

Living in Peace

Keeping our Neighborhood Strong

by Darleen Boynton

At the recent Maintenance and Modification meeting we were talking about safety and how we all desire to live in a "safe" place. Danger lurks everywhere though so it is hard to promote that we DO live in a safe place. As much as we would like to believe that "bad" things won't happen to us because we have taken actions to make sure danger does not cross our path safety is really an illusion.

Recently the 74 year old owner of Mary's Fabulous Fried Chicken on Packard Road was severely beaten by two men as he closed the restaurant. Ouch. That is awfully close to our neighborhood!

We can all take action to improve our odds against being victims of accidents and crimes. Every member of the household from little children to seniors can take steps.

Parents keep watch of your children when out in the yard. Go out and inspect where children play to pick up any trash that may be in the playgrounds. Kids are apt to play with the darndest things! Teach them not to touch everything they find. Ice tea bottles are not to be picked up and played with to pretend they are drunken pirates! Old "balloons" are dirty! The pebbles in the playground should not be eaten, tossed or stuck up your nose! Everyone can help each other by disposing of trash found in our yards and playgrounds. We will all have greater enjoyment!

Ask your neighbors to keep watch on your kids. Teach your kids to respect the neighbors. Older kids can get into some dumb trouble without even realizing it! Throwing rocks is generally a bad idea. Throwing rocks at wasp nests are a really bad idea. That cranky neighbor DOES know what he is yelling about.

At young ages children are taught about stranger danger. Reach out neighbor to

neighbor so that you are not strangers. This helps to build a stronger more enjoyable neighborhood.

We all share the street to park. Be considerate of neighbors with small children. It is safer for families to unload right in front of the house so that kids are less likely to get into the street. Try and park so that your neighbor can park in front of their home. Your elderly and disabled neighbor will appreciate this courtesy as well. It is kind to help out our neighbors in the winter when the car might need to be moved for plowing. Give a knock on the door and see if your neighbor would like some help!

Consider that we live in very close quarters with each other and be respectful of your neighbors concerns and safety. Grilling and having fires on the deck is not a hazard only to you but to your neighbors home and security. Smoke from fires may be harmful to your neighbors with lung problems. Your consideration is appreciated more than you will know.

Walking in pairs or groups at night offers a bit of safety in numbers. Check if your neighbors would like to take a stroll with you. It might get to be a fun regular meeting.

Do you have neighbors you have never spoken to or forgot their names? Go introduce yourself. It may be awkward for a moment but soon enough you can have a connection that can allow you to help each other out. Exchange phone numbers and emails!

If you are planning a big party invite your neighbors! If your neighbor is having a good time they won't be complaining about you.

Speaking with your neighbors respectfully when there is a problem can help keep tensions on both sides down. The chances are they did not know you had a problem.

By the way the police did arrest two young men in the case of the Mary's Fried Chicken man who was beaten. How did they find the alleged perpetrators? A neighbor made a report to the police. Strong neighbors will help keep Pittsfield Village a peaceful place to live.



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Halloween, October 31st

Traditionally in Pittsfield Village, folks who wish to participate in Trick-or-Treating will place an orange paper pumpkin over their porch light letting the children know that they are at home and handing out sweet treats (lights cannot be turned off). If you need a "pumpkin" they are available at the office. If after regular business hours, they'll be in the box outside.



Dear Parents,

My family, consisting of my two year old son, Oscar, and my husband Milton, moved to Pittsfield Village earlier this year and we want to build our community in our new neighborhood. I want to explore any interest my neighbors may have in starting a Pittsfield Village family group.

Maybe there are some family activities you would like? Maybe a semi-regular playgroup for toddlers, infants, or other age specific groups? Maybe we can help stock each others' freezers with easy to prepare meals? Please send me an email at rebeccadanaepstein@yahoo.com if you're interested in exploring what a Pittsfield Village family group could look like. If this newsletter blurb generates enough interest, I'll coordinate a meeting with child care.

Hope to hear from you soon,

Rebecca

"AROUND TOWN"

Trick or Treat on the River

Sunday, Oct. 19, between noon and 5 p.m. at the Gallup Canoe Livery, fee: \$18 / boat, no preregistration required, all ages welcome (children must be one year or older). Spend the afternoon enjoying the haunting fall beauty of the Huron River and trick or treating by canoe or kayak. As you paddle up and down Gallup Pond, you will encounter creatures handing out treats and candy. Feel free to join in and dress up. Bring a bag for your candy, and keep an eye out for swamp monsters and pirates! <http://www.a2gov.org/canoe>.

Temporary closure of the Swift Run Dog Park

Beginning Monday, Oct. 6 through Friday, Oct. 10 the Swift Run Dog Park will be closed to patrons while routine maintenance is performed including improving accessibility in some areas. During the interim closure we encourage you to visit Olson Park, an off-leash dog play area in the south-central portion of the park. The park is at 1505 Dhu Varren Road (northeast corner), between Pontiac Trail and Birchwood Drive. For information about our dog parks visit <http://www.a2gov.org/dogparks>.

Annual Greenbelt Bus Tour

Join the Greenbelt staff on Saturday, Oct. 4 for a tour of farm and open space properties that have been protected. The Greenbelt Program was approved by City of Ann Arbor voters in November 2003 to provide funding for the preservation and protection of open space, natural habitats and working landscapes both inside and outside the city limits. Highlights of the Saturday, Oct. 4 tour: Learn about local agriculture • See how the Greenbelt program helps protect and preserve farms and open spaces • Speak with local farmers

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; \$15. Please pre-register by Oct. 1, 2014. The tour will depart at 10 a.m. from the Park & Ride stop at Pioneer High School (located on Main Street, just south of Stadium Boulevard in front of Pioneer High School). Ride on a luxury motor coach. Cost, \$15. Light refreshments will be provided. To learn more about the Greenbelt program and to register contact Ginny Trocchio, 734.794.6000 ext. 42798 gtrocchio@a2gov.org.

Where Does my Money Go, and How Can I Find Out?

by Zach Bloomfield

Every few years a bunch of painters come by to make sure that the walls and decks of our units are well kept.

Have you ever had a non-functional window or a problem with your sewer stack? If so, it was probably swiftly repaired by our service team. Aside from the boring stuff, most of us can enjoy a pool with a professional lifeguard and beautiful landscaping. We aren't even roused from the warmth of our living rooms to clear snow off our walkways and sidewalks.

These are amenities that we may have grown to take for granted. I certainly have. These are only a few of the many benefits of being a Villager. Until I joined the Board, I had some vague idea that the contributions I made through my monthly association dues paid for these amenities and services.

Now let me tell you some of the things that I didn't know. There is a long-term plan



to overhaul every roof in the Village over the next few years. The pool will undergo substantial remodel to build a better wall and entryway to ensure the safety of one of our prized community assets. We have a hardship assistance program that, funded by the reserves accumulated over the last few years, has enabled us to maintain a policy of zero evictions through the final conversion from a cooperative to a full Condominium Association, while at the same time broadening the access to affordable refinancing for all co-owners and increasing land values.

The value of the Village is increasing in part through programs and initiatives like these. One co-owner even had a unit sell for over \$90,000 a few weeks ago! And yet, all of this has been achieved without significant increases in association fees. We still maintain substantial reserves for a variety of potential costs as well as smaller planned projects.

Another thing I didn't realize when we moved in last summer was that these financial decisions are not made by the management company. While they do an excellent job administering the budget and overseeing service contractors, all of the decisions to fund these programs come from us, the co-owners. Through voluntary participation, committees oversee the formulation of specific initiatives and the overall budget, which is ratified by the Pittsfield's Board of Directors.

Unfortunately, the Finance Committee often attracts the fewest volunteers yet has arguably the largest potential impact on how the Village uses its resources. While they don't get to decide which flowers are planted or the choose the exterior paint combinations, the Finance Committee has the mandate to define the long-term character of the Village through prudent use of our financial resources. While it isn't always glorious work, the Finance Committee makes a major contribution to the Village's character.

This is Why WE NEED YOU

Whether you are a seasoned CPA, have some experience with finance, do your own taxes, or have helped put together a budget for a club or hobby project, you can play a role in defining the financial future of the Village. You can be part of the team that makes sure our association fees result in value added to every co-owner.

If you think you might be interested, or you just want to have a conversation about some of the projects I've mentioned, please feel to reach out to me. Maybe you've heard a neighbor complain about a decision the Association has made. If so, bring them along with you to the next finance committee meeting!

My contact information is below. Please feel welcome to simply drop in to the next finance committee meeting, which is held on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Building.

Zach Bloomfield
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(208) 721-2565



Pittsfield Village
Communications
Committee

Bulletin

CONDO OWNERS: STILL WRITING CHECKS?

If you are still writing checks each and every month, worrying about getting the payment in on time, using ever-increasing postage stamps, well, we have a solution for you! Perhaps you are interested in safe, easy, convenient and reliable method for paying your monthly Association Fees. If so, we urge you to consider signing up for Direct Debit from your checking or savings account! All you have to do is complete the short form and return it with a voided check to Wanda Buster at the Pittsfield Village office. The monthly fee will be automatically withdrawn at the beginning of the month and you'll NEVER have a late fee!



Quick! Catch the bolting broccoli!



Dinner plate dahlia delight

In the Garden

Lisa Joseph, Master Gardener
Pittsfield Village Staff Horticulturist

Holy grasshoppers! Have you noticed the abundance of these bionic jumpers in the garden? Every time I kneel down to weed, I am bombarded by them! I read in the Farmer's Almanac predictions for this year that numerous grasshoppers and crickets are a sign of a harsh winter to come. Sigh. Another hint of an upcoming brutal cold season is that spiders will make larger webs. Well, I have a monster spider by my motion light, and her web is so colossal that I have to duck to get by. Creeps me out! Does that mean we'll be buried in snow again in 2014?

My featured plant for October is a hybrid Lily known as an L/A Lily. This statuesque perennial is a cross between a Longiflorum (Easter Lily) and an Asiatic Lily. They bloom in mid to late June, and the flowers are huge with a wonderfully light clean floral scent. One of my clients asked me about the gorgeous flower in bloom that I had planted in her perennial garden. When I told her it was an L/A Lily and asked if she had smelled it, she claimed "Why no, I didn't". Whaaaat? You must smell the lily! The bulbs are planted in spring after the soil has warmed. Plant them about 6" down, as the bulbs like to be deeper to stay cool in the intense heat of summer. Choose a spot that stays sunny most of the day. That first year, the plant will be fairly small. But give it a couple of years, and wow! It will mature into a gorgeous beauty standing 3 feet tall with a girth of about 18 inches. My favorites are a bright rosy pink variety called 'Brindisi' and a cantaloupe orange one called 'Orange Tycoon'. They come in many colors, though, for all palettes. I like to plant tall Zinnias or medium-sized perennials in front of lilies to hide the stalks after blooming. Like other bulbs, it's imperative to leave standing at least two thirds of the stalk with foliage so that the process of photosynthesis will



'Orange Tycoon'

provide the bulb with starch and energy for the next year's display.

Every year I keep a journal about my annual planters. I have a list of the great, the not so good, and the downright stinky performers dating back many years. It's a good practice because it is really difficult to remember from year to year, especially with many new plants being introduced every year.

My A-List of annuals for 2014 includes the following:

Colocasia Black Magic (Elephant Ear)- at 3 to 5 feet tall, this massive shade plant makes a fabulous impact. Your planter has to be quite large to use this plant so that the scale is correct. The dark purple leaves were striking this year with light pink and fuchsia impatiens, an orange trailing begonia called Bonfire, and a trailing Coleus called Burgundy Wedding Train.

Dahlia Gallery Art Deco- this plant makes my favorites list every year. What a knock out! It's about 24 to 30" tall with continuous blooms all summer. The artistic flowers are peach, pink, and burgundy all at once. Other Dahlias were terribly plagued with powdery mildew this season due to all the moisture and cool nights, but the foliage on Gallery Art Deco remained clean and green.

Fuchsia Gartenmeister Bonstedt - this upright Fuchsia likes full to partial shade and moist but not soggy soil. This beauty has downward-facing coral red tubular flowers with contrasting dark bronze foliage and stems. It blooms profusely all summer. Another plus- the long colorful flowers attract hummingbirds. I planted it this year with chartreuse Creeping Jenny and fuchsia pink impatiens. Love!



Fuchsia Gartenmeister Bonstedt

Superbells Plum (Calibrachoa)- the magenta color of this trailer mixes perfectly with light pink Supertunia Vista Bubblegum, peach Verbena, and the yellow, orange and pink of one of my all-time favorites, Lantana. When purchasing Calibrachoa, my advice is to always go with Superbells rather than Callie varieties. The Superbells are the superior performers.

Superbells Dreamsicle and Tequila Sunrise- both of these bright orange trailers are gorgeous blooming machines that add brilliant color to draw the eye. To me, the orange combines well with all colors. One pairing that worked particularly well was with magenta Verbena and Petunia Raspberry Blast.

Supertunia Orchid Charm- this petunia was new this year. It has smaller flowers than traditional petunias, but it bloomed its little heart out. It is still going strong in my planters! The orchid pink color cries out for strong purple and cherry pink companions. I used coral Verbena, dark purple Tradescantia, and blue Scaevola (Fan Flower).

Supertunia Vista Fuchsia- every year, this is my coveted, most favorite trailing plant. Petunias may seem ubiquitous, but this special one blooms loyally all summer long, never has an aphid infestation as do many petunia varieties, and combines well with all colors. It's perfect. My favorite pairing for Vista Fuchsia is all yellow Lantana, Bright Pink Verbena, Iced Cherry Superbena, and Sweet Caroline Sweetheart Light Green Sweet Potato Vine.

The weather right now is perfectly gorgeous. However, we know just how suddenly and quickly that can change. My planters are still lovely, so I'm continuing to water and care for them. Yet, when the time comes, I will embrace the opportunity to create new fall planters, with the colors of gold, purple, and burgundy of the harvest season. I have some new ideas for using gourds and dried materials along with the live plants that thrive in cooler temperatures and shorter days. I am anxious to get creating!

For now I will get out and play.

Lisa

Pittsfield Village in Autumn





Pooch Plunge 2014

The annual Pittsfield Village Pooch Plunge on September 4 was a splashing success! We had big dogs, medium dogs and one little 4-month old foo-foo named Sophia who bravely paddled about 4 inches and came out looking very, very tiny. They all loved the water and hanging out with dog buddies and they really loved the treats! That cake looked good enough for the two-leggers. Many thanks to Terri for organizing and making sure everyone went home with a real doggie bag.


Pittsfield Village
GREEN SPACES • GREAT NEIGHBORS
October 2014

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|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 6pm M&M Committee meeting | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 6pm Finance Committee meeting | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 6pm Landscape Committee meeting | 22 | 23 6:30pm Board of Directors Meeting | 24 Newsletter articles due | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Happy Halloween! | |

All meetings to be held in Pittsfield Village Community Room unless otherwise noted.



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