



2012 Holiday lights. Join the fun this year with Pittsfield Village's decorating contest!

## Holiday Decorating Contest!

Spread your holiday cheer throughout The Village by participating in this year's Light up the Village Contest. A winner will be decided on Friday December 20th. If you'd like to be entered, please email [office@pittsfieldvillage.com](mailto:office@pittsfieldvillage.com), visit our Facebook page, or call the office with your unit address. Make sure all of your lights and decorations are turned on December 20th so

the judges can see and make a decision on the winner. The prize will be a \$50.00 gift card to Hiller's Market so make sure the lights are shining brightly. All entries will be placed in a drawing for the prize; however, there will be special awards (and bragging rights) for the nicest display. The winning home will be featured in next month's newsletter and on our Facebook page.

## Eradico Pest Control

During the winter months, our contract with Eradico changes to monthly treatment days. Our treatment day is the FIRST Thursday of each month beginning in December. We will probably go back to our regular weekly



treatment schedule in April 2014. If you have a pest in your home, please call the office to submit a work order for the next scheduled treatment date.

## COLIN'S CORNER



### Colin Breed, Head of Maintenance

This is the time of year that most of us start preparing for the holiday season. In addition to the home decorating that may be done for the holidays, we also need to prepare our homes for the winter season. Here are a few items to keep in mind:

- Check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. If your home does not have any detectors, now would be a good time to install them.
- Disconnect outside hoses. PV maintenance went around and disconnected most already, but please look to make sure.
- Pick up a container of ice melt at the Village office to use on your porch. They are ready for pick-up Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.
- Have your furnace checked by an HVAC professional. Change the filters and set up a monthly schedule to change the filters in the future.

Sit back and wait for the first beautiful snowfall of the season and have a happy and safe holiday season.

## Board of Directors

**Aaron Pressel**

*President*

(734) 678-4074

[aaron.pressel@pittsfieldvillage.com](mailto:aaron.pressel@pittsfieldvillage.com)

**Jessica Lehr**

*Vice President*

(734) 891-6073

[jessica.lehr@pittsfieldvillage.com](mailto:jessica.lehr@pittsfieldvillage.com)

**Kat Irvin**

*Treasurer*

(734) 477-0380

[kat.irvin@pittsfieldvillage.com](mailto:kat.irvin@pittsfieldvillage.com)

**Sarah Deflon**

*Secretary*

(734) 358-1946

[sarah.deflon@pittsfieldvillage.com](mailto:sarah.deflon@pittsfieldvillage.com)

**Frank Lotfian**

*Member at Large*

[Frank.Lotfian@pittsfieldvillage.com](mailto:Frank.Lotfian@pittsfieldvillage.com)

## Committee Chairs

**Kelsey Carter**

*Communications Committee*

**Margarita Garcia-Roberts**

*Finance Committee*

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*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**

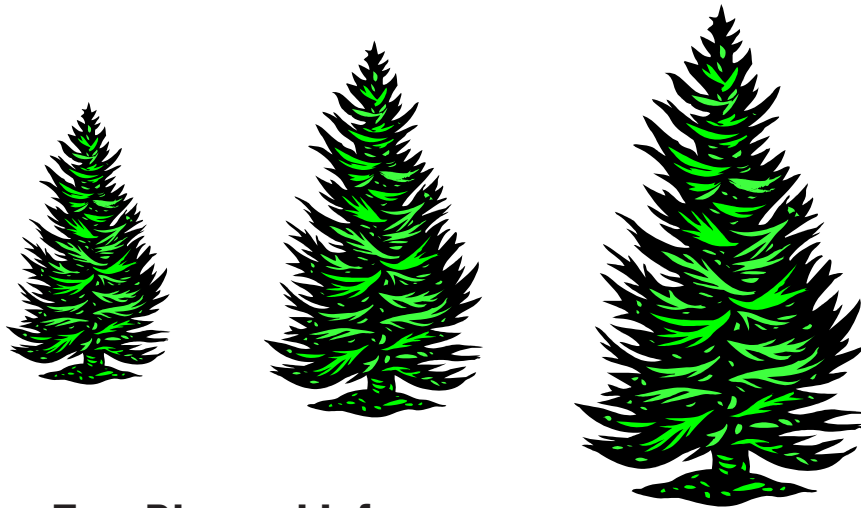
**[office@pittsfieldvillage.com](mailto:office@pittsfieldvillage.com)**

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

**[Facebook.com/PittsfieldVillage](https://www.facebook.com/PittsfieldVillage)**

**Newsletter Design and Layout**

**Karen Tuttle of [klizaDESIGN.com](http://klizaDESIGN.com)**



## Holiday Tree Disposal Info

This holiday season it is important to remember that Christmas trees cannot be discarded in front of the house or on the street. That is why The City of Ann Arbor provides four free drop-off locations for undecorated Christmas trees from Dec. 15, 2013 through Jan. 31, 2014.

- 1. Parking lot adjacent to the Drop-Off Station at 2950 E. Ellsworth** near Platt Road is available for 24/7 holiday evergreen tree drop off. Three park locations are available during normal park visitation hours from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The collected trees will be chipped on a weekly basis at the park sites. The park locations for Christmas tree drop-offs are:
- 2. West Park parking lot** off Chapin near W. Huron
- 3. Gallup Boat Launch parking lot**, entrance on the S.E. side of Geddes Road, East of Huron Parkway.
- 4. Olson Park parking lot**, 1515 Dhu Varren Road, near Pontiac Trail

All tree stands, nails, ornaments, tinsel and plastic bags must be removed from the trees and discarded. The collected evergreens are chipped into mulch or composted. Any metal, glass or plastic ornaments left on the tree can ruin the processing equipment, harm the operators, and spoil the landscaping mulch. Since wreaths and evergreen roping are generally made with wire or plastic backing, these items should be placed inside trash carts.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, all drop-off locations will be closed and holiday evergreen trees must be cut, bundled and saved until the city's compost collection service resumes in April or be delivered to the Drop Off Station, 2950 E. Ellsworth during normal operating hours, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. Ann Arbor residents may deliver their trees at no charge; others without a proof of residency will be assessed a small fee.

## Forecast Says Snow.....And it is Expensive

The Board again looked at the Farmer's Almanac and indeed the forecast for the 2013-2014 winter season indicates that Pittsfield Village will need snow removal services.

The perennial question is: should we pay for a contract that charges for each push of snow or pay for a contract that is one price for the entire season--no matter how much or how little it snows? If we have very little snow, the per-push could be the better value. If we have a great deal of snow the flat price is a better value.

Terri and the maintenance team developed a spreadsheet of the snowfall data from the past 5 years to see if one choice was overwhelmingly better than the other. Based on the data culled from past years, the Board

has chosen to contract Margolis again be our snow removal contractor. They have signed a contract that will pay Margolis per push instead of 1 flat contract. They will remove snow from our front porches, the up-walks, the sidewalks, plow the community building parking lot and plow the streets if there is more than 2 inches of snow. They will also apply ice melt to the sidewalks as needed.

Reminder about ice melt: residents are encouraged to pick up small buckets of ice melt at the Pittsfield Village community building during office hours. This is provided to all for free. It is a good idea to apply often where ice forms on the walks and porches between contractor applications.



# Be Kind to Your Plumbing

The holidays are a time of guests, fun and festivity. Clogged plumbing can send your party down the drain. Take some simple steps to keep things flowing.

Holiday cooking may generate more food waste than you are used to—potato peelings, squash peelings, apple peelings, bacon grease, hot frying oil etc. Although in theory, the garbage disposal can handle the vegetable manner, our 1940's plumbing was never designed for the "electric pig". Shoving these things down the drain may cause a clog. Instead, compost the peelings or simply throw them in the trash.

Grease or oils should never be poured down the drain—electric pig or not. They coat the pipes and collect in the plumbing not only in your kitchen, but all the way through the sewer system. This builds up into what is known as a fatberg that can clog the sewers for hundreds of homes. Collect used grease in a can, or return it to the original container and dispose of it in the trash.

If your shower has a wide open hole down the drain, place a screen from the hardware store over it. It will keep hair and gunk from clogging the drain and also larger items that you may accidentally drop. Recently, a neighbor called with a clogged shower that was not remedied with Drano. The maintenance staff found the trap filled with

hair pins, 2 miniature glass bottles, a cat toy and miscellaneous pieces of metal (see photo below). A screen for the shower is less than \$5.00. Repairing the pipes—more than \$50. Merry Christmas!

Nothing should be flushed down the toilet except human waste and toilet paper. Keep a small covered trash can between the toilet and the sink so that people using the facility have a discreet place to place their refuse instead of in the toilet. You may have meticulous habits, but visitors may not be so conscientious about the sensitive nature of the plumbing. If you are expecting guests, you may want to leave a note asking them for their cooperation.

Despite the labels saying flushable on some baby wipes or adult personal wipes, NEVER flush these products. This is one of the most expensive clogs to clear out in the Village. These products collect in the pipes leading to the street. It can cost more than \$1,000 to remove these items. That certainly does not make for a "Happy New Year"!

The problem of clogged pipes and sewer lines is not unique to the Village. For more reading on this matter, Google "London fatberg". Over the summer the sewers of London were clogged with a mass of wipes and grease the size of a London double deck bus. Ewwwww, but at the same time you just want to look.



*Maintenance found these items in a home's drain.*



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](mailto: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.

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6pm M&M Committee meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Pest Control Service Day	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6pm Landscape Committee meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6pm Finance Committee meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Office Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> No Board Meeting	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	 <b>December 2013</b>			

*All meetings are held in the Community Room unless otherwise noted.*



## Lost and Found

Occasionally, residents or other pedestrians will bring to the office, items found around the community. If you've lost something, please call us. We just might have it!

Currently, we have a baby's blanket (in very good condition), a lanyard with keys, and an Epi-Pen. If any of these items are yours, please contact the office.

