

Park Ridge Non-Profit Center

The Park Ridge Nonprofit Center is the latest use for this building at 720 Garden at the northeast corner of Garden and Fairview. Hosting many community nonprofit organizations including Rainbow Hospice and the Park Ridge Community Fund, it is also home to the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce. In the early 20th Century, it was known as "The Birches," the home and studio of painter Walter Marshall Clute and his wife, illustrator Beulah Mitchell Clute, members of the original Park Ridge Artists Colony. After Mr. Clute was killed in an automobile crash in California in 1915, the property was sold to Kathryn and Samuel Guard Sr. As head of the Sears Agricultural Foundation, Mr. Guard helped to start WLS Radio in Chicago for the "World's Largest Store." He broadcast farm reports and religious programs from the house in the 1920s, before the radio station built its first permanent studios. Later, the Fisher family established "The Pantry Restaurant" here. After remodeling and adding the western wing, they hosted many elegant events. The Clute House is a Park Ridge city landmark.