

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 chosen Friday, December 18.

If you'd like to be entered, please email office@pittsfieldvillage.com, or call the office with your unit address. Make sure all of your lights are shining brightly on December 18 so the judges can see and make a decision on the winner.

The prize will be a \$50.00 gift card to Whole Foods.

The winning home will be featured in next month's newsletter and on our website.

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.



Monday, December 7th — 3pm to 5pm



Bring a new pair of mittens to the Pittsfield Village office on Monday, December 7th from 3-5 and enjoy a holiday treat with us!

Mittens will be donated to Pittsfield Elementary and Calvary Presbyterian Church. "New this year! Gift wrapping station. Bring in items that you'd like wrapped by the staff while you enjoy cookies and cocoa and holiday cheer with your neighbors."

Along with the mittens, we will also accept hats, gloves, and scarves for those less fortunate.

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, 2015 through Jan. 31, 2016.

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 1st 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.



Reminder to some, New Information for New Owners: 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 too- potato peelings, squash peelings, apple peelings, bacon grease, hot frying oil etc. Although in theory the garbage disposal can handle the vegetable matter 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 building 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 for clogging the drain but larger items that you may accidentally drop. Recently a neighbor called with a clogged shower that was not remedied with a product such

as Drano. The maintenance staff found the trap filled with hair pins, 2 miniature glass bottles, a cat toy and miscellaneous pieces of metal. A screen for the shower is less than \$5.00. Repairing the pipes- more than \$50!

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 Pittsfield Village. For more reading on this matter, Google "London fatberg". Over the summer of 2013, the sewers of London were clogged with a mass of wipes and grease the size of a London double-decker bus.

TRASH AND RECYCLING REMINDERS

Trash and Recycling Containers: All garbage and recycling must be stored in a City of Ann Arbor approved cart.



Placement of Trash and Recycling Containers: A resident may store trash containers:

- a) Behind his or her unit next to the deck; or
- b) Next to the porch if his or her end unit faces away from the street; or
- c) Behind an approved trash cart enclosure installed by Pittsfield Village staff or by the owner [Cross-reference-“Storage,” Rules 2 and 3].

Trash Cart Enclosures:

- a) Trash cart enclosures installed shall be the approved specification
- b) Prior approval must be obtained by the Board of Directors for any variance from the specification.
- c) Storage of permitted items behind this enclosure is intended for trash carts and recycling carts. Other items are permitted only if they do not extend beyond the enclosure and are not visible. [Cross-reference- “Storage,” Rules 2 and 3].

Collection: Trash and compostable materials begins at 7:00 AM on Tuesdays (or on Wednesday if there has been a holiday that week). Recycling begins at 7:00 AM on Fridays (or on Sunday if there has been a holiday that week). Trash and compostable containers and recycling carts may be set out at curbside either the evening before or by 7:00 AM on the day of collection.

Retrieval of Containers: Trash and Recycling containers must be retrieved by the evening of each trash and Recycle collection day. Any loose items that may not have been picked up by the City must be collected at the time of retrieval of containers.

Trash and Recycling not picked up by City: Trash and/or recyclables, which are refused by city collectors, are to be retrieved by residents no later than the evening of the trash collection day and disposed of.

Disposal of Large Items: The following procedures apply to disposal of large items (e.g., appliances, furniture) which are not picked up by the City during weekly trash collection:

- a) Residents (and not Pittsfield Village) are responsible for the prompt disposal of such large items.
- b) Residents may recycle such items at no cost. The office staff will provide a listing of names and telephone numbers of charitable organizations and private individuals who may wish to pick up such items.
- c) The City Solid Waste Department (994-2807) schedules ‘special pick-ups’ for a fee.
- d) Private hauling contractors may be found in the Ameritech Yellow Pages under “Trucking-Light Hauling.”
- e) After the resident has scheduled a pick-up, Pittsfield Village should then be notified that the pick-up has been arranged. Items are to be placed at the curb on the actual date for which pick-up is scheduled (or the evening before the scheduled date). Any item remaining at the curb for more than twenty-four (24) hours will be considered abandoned. Pittsfield Village will then dispose of the item and will assess a fine to the resident sufficient to reimburse the Village for disposal fees and associated administrative costs.

City Recycling Guides: Recycling Guides are published periodically by the City Of Ann Arbor. Residents should familiarize themselves with these requirements and are to comply with them. Questions may be directed to the Solid Waste Department (994-2807)



Snow Birds

The following suggestions are for Residents who leave for an extended period of time in the winter months.



- 1) A suggested temperature of the home is 65-68 degrees while you are away. If you are going to be gone for an extended period of time you might consider increasing the temperature to help if the outside temperature reduces.
- 2) Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- 3) When the weather is very cold outside, let the water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe—even at a trickle—helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water running through it is above freezing.
- 4) Have someone check on your home if you are leaving for an extended period of time.
- 5) Turn the outside water off to the hoses. By letting the water drain and emptying the pipes this will help reduce the chance of freezing pipes.
- 6) Install the plastic wrap or a similar product to the windows of the home. This helps prevent the wind from seeping into the home and will maintain a constant inside temperature.



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 couple sets of KEYS. If these could be yours, please contact the office.

Eradico Pest Control

During the winter months, our contract with Eradico changes to monthly treatment days. **CORRECTION FROM LAST MONTH:** Our treatment day is the **FIRST** Thursday of each month beginning in December. We will go back to our regular weekly treatment schedule in April 2016. If you have a pest in your home, please call the office to submit a work order for the next scheduled treatment date.



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Community Corner

USED blinds to a good Pittsfield Village home!

Blinds are in great shape! FREE to the first taker!

They are 1" horizontal, creamy white color, and include: 2 LR windows, 1 DR window, 1 Kitchen Window, 2 BDRM windows

Emily-

emily.elliott55@gmail.com,

734-646-0667.



FOR SALE:

Beautiful drop leaf table and 4 chairs.

2 extra leaves.

\$795.00

517-937-8492



December-15

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1		2	3	4	5
6	7 Mitten Tree Holiday Gathering	8	9 Board Meeting	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 office closed	26
27	28	29	30	31		