

Get Ready for Fall Fun at Pittsfield Village!

by Barb Delongchamp

Each month we at Pittsfield Village are trying to have an exciting or fun activity. In August there was the Annual Pool Party and in September was the First Annual Pooch Plunge. That brings us to October with Halloween. If you are a Halloween fan and love the festivities this season brings then you will love our October Event. Yes of course we will be decorating and probably scaring ourselves silly but there is also pumpkin carving. Get your tools ready and dig in.



If you would like to enter the Pittsfield Village Carving/Decorating Contest, then take a picture of your handiwork and send it in to the office, drop it off, or post it on our Facebook page BY OCTOBER 31ST. There will be two prizes offered for the most unique carved or decorated jack-o-lantern. One for kids of 16 and under of \$10 gift certificate at 5 And Below, and the other for \$10 at Hillers for adults. Fun, fun, fun is what we do here in The Village.

Happy Halloween!

AS A REMINDER, TRICK OR TREATING IS FROM 5:00pm TO 8:00pm. KIDS ARE TO LOOK FOR THE ORANGE-COVERED PORCH LIGHTS. IF YOU NEED AN ORANGE PUMPKIN FOR YOUR PORCH LIGHT, PLEASE PICK ONE UP AT THE OFFICE OR IN THE NEWSLETTER BOX OUTSIDE THE OFFICE.

Important Lawn Fertilization Information

The Board of Directors has made the decision to cancel the fall herbicide application. The fall application of fertilizer however, will still be applied. This is a granular application that will help to feed the lawn to promote thicker,

healthier grass in the spring. The application is scheduled for October 17th or 18th weather permitting.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Reflective House Numbers

October is bringing us longer and longer nights. Some people may wish for their house numbers to be a little bit easier to find particularly in the dark.

Fastsigns on Washtenaw has the specs for just such a sign. It matches our current house number signs and uses reflective paint. Ask

for an "Aluminum House Addresses Sign for Pittsfield Village filed under Colin Breed". It takes about a week for them to make the sign.

This neighbor moved her original house number sign from the front of her house to the side and installed the new larger numbers to face the street.



High Five! The Soffit Vent Program is Complete!

by Darleen Boynton

Soffit vents have to be in the top 3 of unglamorous line items in the budget for the last decade. Soffits are the underside of the roof overhangs of the buildings (even though soffit is a French word it is still not too exciting).

We began installing vents in them about 10 years ago to help remediate severe ice dams in the winter. Pittsfield Village had a large insurance claim for ice dam damage one winter. Our insurance company insisted that we take action to mitigate future claims.

Colin initially prioritized installation of the vents to buildings with the worst ice damming. When those buildings were taken care of, the priority went according to the roofing schedule. Over the years, priority was given to the overall budget. The Village has taken it's time to work on this. Every

building is still not completed. The remaining buildings will be completed as they come up for reroofing in the coming years.

To tell if your home has had the soffit vents installed, stand on your porch and look up at the underside of the roof. If you see little round plastic vents you will know that your home has been completed. As a homeowner, if you decide to have insulation blown into the attic, you should talk to your contractor about installing baffles to protect these vents from filling with insulation. The contractor should be familiar with what you are speaking of.

Since 2011, Pittsfield Village spent \$110,250 on this project. It will be nice to have the money from that line item freed for other projects. High five! that this is done.

Board of Directors

Aaron Pressel

President

(734) 678-4074

aaron.pressel@pittsfieldvillage.com

Jessica Lehr

Vice President

(734) 891-6073

jessica.lehr@pittsfieldvillage.com

Kat Irvin

Treasurer

(734) 477-0380

kat.irvin@pittsfieldvillage.com

Sarah Deflon

Secretary

(734) 358-1946

sarah.deflon@pittsfieldvillage.com

Frank Lotfian

Member at Large

Frank.Lotfian@pittsfieldvillage.com

Committee Chairs

Kelsey King

Communications Committee

Margarita Garcia-Roberts

Finance Committee

Barbara Scoville

Landscape Committee

Darleen Boynton

Modification &

Maintenance Committee

Management Office

Terri Leirstein

Community Manager

Tracy Vincent

Administrative Manager

Wanda Buster

Bookkeeper

Monday—Friday

8:30am - 5:00pm

2220 Pittsfield Blvd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Phone (734) 971-0233

Fax (734) 971-3421

office@pittsfieldvillage.com

www.pittsfieldvillage.com

Facebook.com/PittsfieldVillage

Newsletter Design and Layout

Karen Tuttle of klizaDESIGN.com

October is Fire Prevention Month

**Please take some time to talk to
your household members and
neighbors about fire safety.**

Over the years, homes in Pittsfield Village have not been immune from fires. Many of the fires could have been prevented. Below are some tips on preventing fires.

- Never store or place combustibles on the stove.
- Light bulbs used to keep pets such as iguanas must be kept from walls and the highly flammable litter in the animals' cage.
- If you smoke or have guests who smoke, make sure that you have a safe place to extinguish the materials. Cigarettes thrown into the garden can catch leaves on fire and lead to the siding catching on fire.
- Use a licensed electrician for electrical work and a licensed mechanical contractor for gas line work.
- Place tape on your basement floor 3 feet from the furnace and water heater to create a "No Parking" zone for storing items in the basement.
- Have an electrician install outdoor outlets so that holiday lights can be safely plugged in.
- Do not use a gas or charcoal grills on the deck or within 10 feet of the deck or buildings.
- Clean out the lint from your dryer exhaust hose. Replace plastic dryer hose with a metal hose.
- Do you have a fire extinguisher? Show everyone in the household how to use it. If you do not have one perhaps you could add it to your holiday wish list.

Note: Municipal code regarding smoke detectors has recently changed. It is now recommended that each bedroom, the upstairs hall, the living room and the basement all have a smoke detector.

If you do not know when your smoke detector was installed, it may be so old that it is now obsolete. This month would be a great time to make upgrades. Many stores put them on sale this time of year. Use a sharpie on the back of the smoke detector to note when you installed it. Colin Breed, our Maintenance Supervisor reports that there are now smoke detectors on the market with 25-year batteries.

If you have questions about smoke detectors, feel free to call or email the office to request information from the maintenance staff.

Have You Had A Visit From the Pittsfield Village Ram?

by Darleen Boynton

Pittsfield Village Maintenance Team is now appreciatively driving through the streets of the Village a 2010 Dodge Ram pick-up truck. The old 1995 truck known for its rusted "cannon ball hole" bumper was at the end of its life. In addition to the rust on the bumper the floorboards were gone too. Mechanical repairs were also making the truck a financial drain.



The finance committee felt that it would be best to purchase a new truck this year. The maintenance team was authorized to spend up to \$15,000 for a truck. They set up an online search so that they could obtain a truck at a good value. The new truck was purchased with money saved for that purpose in the reserve account allocated for this and from funding put into the budget this year. Sale of the old truck for \$1,350 also went towards funding the new Ram. With careful shopping, the maintenance team came in a bit under budget even when factoring in tax and registration!



Give a wave to the guys as they pass on the street on their way to a neighbor's home!



Landscape Committee: a Little History

by Judy Tomer

Recently Lizzie Hurwitz, Pittsfield Village owner and resident, successfully worked to have the scheduled fall herbicide spraying canceled. In my experience as a member of the Pittsfield Village landscape committee, this is the first major effort by an owner/resident to limit spraying. Over the years, the landscape committee has investigated this and other related ideas to move our approach towards one with a more naturalistic focus.

In 2000, Wild Ones had their annual meeting on the University of Michigan campus, and what I learned there changed much of how I think about plants and landscapes. The most amazing fact: when it rains, the runoff from lawns is almost the same as the runoff from pavement, and this is a bad thing. With the blessing of a Pittsfield Village board member, the landscape committee investigated how we might install a native landscape area along the culvert that runs into Redbud Nature Area (corner of Parkwood and Jeanne). Not only is the slope dangerous for mowing, but at that time there was a lot of standing water. We thought this area was small enough to do a manageable trial using native plantings in hopes of dealing with the standing water problem and eliminating the hazardous mowing area. We measured the area and met with Greg Vaclavek of Native Plant Nursery. What we learned: in order to have a healthy planting of native grasses, flowers and other plants, the grass area would have to be either killed with Roundup® or smothered (with cardboard, etc.) before planting. New plants could be seeded or bare root seedlings planted by hand. For the next 2 or 3 years someone would have to do diligent weeding until the natives took hold. Once established, periodic burning of this area every few years would keep it nice and healthy. Doing all of this would take money, time, manpower, and education of Pittsfield Village residents and neighbors. Our conclusion: Pittsfield Village's resources just wouldn't cover this, and volunteers to manage the project were nonexistent.

A few weeks ago Barbara Scoville and I met with three Washtenaw Community College personnel to find out details of how WCC installed areas with native plantings around a water retention pond located near the Morris Lawrence Building (mandated because of water quality issues). They over-seeded much of the lawn area with a native plant seed mixture and skipped the usual first step of lawn elimination. Some people think the

naturalized area is attractive, others don't. WCC's approach to their lawn, however, remains traditional.

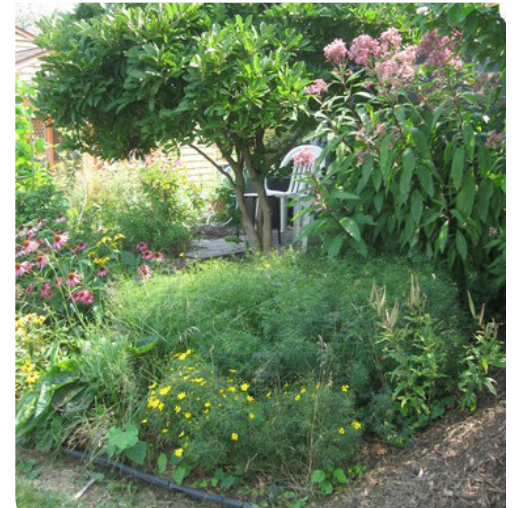
Before 2000, we experimented with not mowing a segment of the very wide lawn area by the willow trees (bordered by Packard, Whitewood, Norwood and Pittsfield): a strip down the very middle, incorporating the line of willow trees, was left unmowed for several weeks. We thought that it resulted in a more natural appearance, but many Pittsfield Village residents didn't appreciate this look and phoned in to complain about both the weedy appearance and their fear that this growth would allow vermin to thrive. Our conclusion: try this again sometime down the road, only with better planning, good communication and resident input!

Our committee also explored eliminating invasive plants, especially the obnoxious buckthorn. We met with one of the city Natural Area Preservation employees who agreed that we have a very serious buckthorn problem. To eradicate buckthorn takes manpower and sometimes machinery to physically remove the buckthorn, and then the stumps must be poisoned to assure no repeat growth. Much of the buckthorn is growing along Pittsfield Village borders with subdivisions and so would require excellent communication and cooperation with each homeowner. Our conclusion was that, while most worthwhile, Pittsfield Village didn't have the resources. Neither did the city have resources for this operation, other than to offer consultation and support.

We've also experimented with not using herbicides on our lawn areas, resulting in increased growth of dandelions, crab grass, other weeds and many complaints from Pittsfield Village residents. While professional lawn care companies have recommended we spray up to seven times/season, we've usually done just one or two sprays/season.

We're now in another round of discussing the cessation of herbicide use on our lawns. This time because of action by Lizzie with support of many Pittsfield Village residents. It's my hope that because of resident interest, this time stopping use of herbicides will work. In my opinion, in order for this to work, the majority of Pittsfield Village residents will have to learn to love a different type of lawn: a lawn based on what's healthy and natural, not based on chemicals and advertising from the chemical companies. Along with stopping

Several neighbors have incorporated native plants in their front gardens, resulting in a few Monarch butterfly sightings.



A more formal incorporation of native plants in a back yard area .

herbicide use, incorporation of native plants will help keep our more natural lawn healthy. Attractive and appropriate signage will help communicate our intention. Some Pittsfield Village residents have already started adding native plants to their existing gardens. Two photos illustrate how this is being done.

If you're interested in promoting herbicide-free lawns here in Pittsfield Village, please email the office to volunteer for the sub-committee.

(The author of this article, Judy Tomer, has been an intermittent member of the landscape committee since Pittsfield Village originally became a co-op and later a condo, and has been fortunate to work with every site manager.)

In the Garden

Lisa Joseph, Master Gardener
Staff Horticulturist

At this time of year, I can be found poring over my spring-flowering bulb catalogs. I've been planting and analyzing bulb combinations for many years, taking notes of both failures and awesome successes. I would like to now share some of my favorite bulbs and bulb pairings with you.

Taller combinations for a sunny spot

1. Allium Purple Sensation

An ornamental onion that reaches a height of 30" and has baseball-sized violet purple blooms.

Tulipa Ballerina

A beautiful lily-flowered bright orange tulip with rosy red stripes that reaches a height of 20". One of my very favorites!

This pair blooms in early May.

2. Tulipa Marilyn

Another lily-flowered tulip that reaches 20" tall. This one is white with delicious raspberry-colored streaks.

Narcissus Pink Charm

A white daffodil that has a vivid pink cup and gets 16" tall.

This duo blooms in mid-late April.

3. Tulipa West Point and Tulipa Maytime

Two lily-flowered tulips (can you tell I love this type of tulip?); one is bright yellow and the other is red violet. Wow! Together they are simply eye-catching and gorgeous. They bloom in late April.

Shorter combinations for a full sun location

1. Tulipa Tinka

A 10" tall tulip with bright red outer petals and a lemon yellow interior.

Narcissus Hawera

A miniature daffodil that is just 6" tall. The blooms are pale yellow bells with swept-back petals.

These two bloom in late April, and I must tell you that this is my most beloved pairing.



2. Tulipa Lady Jane

A 10" tall tulip with a rosy red exterior and a bright pristine white interior.

Narcissus Petrel

A white daffodil with bell-shaped flowers and a wonderful fragrance.

This duo blooms in late April.

3. Tulipa Lilac Wonder

A tiny yet mighty species tulip that is just 7" in height. It is rose lavender and has a bright yellow heart.

Narcissus Hawera

See above.

This pairing blooms in late April.

4. Tulipa Lilliput

Another tiny species tulip that reaches 6" tall. This one is brilliant cardinal red with a stunning violet purple base.

Narcissus Little Gem

A sweet miniature yellow daffodil that gets 6" tall.

Chionodoxa Pink Giant (Glory of the Snow)

A sturdy little light pink blooms with a white center. Also reaches 6" tall.

This trio blooms together in early-mid April.

So what if you have partial shade in your garden? I still have some beauties to choose from that will thrive in those conditions.

Sunny to Partial Shady sites

1. Crocus tommasinianus (called Tommies)

Once you see Tommies in bloom, you will be telling all your friends about these 4" tall little beauties! They are silvery on the outside and pale to deep lavender on the inside. They put on their show in late March-early April.

Scilla rosea (Squill)

At just 4" tall, these soft pink lovelies bloom in early April and look fabulous when planted by Dianthus and creeping Thyme.

Puschkinia libanotica (Striped Squill)

Oh how I love these tiny 6" tall fragrant flowers. They are pale blue with dark blue stripes and start blooming in early April as well.

2. Leucojum Gravetye Giant (Snowflake)

Everywhere I plant this bulb, people are so curious about and thrilled by it. At 24" tall, it looks like a giant lily of the valley with a precise green dot on each petal point. It demands close inspection to truly appreciate its offerings.

3. Galanthus elwesii (Snowdrop)

My last favorite prefers a shady spot in the garden. Although the nodding white flowers only get 4" tall, they are extremely hardy. They bloom in very early spring, and I usually see them covered with snow and taking it all in stride. The inner segments of the blooms are green, calling again for a close inspection.

When planting your bulbs, remember to plant in drifts of at least 7 to 9. Ones and threes just get lost in the landscape and don't make the desired impact.

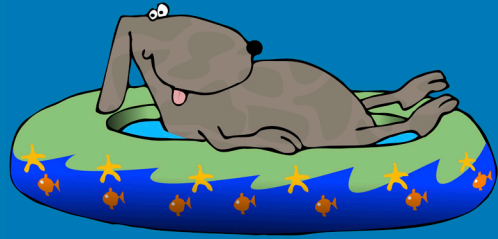
I have to tell you about a summer-flowering bulb I planted this year that floored me with its spectacular fragrance. I was out there every spare minute smelling them. They are a species Gladiolus called **callianthus Murielae**. They are white with a purple center and pointy petals. I planted them at one week intervals starting when the soil warmed in the spring. Was I ever glad I did because I had an unbelievably long bloom time to enjoy that intoxicating scent. You must try them next year! I'm probably going to just buy more rather than dig them up and try to overwinter them.

When you are completing your fall cleanup, be sure to pay special attention around peonies and roses. If yours were like mine this year, they were afflicted with black spot and powdery mildew due to all the rain and cool night temperatures. If you leave any fallen debris over winter, the fungal spores will just re-infect your plants in the spring. Clean up well around these plants and do not compost the diseased plant material.

I still have much to accomplish this fall, so I am hoping for a late first snow to put an end to my growing season. I do hope for a brilliant fall show. I love the warm days and cool nights, don't you?

1ST ANNUAL POOCH PLUNGE

Fun Had by All!



Dear Terri and Event Committee Members,

Thanks for a great time. I have never been to a doggie pool party before, probably because my mom never took me, but it was super. I had so much fun running around and seeing all my friends. I wasn't thrilled with you dipping me in the water but I know my mom put you up to it. She always thinks she knows what's best. Everyone had a lot of fun even though the labs always steal the show with their diving, swimming and playing ball in the water. It was pretty cool watching them. The cake and treats were good too. Very tasty and so thoughtful. Especially the paper you served them on. Yum. I can hardly wait till next year. Thanks for being a party animal like the rest of us. Who knew!

Your friend forever,

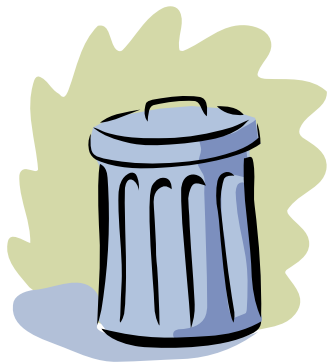
**Zelenka Marie De Longchamp,
a Little Feisty Terrier**



		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 6pm M&M Committee meeting	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 6pm Landscape Committee meeting	16	17 6pm Finance Committee meeting	18	19
		Lawn Fertilization				
20	21	22 6pm Communication Committee meeting	23	24 6:15pm Board Meeting <i>Note Change In Day</i>	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 5-8pm Village Trick or Treat! Pumpkin Contest Entries Due	<i>All meetings are held in the Community Room unless otherwise noted.</i>	

Trash Can Placement

The City of Ann Arbor contacted the office with this request: **PLEASE PLACE TRASH CANS IN THE OUTLINED AREAS ON THE STREET**, and please do not place containers between vehicles. They thank you/us for your/our cooperation



Facebook.com/PittsfieldVillage