



Pittsfield Village

GREEN SPACES • GREAT NEIGHBORS

www.pittsfieldvillage.com

November 2013



Just because the summer flowers have passed, does not mean the window box needs to be neglected. Look around for pretty dried flowers or branches and save them to decorate with.

Children's Holiday Safety

The holiday season is here! For many of us that means large meals, decorations, shopping and family. Unfortunately, it could also mean unintentional pediatric exposure to pesticides and chemicals. During the holidays, parents take their children to visit family they don't see on a regular basis. People who do not have children or whose children are grown, may not "baby-proof" their cabinets and drawers where medicines, cleaners and chemicals are stored. This could present an opportunity for a life threatening accident.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the most dangerous potential poisons are medicines, cleaning products, antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, furniture polish, gasoline, kerosene and lamp oil. In addition, AAP stated that pediatric poisonings are most likely to occur when the parents or caregivers are distracted. The holidays are a busy time. You can take the following steps to protect your children at home and while visiting family and friends.

To poison proof a home:

Store medicine, cleaners, paints/varnishes and pesticides in their original packaging in locked cabinets or containers, out of sight and reach of children.

Install a safety latch—that locks when you close the door—on child-accessible cabinets.

Keep all medicines in containers with safety caps.

Never refer to medicine as "candy" or another appealing name.

Never place poisonous products in food or drink containers.

Mind where your visitors place their purse. Keep them out of reach of children—perhaps in a closet instead of on the floor. They are a potential source of poisons such as hand sanitizer, pills, etc.

Watch that children are not "cleaning up" on alcoholic beverages that people put down half consumed at parties and gatherings. Throw away the dregs before going to bed at night.

Provide these reminders to family and friends before you visit their homes.

What Do You Think...

About Playgrounds in the Village?

There are 6 playground structures throughout the Village. The M&M committee and the board of directors would like to know if they should keep all 6 playgrounds maintained as is or if they should start looking at alternative uses for some of them. Please let us know if the playgrounds are being utilized by the children and grandchildren of village owners and if so, are they age appropriate. Would anyone be interested in an exercise circuit training area or other alternate use instead?

Please email your response to:
office@pittsfieldvillage.com.

Poison Safety

Treatment

If a child is unconscious, not breathing, or having convulsions or seizures due to poison contact or ingestion, call 911 or the local emergency number immediately. If your child has come in contact with poison, and has mild or no symptoms, call the poison control center at (800)222-1222.

Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics:
www.aap.org

American Association of Poison Control Centers: www.aapcc.org/DNN

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit: www.aoec.org/pesu.htm



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What can YOU do to help save on Pittsfield Village Fees?

Pittsfield Village has a common water and sewer bill. Contentious use of water can help us all save money. Here are some tips of actions you and your family can take:

Check faucets and pipes for leaks

A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons. Call the office for a free inspection if you suspect a leak in your home. A common place for us to have leaks is at the hose bib outside. Our staff will come and fix these at no costs to you.

Check your toilets for leaks

Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install. If it is in your budget, consider a new water saving toilet. They used to have a reputation for poorly flushing. Now they have ratings for how well they flush. The best rated flusher was recently found available at Home Depot for about \$125. One neighbor reports that she never thought she would really appreciate a new toilet but she found the new toilet to be quieter, cleaner and more comfortable than her old toilet. It took about 2 hours to install the new one. She took her old toilet to Recycle Ann Arbor for a tax deductible donation.

Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators

Inexpensive water-saving low-flow shower heads or restrictors are easy for the homeowner to install. Also, long, hot showers can use five to ten gallons every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off. "Low-flow" means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute.

You can easily install a ShowerStart shower head, or add a ShowerStart converter to existing shower heads, which automatically pauses a running shower once it gets warm.

Also, all the household faucets should be fit with aerators. These are little screens that screw onto the faucet that improves your water pressure. Reducing your hot water flow also saves you money on your gas bill.

Insulate your water pipes

It's easy and inexpensive to insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. You'll get hot water faster, plus avoid wasting water while it heats up. This is a pretty easy project. You can purchase the insulation at Ace Hardware for less than \$20. The insulation looks like pool noodles and just slips onto your pipes.

Personal habits in the bathroom can make a difference!

Don't use the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket

Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or other small bit of trash, water is wasted. Depending on the size of your toilet, it could be a gallon to 5 gallons of water down the toilet.

Take shorter showers

One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower after soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water.

Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush

There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.

Rinse your razor in the sink

Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your razor just as well as running water, with far less waste of water.

Kitchen habits can make a difference too.

When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.

Gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a pan full of hot water. Dual-swivel aerators are available to make this easier. Depending on how many bells and whistles you desire, these cost from \$3-\$12 at Ace Hardware. They are easy to install and kind of fun. They let you swivel your water direction in a manner similar to using a sink hose.

If using a dishwasher, there is usually no need to pre-rinse dishes.

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Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables

Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water.

Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge

Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Store drinking water in the fridge in a water bottle or a pitcher.

Home Appliances Make a Difference

Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads

Automatic dishwashers and clothes washers should be fully loaded for optimum water conservation. Most makers of dishwashing soap recommend not pre-rinsing dishes which is a big water savings.

With clothes washers, avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an added 20 liters (5 gallons) for the extra rinse. For partial loads, adjust water levels to match the size of the load. Replace old clothes washers. New Energy Star rated washers use 35-50% less water and 50% less energy per load. If you're in the market for a new clothes washer, consider buying a water-saving front load washer. In addition to saving water, a new washing machine may save you money on your gas or electric bill too. Newer washing machines extract more water from your clothes than old top loaders. Thus, they take less energy to dry your clothes.

Minimize use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units

Garbage disposals require a lot of water to operate properly. In the Village, they are also a source of sewer problems. Our plumbing system was not designed to handle such waste. If your garbage disposal goes out, consider eliminating it instead of replacing it.

Water saving in the yard and garden is a huge source of savings for everyone.

Don't water the sidewalk street, or buildings.

If you are watering your garden with a sprinkler, position it so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. In addition to wasting water, when sprinklers hit the buildings, it is not good for the siding to become saturated. Water along the foundations can also add unwanted moisture into your basement.

Water during the early parts of the day; avoid watering when it's windy

Early morning is generally better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus. Early watering and late watering also reduces water loss to evaporation. Watering early in the day is also the best defense against slugs and other garden pests. Try not to water when it's windy—wind can blow sprinklers off target and speed evaporation.

Don't be a killer!

Avoid over-watering plants and shrubs, as this can actually diminish plant health and cause yellowing of the leaves.

When hand watering, use a variable spray nozzle for targeted watering. An open hose, in addition to wasting water, also can cause soil erosion.

Use a broom, not a hose to clean your deck, porch and sidewalk.

Water Fun—A community activity!

Our neighborhood is fortunate to have the pool as a fun center all summer.

As fun as playing with a hose is for kids, it is a terribly expensive activity. In addition to the cost to everyone for the water, the runoff is damaging to the Huron River watershed—the source of our drinking water. Stress on the watershed increases the cost of water for everyone as the city strives to have enough volume and pure drinking water. Bring your kids down to the pool for water fun! The hours are from 11am to 9pm daily. On Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays, the pool is open for adult recreation only. A life guard is on duty all hours that the pool is open.

Car Washing

One of the rules in Pittsfield Village is no car washing. This is not only a water saving measure, but a City Ordinance. Washing the car in the street causes runoff that is harmful to the water system. Check out the \$4 car wash on Packard. They even have free vacuum use with purchase of a car wash.

Have a conversation at the dinner table about how the household can pitch in to save water. Perhaps you can offer some help to a neighbor to make some of these changes. Maybe a neighbor would be willing to offer you some help. You can also call the office at (734) 971-0233 if you need assistance with implementing some of the suggestions mentioned above. If the Village staff cannot assist you, then they can probably give you a referral to someone who can.



Pittsfield Village
Communications
Committee

Bulletin

PERSONAL TRAINER

Want to get into better shape, but don't have the time to go to the gym? Then let me bring the gym to you. Certified personal trainer with a medical and sports background. Will come to your home with my equipment and knowledge to help you gain the healthy life you deserve. I can be reached at 734-645-0671 or e-mail me at sailor2308@gmail.com

TUTORING FOR VILLAGE KIDS

I am a Michigan certified teacher and experienced tutor, available for tutoring grades 1—8 in reading, writing, math, and general homework help. Anyone interested please call Lisa Headings at 734-546-5298 or email lisa2472@gmail.com.

SEEKING NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

We are looking for residents to contribute to this newsletter! Anyone interested in contributing in any way is encouraged to contact us via email at office@pittsfieldvillage.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WANTS YOU!

Whether you have an accounting degree or you just like working with numbers. Maybe you are interested in how our money is budgeted. How is all this money spent? Where does our money go? If you'd like to help, please consider joining the Finance Committee. They meet one evening a month at the Community Building. This committee makes a lot of important recommendations to the Board of Directors and they need help! Please email or call the office.



Chim-Chimneys: The Village Is On Top of Them

In terms of metrics, one of the first metrics recited about Pittsfield Village is that we have 422 homes. Less commonly recited is that those homes are contained in 103 buildings. Through those buildings we have a total of 211 chimneys (1 chimney for every 2 units).

Our brick chimneys were originally built to serve coal powered furnaces. At some point the furnaces were converted to gas power. Today the building code calls for the chimneys to be used to vent our water heaters. The most modern high efficiency furnaces no longer use the chimney for ventilation. They are vented through a duct in the side of the building.

Each year Colin Breed, our Maintenance Supervisor, takes a pair of binoculars and inspects the chimneys for deterioration.

Weathering can cause the bricks to chip, fragment or crumble. In general, this is known as spalling. Spalling occurs because bricks are porous. Over the years water gets into the bricks causing them to expand and spall. The mortar between the bricks can also become dislodged. Repairs to the mortar are called tuck pointing.

Colin has developed a spreadsheet that scores the condition of the chimneys so that he can keep track of their conditions from year to year. The chimneys that score to be in the worst condition are slated for repairs. It is important to keep on top of this so that more costly rebuilds are not required later on. Simple tucking jobs are less costly than having to cut out the damaged bricks and replace them.

For the 2013-2014 budget -year \$11,250 was allocated for the repair and maintenance of the chimneys. Last month 24 chimneys were repaired using these funds. Mason John Barkau performed the work.



Pesticide Application in Pittsfield Village

Opinion Piece

On July 7, 2013, Pittsfield Village residents began supporting a "Petition to Stop Pesticide Application in Pittsfield Village." To date, 115 villagers have endorsed a ban of the pesticide applications administered twice yearly. In acknowledgment of the support to ban pesticides, our Board of Directors voted unanimously to cancel this fall's pesticide application. With continued support, we hope to eliminate the pesticide application permanently. If you have not signed the petition and wish to do so, or if you have further thoughts regarding this issue, please contact Lizzy Hurwitz at lizzyklosshurwitz@gmail.com or (734) 545-6880. The group of villagers working toward these goals would like you to consider the following points:

- President of the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors and Associate Broker at Reinhart Realtors, Jason Boggs (jason@jasonbogghomes.com), endorses this effort and believes, "the pesticide ban will appeal to buyers in our local community, who will search out and cheer on efforts such as yours."

- The pesticide used twice yearly on our lawns is called "Triplet." The Triplet website informs us that: "Triplet SF is an effective liquid post-emergent broadleaf herbicide formulation of two phenoxy herbicides and dicamba that selectively controls broadleaf weeds in turfgrass." The Triplet Material Safety Data Sheet warns of "toxicity to fish and aquatic life," "adversity to non-target plants," "[severe irritation and burning] to rabbits," "delayed development to [animal] offspring," and "positive tests [regarding the herbicide's genotoxicity]." The Triplet half-life in the grass is 15 days, so exposures continue several weeks after application and not just 24 hours.
- In December 2012, the American Academy of Pediatrics published a journal article warning that "prenatal and early childhood exposure to pesticides is associated with pediatric cancers, decreased cognitive function and behavioral problems."
- In the January 2012 issue of Journal for Environmental Research, researchers at the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine concluded that exposure to

professionally applied lawn pesticides was associated with a significantly (70 percent) higher risk of canine malignant lymphoma.

- Runoff from the Pittsfield Village flows directly into the Swift Run Watershed, which feeds the Huron River. Storm drains in and around the Village warn us, "No Dumping—Drains to River."
- Pesticides containing 2,4-D acid, such as Triplet, are banned in Ontario, Quebec, and in various communities in the United States.
- City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County do not spray pesticides at treasured parks, such as Nichols Arboretum, Gallup Park, County Farm Park, Parker Mill Park, and Matthaei Botanical Gardens.
- The effects of not using herbicides are reversible (i.e. if the majority of the Village is unhappy with the weeds that grow as a result, we can easily apply pesticides again and those weeds will disappear).

					1	2
3	4 6pm M&M Committee meeting	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 6:30pm Communication Committee meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 6pm Landscape Committee meeting	20 December newsletter article deadline	21 6pm Finance Committee meeting	22 6:15pm Board Meeting	23
24	25	26	27	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30



“Welcome neighbor!” A 15 foot “farm to field” maple tree being planted on Whitewood.

Calling All Crafters, Bakers and Musicians!

Pittsfield Village is hosting a Holiday get together featuring crafts, bake goods, conversation and music in the Village community building on Sunday, December 8 from 1-4pm. We are looking for talented Village residents who would like to participate. If you knit, make jewelry, play guitar, bake, or enjoy some other craft, this is the time to share it and show it off. If you are interested, contact Sonja Waite (734.358.1109 or waite.sonja@gmail.com) for more information.

Not a crafter? Mark your calendar to come and enjoy the afternoon, perhaps find a unique handmade gift for someone special, and visit with your neighbors. We look forward to seeing you there.