

Congratulations to our Holiday Decorating Contest Winner! See more photos throughout this newsletter.

It's Time To Meet The Neighbors!

Happy New Year everyone!! Our last Meet and Greet event was held last June and it was such a great event that the Communication Committee decided we should do this a couple times each year. Mark your calendar for Thursday, January 23, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and join us in the Community building. Everyone is invited to come by and enjoy some social time and take a moment to meet new neighbors and renew old friendships. Coffee and desserts will be served. I invite you to reach out and bring one of your neighbors along with you. The more, the merrier. I look forward to seeing you there!!

Downsizing Household Clutter

Finding places to tuck away your holiday gifts, home improvement projects and New Year's resolutions may have you thinking about downsizing your possessions.

There are many ways to declutter and help someone else at the same time.

In early February, the events committee will be hosting a Valentine making party. Feel free to gather your craft supplies and come on down to the office to join in the fun. The Valentines will be distributed to patients in nursing homes.

If you are overrun with magazines, bring your collection to the Taubman Center or VA Hospital. Patients and their families are always looking for something to read. No topic is too obscure to find a reader.

The Ann Arbor Thrift Shop, just around the corner from Pittsfield Village, is an excellent place to donate gently used clothing, linens and books. The money they raise helps members of our community.

The PTO Thrift Shop on South Industrial was set up to raise money for Ann Arbor Public Schools. They take clothing, house wares, records, craft supplies, etc.

Recycle Ann Arbor Reuse Center on South Industrial accepts exercise equipment, furniture, appliances, health care equipment, etc. They use the funds from sales to raise awareness about recycling.

If it is going to take you some time to gather up your things, you may want to plan on selling them at the Pittsfield Village yard sale in June.

Perhaps you are overrun with pet hair but you hate to waste it. The Ann Arbor District library has several books on crafts with pet hair. One cute, easy to understand book is, "Crafting with Cat Hair: Cute Handicrafts to Make with Your Cat" by Kaori Tsutaya. Ask the librarian for more book titles on crafts using pet hair. These crafts make cute gifts.

While you are at the library, they also take donations of used hardback and paperback books.

Donation Locations

Visit these websites for more information on these references, including details on exactly what they take, hours and location:

Ann Arbor Thrift Shop www.annarborthriftshop.org

Recycle Ann Arbor www.recycleannarbor.org

DTO Thriff Chan

PTO Thrift Shop a2ptothriftshop.org

Ann Arbor District Library www.aadl.org



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Kitchen Renewal Ideas

In 1989 when Pittsfield Village Apartments were converted to The Village Cooperative, our kitchens were given a facelift with "Euro" style" laminate cabinet with real oak trim.

The new year may have you itching for something to bring your kitchen into this century. Knobs, a paint job, or refacing are some ideas for refreshing your cabinets short of ripping them out and starting over.

New knobs add flair without a lot of time and money. Select a style, and install with a drill and a screw driver. Your update can be done for less than \$100 and a short afternoon of effort. Knobs and handles come in a wide range of styles and price points. Have some fun with this choice.

Painting your cabinets can give you a dramatic change with a modest budget and a bit of effort. The world is your rainbow for this type of facelift. If you are not up to this type of work, a local painter reports that it can be done professionally for less than \$1,000 including materials.

Cabinet refacing is not an inexpensive redo but it is simpler and less costly than tearing out and starting from scratch. With refacing, a company comes in and changes out your drawers, possibly your shelves, and the doors. To make it all match, they apply a laminate over the base of your cabinet. There are many, many options and styles of cabinet fronts with this choice. The cost of this option varies widely with the extent of your renovation and the style you choose. It can be done for about \$5,000. The mess factor with this option is far less than a complete redo. Our kitchens can be completed from start to finish in a week.

If you decide to reface your cabinet doors or get new cabinets, you might check with your neighbors to see if they are in need of any parts you might be tossing. Sometimes a neighbor would be pleased to re-use your drawers or doors if they are in good shape.

Updating Knobs



Knobs on the cabinets are a simple update.

Fresh Paint



This kitchen looks fresh and contemporary with white paint on the cabinets, gray paint on the counter and simple brushed nickel knobs. Cost-less than \$1,000 for a pro to do the work.

Cabinet Refacing



Cabinet refacing changes the style of the cabinets without having to remove everything. New doors in a cherry finish, knobs and a new tile back splash transformed this kitchen.



Door to Door Scams in Pittsfield Village

Our Pittsfield Village utopia is penetrated every so often by people going door to door pushing one scam or another. Most recently a lady on Pittsfield Blvd reported that 2 men came to her door offering her a discount on her natural gas.

She smartly asked to see their identification. Instead of DTE badges they presented her with badges that said "Just Energy". Our neighbor continued to be savvy instead of scammed. She turned them away and did further investigation with DTE to confirm her suspicion that they were not legitimate representatives. Lastly, our neighbor made a report to the Ann Arbor police. This was another good move.

Strangers have been known to come to Pittsfield Village supposedly selling magazines, siding for our homes (nobody said these guys are smart), they have come asking to measure for insulation, windows and more. All solicitors (door to door sales people) in the City of Ann Arbor are required to register with the city and obtain a city issued photo ID in order to go door to door.

To keep safe and keep from being scammed: if you do not know who is at your door you may want to talk to the people from your bathroom window. Nobody is going to be

pushing past you or getting their foot in the door if you speak from the window. Ask to see their solicitor's badge. They may show you some other plastic badge and claim their "company" has a license. This is not a valid answer. If the sales person is legitimate they will not mind waiting while you call their company to verify the purpose of their visit. If you feel at all uncomfortable call 911 and ask the police to come and check the representative. You might want to get a picture on your cell phone too. The police do not want you to fall victim to a scam either. There is no trouble with calling even if the person does turn out to be legitimate.

If the company is legitimate and you are interested in the product do not be pressured into a hasty decision. The best policy is to never give or show personal information of any sort to someone who comes to your door. And never sign a contract or agree to any "deal" until you have done your research. If it is something that might be of interest to you, ask for a brochure, written material with the company name, website, location, phone number, etc., so you can check them out thoroughly. If they are legitimate, they should have no problem with such a request and you can make a well-informed decision.

Be savvy, be safe.





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.

Pittsfield Village GREEN SPACES - GREAT NEIGHBORS January 2014			1 Office Closed Happy New Year!	2	3	4
5	6 6pm M&M Committee meeting	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 6pm Finance Committee meeting	17 February newsletter article deadline	18
19	20	21 6pm Landscape Committee meeting	22	23 6:30-8pm Meet and Greet Party	24 6:15pm Open Forum 6:30pm Board Meeting	25
26	27	28 6:30pm Communication Committee meeting	29	30	31	All meetings are held in the Community Room unless otherwise noted.

