

Pittsfield Village News

March 2012 Edition | www.facebook.com/pittsfieldvillage | www.pittsfieldvillage.com | www.pvcondoboard.wordpress.com

DTE Smart-Meters: Install, or Not Install, That is the Question

Annette Thoin
Resident

I became aware of Smart-meters about three weeks ago. DTE Energy is in process of installing these meter readers in the Ann Arbor area. Four of my friends--not in the Village but living nearby--received letters informing DTE meter installation in their home was imminent. That said, I began my research. I see that in our community where we live so close to each other, each of our choices may affect our neighbors, health and well being. It is from that kind of concern that I share what I found out about Smart Meters. You can also find information on line if you are interested.

My story begins with a story of a friend, one who lives in Ann Arbor friend and has health issues. A meter was installed before she knew what it was and began feeling sicker. That began her interest and mine. These meters are not approved by the government. They are legally classed as surveillance devices, and in my friend's case, have some health effect. For instance, I heard said that they interfere with pacemakers. Another friend who had one installed in her home in Chicago, told me that her monthly energy bill doubled in cost after the meter was installed.

I already have taken action though I have not received a letter from DTE. I sent a certified letter to the legal department of DTE in Detroit. I found the form on line: "Notice of No Consent to Trespass and Surveillance, Notice of Liability" My friend suggested also adding a "do not install sign" on my meters, indoor and out so my no install intent is clear to installation workers.

Here are a few more facts I found. Smart meters are smart enough to record and trans-



Smart-Meters such as the one shown above are the subject of much controversy and debate.

fer information, personal information such as identifying electrical devices in the home, monitor household activity and occupancy in violation of rights and domestic security. They transmit wireless signals which may be intercepted by unauthorized and unknown parties, people interested in your home for any purpose, such as when one is home or away from home, your daily habits, and even be able to access personal information. These devices fall into the wiretapping category. They may make the job easier for DTE. They create complications for me.

Since DTE has not shared the transmission capabilities and extent of data use or to what purpose it will be used, I do not feel secure. I have a concern for a neighbor who may have a medical device such as a pacemaker, how my meter may affect their health. Electromagnetic and radio frequency energy contamination from smart meters exceeds the allowable safe and healthful limits for domestic environments as determined by the EPA.

Now is a good time to make a choice: Install or not install a DTE Smart Meter, *that is the question.*

C2 Committee Launches "Official" Community Facebook Page



&



Jason Beckerleg
Communications Committee Chair

After a unanimous vote from the Board of Directors on March 2nd to approve our new and improved website, I am proud to announce that our new site is now live and available for everyone to view at www.pittsfieldvillage.com.

In addition to launching our new website, the Communications Committee is also proud to announce the launch of our new "official" facebook page. Chances are you may have already gotten an invite to "like" our page. If so, great. If not, all you need to do is go to www.facebook.com/pittsfieldvillage and click on the "like" icon.

The facebook page will be a great resource for keeping up on the latest community news and events and a way to connect with neighbors.

As always we welcome your suggestions and feedback on everything we do. You can drop us an email at pittsfieldvillage@gmail.com or send us a message on facebook.



Like us on
Facebook



Board of Directors

Justin Ferguson

President

(734) 353-4248

justin.ferguson@pittsfieldvillage.com

Laura Zeitlin

Vice President

(734) 677-6870

laura.zeitlin@pittsfieldvillage.com

Ken Sylvester

Treasurer

(734) 476-0041

ken.sylvester@pittsfieldvillage.com

Jessica Lehr

Secretary

(734) 891-6073

jessica.lehr@pittsfieldvillage.com

Aaron Pressel

Member-at-Large

(734) 678-4074

aaron.pressel@pittsfieldvillage.com

Committee Chairs

Greg Witbeck

Ad-hoc Governance Committee

Jason Beckerleg

Communications Committee

Margarita Garcia-Roberts

Finance Committee

Elizabeth Hunsche

Landscape Committee

Darleen Boynton

Modification & Maintenance Committee

Management Office

Melissa Brown

Community Manager

2220 Pittsfield Blvd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Email: office@pittsfieldvillage.com

Phone: 734-971-0233

Fax: 734-971-3421

Monday 8:30AM - 6:00PM

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

Malletts Creek Restoration Projects

The Public Services Department of the City of Ann Arbor includes a quarterly newsletter with bills for sewer and water services it sends to City property owners. Those of us in Pittsfield Village, however, are not billed directly for those services, so we do not see that information.

The Winter edition of this newsletter included two articles of interest for our area of the City. They are reprinted below.

Editor's Note: *Malletts Creek runs along the western edge of Pittsfield Village and Rosebud and Scheffler Parks.*

Malletts Creek is Ann Arbor's largest waterway and it contributes the highest share of pollutants to the Huron River. Stormwater runoff continues to be the primary cause of local water pollution. Eroded soil and phosphorus threaten aquatic habitat and cause algae blooms, while oils, heavy metals, E. coli and salt contaminate the river each time it rains.

Since developing the Malletts Creek Restoration Plan in 2000, the City of Ann Arbor and the Washtenaw County Office of the Water Resources Commissioner have partnered with the Department of Environment Quality (DEQ) and neighboring townships to reduce high flows, improve water quality, and stabilize the Malletts Creek corridor. One result of this collaboration is the 2008 construction of a water quality treatment wetland at Mary Beth Doyle Park, located between I-94 and Packard, Stone School, and Verle roads. This basin area can hold up to 15 million gallons of stormwater before slowly releasing the water back into Malletts Creek.

Besides helping to stabilize the creek flow after a storm, the wetland also filters and removes 35 percent of stormwater-carried phosphorus and 60 percent of the silt and sediment.

Recently the MDEQ awarded the county a combination of green infrastructure grants and low-interest loans worth \$2.8 million for stream bank stabilization in Malletts Creek. From fall 2011 through spring 2012 the Malletts Creek stream channel will be reinforced in critical areas—such as at turns and road crossings—using a combination of re-grading, rock armoring, and native vegetation. The project is expected to prevent 685 tons of erosion (roughly enough to cover a



A work crew installs a culvert as part of the Malletts Creek restoration project. The culvert is being put in to help stream flows and reduce flooding.

football field 1 ½ feet deep) and reduce phosphorus entering the river by an additional 15 percent annually.

Areas disturbed by construction will have non-native species removed and replaced with native vegetation. Staff from the City of Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation (NAP) office and the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission have been active throughout the design process. The County Farm Park segment includes improvements that are highly visible to the public. This work involves construction of a 3-acre wet meadow west of the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center and south of the existing Washtenaw Avenue bike path. For further information, please contact Harry Sheehan at 734.222.6851 or via sheehan@washtenaw.org.

Great Prices on Water Bottles and Compact-Folding Shopping Bags

A selection of A2H2O refillable water bottles are sold for \$1-\$5 each at the City of Ann Arbor's Customer Service Center. Available models include plastic, glass, and stainless steel options. In addition, a full-sized shopping bag that fits into 2"x4" pouch made with 99% recycled materials is available for \$5. Details and photos are posted online at www.a2gov.org/A2H2O and at the Customer Service Center on the first floor of Larcom City Hall.

There are plenty of reasons to drink Ann Arbor tap water (A2H2O): it's good for you, your wallet and the environment! Learn about the negative impacts of commercially-bottled drinking water in contrast to municipal tap water see the Bottled Water Issues Summary (PDF) at http://www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/water_treatment/Documents/bottledwaterfactsheet12-3.pdf

Annual Flower Give Away

May 19, 2012 (One Day Only)

Time: 11:00 – 3:00 PM

Place: The corral behind the
Pittsfield Village Office.

If you CANNOT attend, then either:

- a.) give your neighbor a note authorizing them to pick your flowers up for you
— OR —
b.) if you cannot send a neighbor, call the Pittsfield Village office (971-0233) the following Monday, May 21, 2012, to inquire on availability of remaining flowers.

Pittsfield Village Condo Board will once again be serving up hot dogs, veggie dogs, grilled polish sausages and other cholesterol bombs for your delight.

*Garden Marker program sign-up sheets will be available.

*Mulch and topsoil sign-up sheets will also be available.



Barbi De Longchamp

Resident

A long, long time ago somewhere around 432 AD, St. Patrick went to Ireland. He did a ton of stuff while he was there; converting Druids, picking Sham-rocks, and driving the snakes out of Ireland too. I don't know how he drove them out. It could have been a Ford, Chevy, Chrysler, or since he was close to Europe, maybe a Volkswagen bug. Only he and the snakes know, and the snakes went into the sea so they aren't talking. Did a snake ever talk? Oh there were those snakes in Harry Potter!

Well anyway to get on with the story. After St. Patrick did all that stuff in Ireland he roamed around a little and decided to visit our Pittsfield Village Community. Of course he's been roaming for over 1500 years. But who's counting. While here on his visit he decided he should be driving something out. He has his axe and rosary, so why not. That's what he does best. But what to drive? He took a look at all the dogs, but they were so cute and friendly. They didn't need driving. Even though every dog loves a car ride. He took a look at the cats, but there weren't very many. Finally he looked towards the chipmunks which are just waking from their winter nap and stealing birdseed and probably marbles. Ah ha! Just when St. Patrick made up his mind on what to drive, he realized he not only had not a car, he didn't even have a license. Whatever shall he do? This must be the reason why so many people in The Village ride bikes.

Now, look around The Village while you're riding your bike, or walking your dog, cat, or chipmunk, and see if you can find St. Patrick. He's six feet tall, wears green (of all the nerve wearing green in A2), and is on someone's front porch. Good luck, happy hunting, and Happy St. Patrick's Day to you! Remember to kiss the Blarney Stone, or someone that looks like it!



St. Patrick
— in —
Pittsfield Village

March 2012 Community Calendar

March 6th

Modification & Maintenance Committee Meeting

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

March 15th

Finance Committee Meeting

6:00PM - 7:30PM @ The Community Building

March 20th

Landscape Committee Meeting

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

Looking Ahead. . . Early April 2012

April 3rd

Modification & Maintenance Committee Meeting

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

Important Note: The April Board of Directors Meeting has been move to April 20th.



Pittsfield Village
Communications
Committee

Bulletin

MARKETING MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR SELLERS

The office have community brochures and other marketing material for owners who are selling their units. The information provides a brief history of the community along with the association matrix that will possibly help answer questions of potential buyers.

If you would like a packet email office@pittsfieldvillage.com or call the office at 734-971-0233.

SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

We are looking for residents to contribute to this newsletter! Anyone interested in contributing writing, photography, content ideas, or even a classified ad for this bulletin, is encouraged to contact us via email at pittsfieldvillage@gmail.com.

Pittsfield Village Condominiums Sales Chart 2011

There were a total of 20 sales in 2011 with 3 of them being 1 bedrooms and 17 being 2 bedrooms.

