs, surrounded by natural rock borders, add a touch of country charm to this woodland treasure

Bridge Communities will host the **Annual Glen Ellyn Garden Party** on Friday, June 11th from 6:30 – 10:00 PM. The homeowners and party host's home features Mediterranean architectural style and is located in the heart of Glen Ellyn. Their garden showcases a stunning multi-level flagstone patio with an elegant water fountain and custom masonry fireplace. Guests enter the garden through a wrought iron gate flanked with stucco columns that leads to a courtyard, coach house and sunken stone patio with the custom cooper roofed fireplace. A second set of stucco columns lead guests into the back yard that features strong planting beds softened with an informal planting scheme that blends the garden into the surrounding yards.

This garden is **not** open for the Glen Ellyn Garden Walk. It can only be viewed to guests of the Annual Glen Ellyn Garden Party. Tickets are \$100 per person and the party includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a ticket to the following week's Garden Walk.

For more information on the Glen Ellyn Garden Party, please contact Amy Van Polen at (630) 545-0610.

Bridge Communities... *connecting homeless families to a better future* ... is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, whose mission is to provide transitional housing to homeless families in DuPage County through partnerships with faith-based and community organizations who provide mentoring relationships which root homeless families into local neighborhoods. Bridge Communities has helped over 2000 people cross the bridge from homelessness to permanent housing. The Bridge Communities web site is www.bridgecommunities.org.

Digital photos of the gardens and the event logo are available via email.
Please contact Amy Van Polen at (630) 545-0610, ext. 12.