

September: National Flamingo Month!

Barbi De Longchamp

Did you know that August and September are dedicated the National Flamingo Months? I did not know this either, I don't think anyone knew this, in fact it didn't exist, therefore I dedicated them as such. Take a look around our little Village. You will see many flocks of flamingos. Some together, some parenting, some just so spectacular it takes your breath away. Now you say you had no idea of this happening? For a quick peek there is a flock at the corner of Parkwood and Fernwood; another one on Pittsfield; and of course the grand duchess of them all, the Nutcracker on Jeanne. I am certain if you take the time to walk, jog, or let your dog take you for a walk through the Village, there are many more to find.

How about joining the flock and obtaining a flamingo of your very own? Does that mean flamingos have a flock? Geese have a gaggle, do flamingos have a flaggle? Oh my, how confusing. Actually they have a flamboyance if there is a flock. A flamboyance can range from 3 dozen to over a million, but who's counting. Hopefully not Terri in the Village or we might be in big trouble. An average flamingo weighs about 8 pounds, not the one on Jeanne St., she's a plumpy, the others must have been dieting. As for colors they come in red, orange, and pink. The special pink ones have been around in plastic since 1957, but they are still here in Pittsfield Village because we are vintage and special. It's never too late to join the flaggle, gaggle, or flamboyance. Whatever you want to call it. Always room for one more, or two! Have fun on your hunt and in your heart. Happy National Flamingo Month!

Annual Pool Party

We hope you had a chance to make it to this year's pool party, which was a great success! Besides the great food and music, wonderful neighbors and fantastic weather, the kids really enjoyed getting their face painted by board member Sarah Deflon. Who knew she was such a talented artist!?!



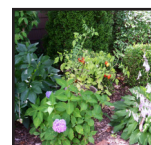
1ST ANNUAL POODCH PLUNGE September 4, 5-7pm

Bring Fido, Muffin or Max for a dip in the pool... after season, of course!



"What's Growing On Around the Village?"

Pittsfield Village is well known for its wonderful flowering trees, corner beds and all of our special gardens. What is not so well known are the veggies growing here and there around the Village. A stroll around the Village finds a pot of tomatoes ripening among hydrangeas, an entire hedge of tomatoes affording privacy of a deck, to squash, a sweet little "Veggie Village" and a spectrum of vegetables in between.



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Roman Technology Applications in Pittsfield Village

Darleen Boynton

Modification & Maintenance Committee

On July 16, 2013 Aaron Pressel, president of Pittsfield Village, signed a contract for some ancient Roman technology applications in the Village. Indeed, in approximately 300 BC, the Romans developed concrete technology.

Starting last summer, the City of Ann Arbor took over responsibility for maintenance and repair of the city sidewalks. Pittsfield Village however, is still responsible for our up-walks and porches. In early May our maintenance staff did an inspection of the concrete and made a priority list of areas that needed repair or replacement.

Pittsfield Village obtained bids from several companies. The Maintenance and Modification committee reviewed the bids. In addition to looking at the prices, the committee also considers previous experiences with a contractor. Did the maintenance team find them cooperative? Were residents satisfied with the work? Did they clean up after themselves? Was the work done well?

If Pittsfield Village has no experience with a contractor but they give a good bid, the committee may vote to give them a section of the work to be done so that we can gain some experience with them and determine if we would like to offer them further work.

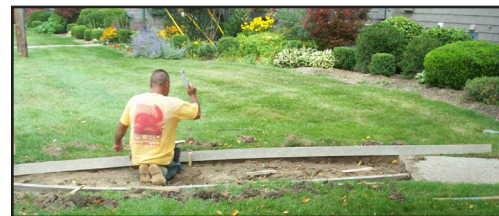
This year DCAM was the low bidder for concrete work. We have had good experience with them in the past. The bid called for the repair or replacement of approximately 50

sections of walkways and porches. The work should be done by the time the kids are leaving for school in the morning this fall.

The word concrete comes from the Latin word “concretus” (meaning compact or condensed), the perfect passive participle of “concrecere”, from “con-” (together) and “crescere” (to grow). Our concrete sidewalks help bring us back home each day. Those Romans sure have brought us a lot of good things!

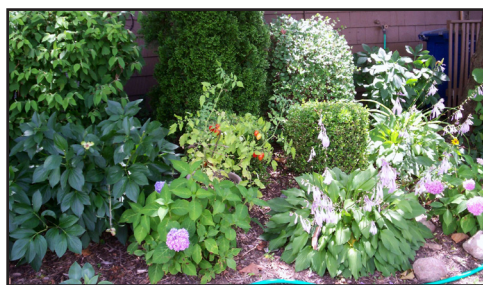


Heavy equipment came in to remove the front steps of this Whitewood home.

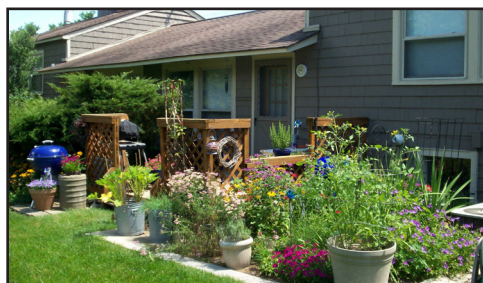


Concrete work involves a lot of handwork too. A DCAM worker is working on the sidewalk of a Pittsfield home.

“Growing On Around the Village” continued



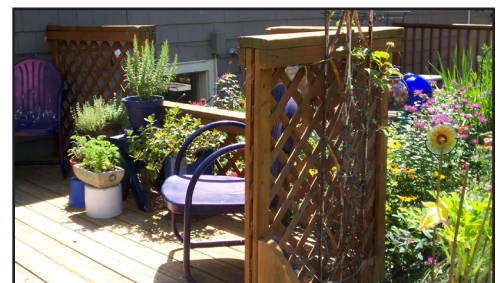
The hidden garden: find the ripe tomatoes.



Squash, tomatoes and more



Wow! What a hedge of plum tomatoes!



Sweet pots of herbs

In the Garden

Lisa Joseph, Master Gardener
Staff Horticulturist

This is a good time to talk about fall blooming perennials. Oftentimes, we buy only those perennials that bloom in the early and mid summer months and then are disappointed when late summer arrives and there are hardly any blooms in the garden. I have some tried and true favorites to share with you.

1. My all-time favorite is Joe-Pye Weed. In my smaller scale garden, I have a shorter variety called 'Little Joe' (*Eupatorium dubium* 'Little Joe'). This variety gets about 4' tall with a 3' spread. An even smaller variety that is just as cute as can be is 'Baby Joe', boasting the same fabulous blooms and hardiness, yet its mature height is only 3' with a 2' spread. Joe-Pye Weed is a native plant that attracts butterflies, bees, and beneficial insects by the droves. The huge blooms are lavender rose in color. The stems are stout and remain erect with no staking required. It is slow to emerge in the spring, but is so well worth the wait! One con of Joe-Pye Weed is that in a long drought situation, it does like supplemental watering or it will pout and wilt. I gladly accommodate this small request as it asks so little of me and offers such big rewards in late summer.

2. My second awesome late summer bloomer, also a native, is Solidago or Goldenrod. A truly fabulous variety is 'Fireworks', a 3x3' beauty that makes quite a statement in the perennial garden. The lacy, bright yellow flower panicles radiate out in all different directions on stiff stems, resembling fireworks.

If you don't have enough room in your garden for this larger variety, try 'Little Lemon'. At just 18" tall, with neon yellow blooms, it is a much smaller plant for the front of the border.

All varieties of Goldenrod attract butterflies and beneficial insects.

3. My next fall bloomer, *Caryopteris* or Bluebeard is actually a "woody perennial". What this means is that the stems are woody rather than herbaceous, but the top of the plant often succumbs to winter weather like a perennial. The crown survives, however, so the plant can just

be cut back like you would any other perennial. This also controls the size of the plant. Prune it back to one foot from the ground in early summer. *Caryopteris* usually reaches a mature size of 3 x 3' and produces bright cobalt blue flowers in late summer. One of my favorite varieties is 'Sunshine Blue'. It has variegated leaves of yellow and green. Other favorites of mine are 'Worcester Gold' and 'Gold Giant', both of which have chartreuse foliage all summer. The foliage of Bluebeard adds to the garden even when the plant is not in bloom. When it does bloom, what a sight to see! The flowers are so striking, especially in contrast with the bright yellow foliage, and the butterflies and bees are in heaven.

4. My last late summer stunner to tell you about is another native plant, Aster. A variety I've recently fell in love with is 'October Skies' with bright blue daisy-like flowers and a height of 2' with a similar spread. 'Purple Dome', a long time favorite of mine, has dark purple flowers and grows to a mature height of 2' with a spread of 3'. Yet another gorgeous variety is 'Alma Potschke' which has bright cherry pink blooms and weighs in a bit larger at 3' tall by 3-4' wide.

It is best to pinch Asters back a couple of times before the 4th of July to encourage shorter, sturdier stems and to ensure that they bloom in late summer as desired. Asters always tend to have ugly legs, with dried up brown leaves at the base. Therefore, it is a good idea to plant these at the back of the border or to hide their legs with other plants. Last year, I planted Zinnia 'Yellow Profusion' around mine, and it was a perfect pairing!

As summer is winding down, I do so enjoy seeing the bright cheerful flowers of late blooming perennials alongside my shrubs and trees starting to show their fall colors. As I am a lover of the really warm days, I was disappointed with the rather cool summer this year. Yet, as I sit and write this on my back deck, with the warm sun and gentle breeze, I'm thinking that summer may linger for a while longer. Maybe into November? We can dream.



Pittsfield Village
Communications
Committee

Bulletin

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.

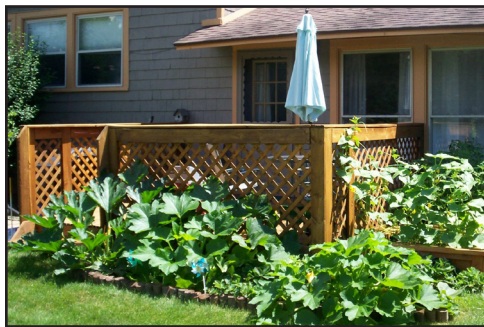
THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WANTS YOU!

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.

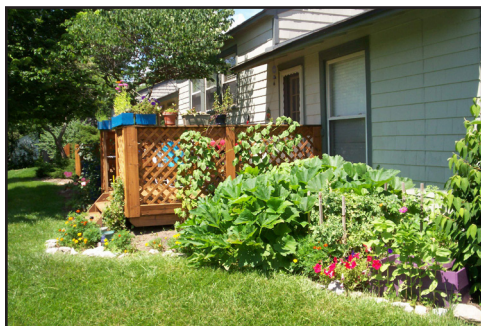


1	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3	4 5-7pm Pooch Plunge Pet Pool Party <i>Community Pool</i>	5	6	7
8	9 6pm M&M Committee Meeting <i>Community Building</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 6pm Landscape Committee Meeting <i>Community Building</i>	18	19 6pm Finance Committee Meeting <i>Community Building</i>	20 October Newsletter Copy Deadline	21
22	23	24 6:30pm Communications Committee Meeting <i>Community Building</i>	25	26	27 6:15pm Board of Directors Meeting <i>Community Building</i>	28
29	30	 September 2013				

“Growing On Around the Village” continued



Full to overflowing with Squash



Tomatoes, broccoli and cukes

What Do You Think... ...of Our Curb Appeal?

As you drive through the Village, what do you like best? What would you change if you could?

Send your responses to
office@pittsfieldvillage.com



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