

COVER STORY



Charles V. Tines/The Detroit News

Homeward bound: Fairlane East, a gated community in Dearborn, is home to Sparky Anderson and Richard and Linda Kughn.

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gatehouse for Woodlyme but decided, along with Woodlyme residents such as Detroit Tigers owner and pizza king Mike Ilitch, that it came down to a simple question: Who are you keeping in and who are you keeping out?

"Besides, it would have been too expensive," says Jensen. "We would have had to add \$500 a month extra onto the cost of a homeowner's mortgage payment."

On Detroit's far east side, several newer gated communities stand on the former estates of auto magnates.

"All along Lakeshore Drive, you'll see gated communities such as Dodge Place and Rose Terrace," says Realtor Jan Ridder of Bolton-Johnston, Grosse Pointe Farms. "There will be a guardhouse but no guard in it because a guard is not yet needed. Crime really isn't a big problem in the Grosse Pointes."

Ridder adds that Provençal Road and Beverly Road are probably the most well-known, old, gated streets in Grosse Pointe.

"Members of the Ford and Manogian families used to live on Provençal," she says. "The gates are still there on Beverly Road, which recently was designated a historic street, but they aren't used."

Ridder says gated communities in Grosse Pointe have a contractual agreement with the city for trash pick-up and garbage removal.

In Dearborn, 20-year-old Fairlane East is a walled, gated community of condominiums that start at about \$200,000. Tiger manager Sparky Anderson lives there, as do prominent businessman Richard Kughn and his wife, Linda, who have combined two condominiums to create a single home. A special feature at Fairlane East is nearby TPC, The Players Course, a Jack Nichols-designed golf course.

"It fits my lifestyle," says Fairlane East resident Richard Vincent, co-owner of the Traffic Jam restaurant. "Since I'm not home a lot, it's a luxury to know my home is safe. In the winter, I don't have to worry about coming home late and going back out to shovel a walk or driveway. It's very private and secluded. You can be friendly with your neighbors or not interact. The view is wonderful — rolling lawns, trees — I feel like I live in the country."

Vincent says the only down side to living in Fairlane East is the additional cost for trash pick-up, snow plowing and leaf removal, but he feels the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

A smooth transition

Six years ago, empty nesters Aaron and Winnie Krieger moved to Ramblewood in Farmington Hills. A "granddaddy" of gated communities, Ramblewood was started in the late 1970s, but there are still homes being built in the 306-acre development. Currently there are 508 single family homes, attached and detached condominiums. There are three entrances for residents, but visitors may enter only through one. Residents put the names of "approved" family members and friends on a list for the guard to check before they are allowed in.

"We moved from a home in Southfield where we'd been for 32 years," says Winnie Krieger, a supervisor at 46th District Court in Southfield. "Our three children were grown and gone, and we wanted a major lifestyle change to give us a lift." (Aaron Krieger owns Aladdin Drapery in Southfield.)

The couple chose Ramblewood because of its convenient location, the diverse style of architecture, the beauty of the hilly property (particularly the wetlands), the landscaping and the fact that they could walk safely throughout the neighborhood.

"Some people think a gated community isolates people, but that's not true in Ramblewood," says Krieger. "This is a neighborhood just like any other neighborhood with retirees, husbands and wives who both work and families with young children and pets."

Ramblewood residents belong to an association and members abide by a set of rules such as getting approval for any building additions. A monthly gate fee covers grass mowing, landscaping, snow removal and care of the pool and gatehouse. Farmington Hills provides trash pick-up.

"We have very positive feelings about living in Ramblewood," says Krieger. "There's a definite sense of community — we have a potluck dinner every August for new and old residents to meet each other. This is the best of both worlds for us — we feel secure, but we don't consider ourselves isolated from the rest of the world."

Security and privacy are the top priorities

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