Detroit’s West Village Historic District is a vibrant, diverse neighborhood with a strong sense of community and quality affordable housing. The modest Queen Anne at 1754 Parker Avenue sat vacant for 17 years. According to its current owner, Carl Swanson, the house had become “the worst house on a great street,” and “the house that many thought needed to be torn down.” Struck by the interior details of the abandoned building, Swanson looked past the crumbling plaster and peeling paint and set about restoring the house. Virtually unaltered since its 1907 construction, the interior featured unpainted African mahogany woodwork. Though the restoration took nearly four years to complete, Swanson says he would do it again. The biggest challenge, however, would be leaving his home at 1754 Parker Avenue.