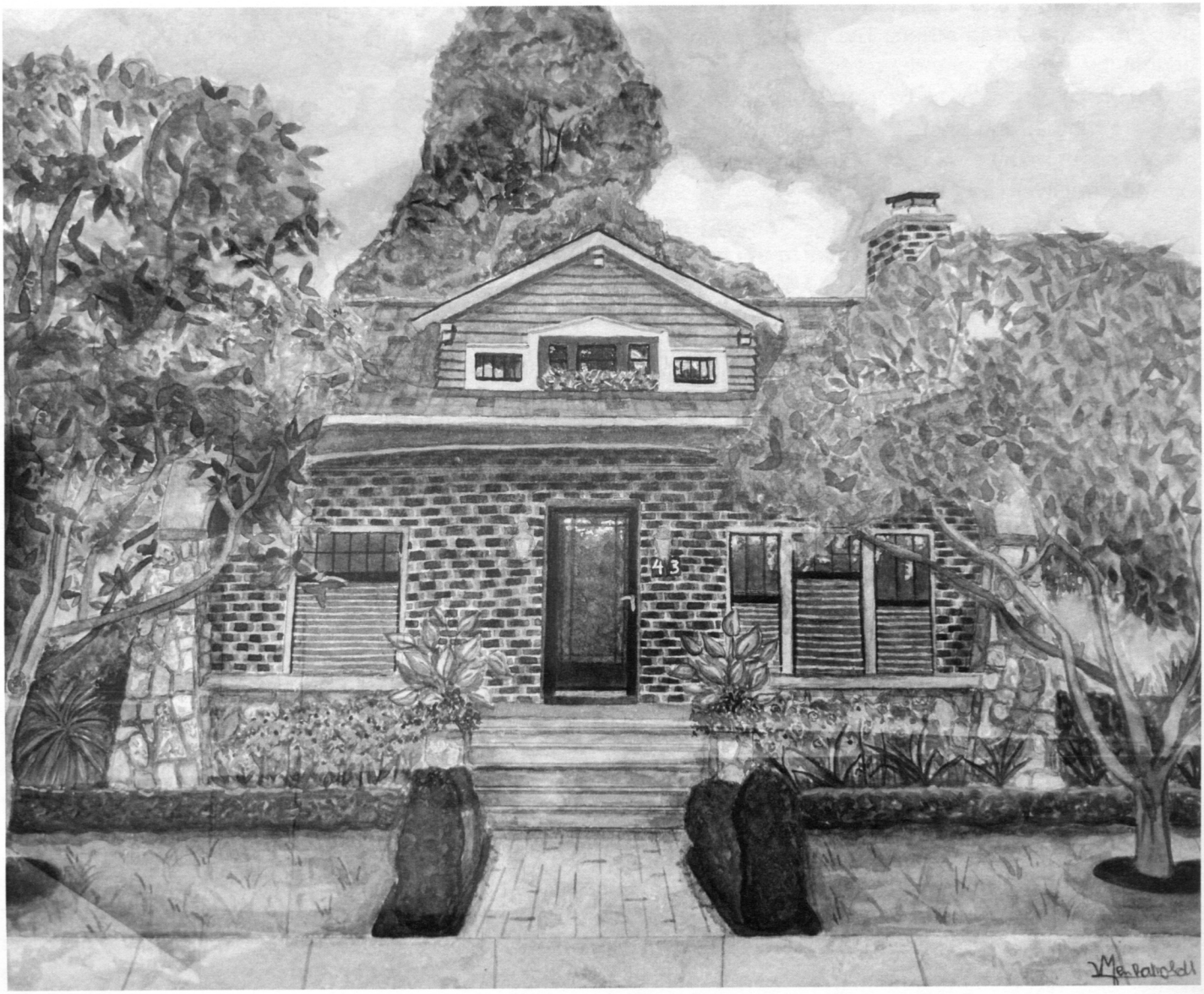


The Kirchner Home

43 W Washington

Article written by Owen Holloway, CHS Junior
Artwork by Meredith Rainoldi, CHS Junior

Home Sponsor: Morgan, Milzow & Ford

On the north side of West Washington Street sits a large bungalow-style house, complemented by its native stone foundation and chimney. Clarkston settler Thomas Broomfield owned the property for many decades. A photograph from around 1890 depicts a barn on this property near the edge of the Mill Pond, indicating its historical use before the current home's construction. Completed in 1922, this beautiful homestead was built for James Beucler, a local owner of "Dr. Miller's", a general store in Clarkston. The home was constructed with top-of-the-line materials purchased from local lumber yards and Alger's Hardware. The bungalow included three bedrooms, four bathrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a two-car garage that was added in 1935. In 1941, Durand Ogden, a local owner of a funeral home on North Main Street, purchased the home. In 1950, Ronald and Virginia Walter bought the home. Although Ronald, an attorney whose family dates back to 1830s Clarkston, died in 1973, Virginia stayed in the sweet bungalow until 2006.

In 2022, the bungalow met its sixth and current owner, the Kirchner family. When Mark and Beth Kirchner were looking for their next home, they were drawn to Clarkston's historical homes. After considering many of them, at the top of their list was 43 West Washington Street. Beth recalls first entering 43 West Washington Street, "There was a smile from ear to ear because the home has such a great vibe. It's warm, it's cozy, it's cute, it's welcoming, and that was it." This charming bungalow has a lot of its original features that remain as they were in the 1920s. Beth explains that challenges arose when it came to remodeling the house. One of the tasks she faced was that certain windows would not open or close due to the string-and-weight system inside the window frame. Nevertheless, wanting to keep the house true to its original style, the couple hired a contractor to repair the intricate systems, allowing them to function properly.

When asked what about the house caught her eye, Beth shares, "It's the tiny rooms and the built-ins, and the hinges on the door that are upstairs," adding, "and the wood beams in the dining room and living room." Her favorite room within the 103-year-old bungalow is the living room. "There is an abundant amount of light and sunshine that comes into the room, and I like the colors," says Beth. She explains how the room offers coziness and speaks volumes about her family. Beth also added that every room in the house has character and unique features, like the TV room. "We get to watch TV and what's going on in downtown Clarkston at the same time." With the house being located right off of Main Street, the Kirchner family has many opportunities to take advantage of Clarkston's hometown charm. It can be as simple as watching people enjoy the downtown area or attending the annual parades. There are so many memories to draw from, according to Beth, "Nobody ever leaves here without a smile on their face."

Beth was eager for 43 West Washington to be on the tour. As its most recent owners, the Kirchner family is excited to share their home and the history behind it. "I think people walk by and wonder, and I just think it's something to share because we love it so much." When asked what it means to be a part of SCAMP's 50th anniversary celebration, Beth replies, "As a volunteer for SCAMP, I know the importance of the program and its impact on the community. I used to serve on the board and have helped organize and implement events to help raise money. It takes a lot of volunteers to make fundraisers successful."

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