

# Pittsfield Village News

June 2011 Edition

<http://sites.google.com/site/thevillageexchange>

[www.pittsfieldvillage.com](http://www.pittsfieldvillage.com)

<http://pvcondoboard.wordpress.com>

## About Our Garden Crew

### Landscape Committee

Superior Mow & Snow, our contractor for lawn maintenance, will be on site two or more times each week until next fall. Besides mowing, they may trim some of the smaller trees and do other garden maintenance as directed by the Landscape Committee. All garden and lawn policy is set by this committee, and everything the Superior crew (including Barb, our master gardener) does is per committee directive. If you see something you don't understand or don't like, please contact Melissa Brown, our site manager. You may also contact Les Crots, owner of

Superior Mow & Snow, as he is always on site with the crew. Individual crew members can't help you in any way, other than to direct you to Les or Melissa.



The garden marker program was established to mark specific garden areas that will be maintained by the resident who sets out the markers – crew members know to not work in these specific areas. If no garden markers are out, the crew has specific instructions to continue their work as needed, and this may be by your unit. Garden markers were supposed to be out by April 1st, but still can be placed. Please stop by the office for garden markers, if you want to use them.

## Springtime Around The Village

These photos were captured by Pittsfield Village residents during the spring months of 2011. (Photo below by Darleen, photos on the right by Judy Tomer)



## DTE Will Pay You For Your Old Fridge AND Haul It Away!

If you have been thinking of upgrading your refrigerator, DTE is providing two incentives through December 31, 2011, to get you to carry through on that plan:

1. They will pay you \$40 for your old fridge. (It has to be working).
2. They'll haul it away free!

Sometimes you can get free removal of your old fridge as part of the deal when you buy a new one, but there is often a charge—as much as \$50—for removing the old one. So, this could be a pretty good deal.

And don't overlook the energy savings of a new fridge. According to the federal government, "If you still have a fridge from the 1980s, replace it with an ENERGY STAR qualified model and save over \$100 each year on your utility bills." You can calculate what your savings would be at this website: <http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=refrig.calculator>.

### Here are a few other tips:

- To find the most energy efficient models choose a freezer-on-top variety and skip the ice maker. These are usually the least expensive, and there are more models to choose from.
- Refrigerators are generally 4-6" deeper than they were 20-30 years ago, so before you buy, check the measurements and make sure it will fit in your kitchen. Don't forget that the handle can stick out 2" or more.
- Remember to figure in the cost of delivery before agreeing to buy. Some appliance stores include free delivery, but others charge up to \$50.

Finally, for other money-saving and energy-saving ideas and incentives—including dehumidifier rebates and discounts on compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs—check out [www.dteenergy.com/saveenergy](http://www.dteenergy.com/saveenergy).



## Board of Directors

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## Committee Chairs

**Greg Witbeck**

*Ad-hoc Governance Committee*

**Jason Beckerleg**

*Communications Committee*

**Mei Olson**

*Finance Committee*

**Elizabeth Hunsche**

*Landscape Committee*

**Darleen Boynton**

*Modification & Maintenance Committee*

## Management Office

**Melissa Brown**

*Community Manager*

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Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Phone: 734-971-0233

Fax: 734-971-3421

Mon.- Fri. 8:30AM - 5:00PM

# Dog Walkers, Take Note

## Landscape Committee

Melissa Brown, our site manager, reports that this spring she's had far more complaints about dog poop than ever before. Folks: we all know that when we walk a dog we are responsible for scooping their poop immediately. If you need encouragement to do the right thing, consider this:

- People—your neighbors—are out there walking on the lawn. Some of them are children doing what kids do. No one likes to be surprised by stepping in poop, and parents are especially displeased to find that their children have rolled around in it.
- Animal poop left on lawns eventually gets washed into our water supply. Most Ann Arbor storm water runs directly to the Huron River, which is where the City gets 85% of the water we drink and bathe in. It's treated by the City before it comes

out of our tap, but the more contaminated it is, the more chemicals they have to use to get it clean again. Also, the river is used for a wide variety of recreation, and everyone who touches that water is subject to that contamination. After every rain, the coliform count (a sign of fecal contamination) of the river water rises. Yuk!

- Grass and some plants, arbor vitae and boxwood, for instance, can be easily damaged by urine, so please direct your dog away from those areas. If your dogs are open to learning plant identification, encourage them to water a patch of crabgrass.

It comes down to a variation on the Golden Rule: Love your neighbor as well as you love your dog or cat, and scoop that poop immediately after deposit. Everyone will thank you. In fact, the Landscape Committee thanks you right now!

## Posts From The Board Blog: Check Out Our Building Paint Colors

Posted on April 21, 2011

*by Justin Ferguson*

The Board of Directors has worked with Management, Committees, and Residents on the Building Paint Task Force to develop a new process for Residents to have input into the selection of colors for their buildings. Starting this Spring, Residents of those buildings receiving new paint colors, will be the first in a new process to decide the paint color scheme for their building. They will be receiving a packet containing the information to get them started on this process.

If your building isn't being painted a new color this season, but you want to check out the current color options, stop down by the Maintenance area of the Community Building, and check out the chain link fenced area on the side of the building facing the parking lot. There you will find large 4'x8' mock-up panels of the body colors and trim options. The trim pieces can be held up to the body color panels in order to get an idea of how they will look in combination. Thanks to the Maintenance Staff for coming up with such a creative way of viewing these options.

## Reminder RE: Contacting Board Members

Posted on April 21, 2011

*by Pittsfield Village Board of Directors*

Contact information for Board members can be found through the Exchange Site on the Board of Directors page. Most Board members appreciate receiving emails, but if

need be, they are also open to phone calls; please respect their time though. Also, if you call a Board member, and they do not answer, please leave a voice mail message with a call back number; if you don't leave a message or call back number, they won't know to return your call.

*Be sure to visit the Pittsfield Village Board of Directors Blog online at <http://pvcondoboard.wordpress.com/> to participate and be heard.*



# HEALTHWISE

## Special Father's Day Edition

Happy Father's day to all the Fathers, Grandfathers and Great Grandfathers!! This month is a time to celebrate you and say a big thank you. Whether you are a new dad or a seasoned father who wants to connect with his children in a more meaningful way, this month's article will facilitate a deeper relationship with your child (ren).

As a parent, many fathers feel like they will not be as effective as the mother. Somehow it has been assumed that women have a "parenting" or "nurturing" gene. Don't compare yourself to the child's mother, this is not a competition and the relationship you have with your child is unique and cannot be replicated. Through the influence that you have on your child gives you the potential to have influence on generations. Examples of a dad's influence is: Doug Flutie star quarterback for the San Diego Charger, who 5 years ago, because of his son, began a fight against autism; film and recording star Will Smith, who has young children in the film industry, has established a family foundation to help inner-city children, as well as donating to Camp Ronald McDonald; and actor Liam Neeson is a patron of Unicef Ireland and Unicef Africa.

Dads need to understand and appreciate whatever their child is doing. Enter your child's world. Learn what she or he likes to do and how they do what they are doing. When a child gets this kind of interaction they know that they are important and assured that their Dad understands and cares about the things in their life.

At the heart of raising kids, besides building a good connection, is allowing a child to become a happy, confident individual. The nurturing that Dads can give their children plays a crucial role in building a child's self-confidence and development. Then, when kids are faced with their limitations, they will not be as hard on themselves and they will learn

how to be successful.

The two biggest mistakes parents make in dealing with children are: Too Much Talking and/or Too Much Emotion. If your child can repeat verbatim your comments, this means you talk too much and the words have no meaning. If you are too emotional in the presence of the child, you may not be seen as the one who has the authority in the situation. Some parents can turn off the talking and the emotional upset like a faucet, and others have to work hard to get the job done.

Quick and reasonable conflict resolution is critical when dealing with children. Letting mini-conflicts become maxi-conflicts is very destructive to a child's development and a lot of parental chattering/emotion usually makes conflicts worse. So how do you resolve squabbles quickly and reasonably? You can use one very simple kind of conflict resolution plan when you want your child to stop doing behavior such as arguing, whining, fighting or having a tantrum. A short simple explanation is all that is necessary for a 3 or 4 year old. If an explanation does not work, count. It is a mistake to assume that the more information you give a child the more compliant they will become. As a matter of fact the opposite is often the case. For example, your daughter wants a Twinkie before right dinner. You calmly say "No" and explain your reasoning. She pushes the issue, and starts whining. You hold up one finger and say, "That's 1" in a calm voice. That is her first warning that she is out of line. "That's 1", offers her a choice; she can shape up now or suffer a consequence, since there is not a "2".

On the other hand, when you want your youngsters to start doing something positive, such as going to bed on time, doing home work or picking up, you should put together some regular routines to encourage positive behavior.

Your routines minimize conflict because you do not have to discuss and explain each time why something needs to be done. Setting limits brings stability and comfort into the home. In a house where parents have clear, reasonable rules and enforce them consistently, children are better off.

In this environment children develop the critical skill of frustration tolerance. This is the ability to put up with discomfort now in order to achieve some more important future objective. Children naturally start at the low tolerance point, wanting what they want when they want it and expecting to receive it. They can become angry and disappointed. The child's frustrations can lead to testing and manipulating the parents. Successful adults learn frustration tolerance when they are children.

I pray your success as you apply the principles covered in this article to deepen the relationship with you children and grow you self-satisfaction from engaging more with your children.

Happy Father's Day!!!

To your best health,  
*Brenda (Pittsfield Village Resident)*





Pittsfield Village  
Communications  
Committee

# ... Bulletin

## Annual Community Wide Yard Sale on June 4th.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, June 4th, in preparation for the upcoming community-wide yard sale. The yard sale will run from 9:00am to 3:00pm, and there will also be a dumpster provided at the Office for items that do not sell. For those who have not attended in the past, this is quite a popular event, and sees plenty of participants, both selling and buying.

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## Pancake Breakfast at Ann Arbor Airport

DATE: Sunday, June 12, 2011

TIME: 8:00 a.m. – Noon

\$5 Admission

*Sponsored by the Experimental  
Aircraft Association*

This annual breakfast is a big hit with kids and anyone who loves small planes and vintage cars. In fact, if you have a small plane or vintage car, you are invited to fly or drive in and put them on display! For the rest of us, we get a chance to look these over and eat pancakes. Kid activities include pedal planes, face painting, and an Awesome Bounce. And if you've ever wanted to ride in a helicopter, flights are available for an extra charge. Head toward Ellsworth and State Roads and follow signs to parking. Call 734.429.2992 for more information.

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*To make a C2 Bulletin posting, send an email to [pittsfieldvillage@gmail.com](mailto:pittsfieldvillage@gmail.com).*

# June 2011 Community Calendar

## June 4<sup>th</sup>

### Annual Community Wide Yard Sale

9:00AM - 3:00PM Throughout Pittsfield Village (see bulletin)

## June 7<sup>th</sup>

### Modification & Maintenance Committee Meeting

6:30PM - 8:30PM @ The Community Building

## June 9<sup>th</sup>

### Communications Committee Meeting

6:30PM - 7:30PM @ Biggby Coffee, 3354 Washtenaw Ave.

## June 16<sup>th</sup>

### Finance Committee Meeting

6:00PM - 9:00PM @ The Community Building

## June 21<sup>st</sup>

### Landscape Committee Meeting

6:30PM - 8:30PM @ The Community Building

## June 24<sup>th</sup>

### Board of Directors Meeting

6:15PM Open Forum, 6:45PM Meeting @ Community Building

# Early July 2011 Community Calendar

## July 5<sup>th</sup>

### Modification & Maintenance Committee Meeting

6:30PM - 8:30PM @ The Community Building

## July 14<sup>th</sup>

### Communications Committee Meeting

6:30PM - 7:30PM @ Biggby Coffee, 3354 Washtenaw Ave.

For the most up-to-date event listings visit <https://sites.google.com/site/thevillageexchange/>