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March 2015

IN THE GARDEN

By Lisa Joseph, Horticulturist

I always say to get out and play, but my mantra has been difficult to live up to these past weeks. Boy, am I in a winter funk! If it weren't for my sweet dog and his insistence upon long walks, I probably wouldn't want to venture outdoors. It has been difficult to walk in the crusted-over, slippery snow. There's nothing good to do outside!

I love to keep bird feeders and watch my little winged friends. They have really depended upon me during this frigid cold winter. My favorite bird is the beloved Black-capped Chickadee. They are so hardy and brave, gentle and polite, and they come right up to



the feeder while I'm filling it. They're out even in the worst winter storms looking for seeds. I bought a ground feeder this year for the big bully Blue Jays and squirrels to keep them away from the smaller birds. My feeder pole has a squirrel baffle and three feeders. One of them is a peanut holder for the woodpeckers and nuthatches. As soon as I head out with the unsalted peanuts, the pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers call to one another and perch in the tree right above my head. They like to be first at the feeder. I also put out a big dish of fresh water for the birds.

I used to have a heated birdbath, but it was way too expensive to keep running all winter. I've been having a heck of a time replacing the frozen water with fresh, however!

It may have been due to the weather last summer (damp and chilly at night), but the Dahlias I usually like were not on my favorites list. They suffered greatly from powdery mildew and aphid infestations. Only two made the all-star list, and under the unfavorable weather conditions, I would say that they have proven themselves to be outstanding performers. The first and best is Dahlia 'Gallery Art Deco' which I use in planters every year as a tall focal point. It matures at about 30" in height and bears gorgeous peach and wine-colored blooms. I wrote about this one in a past article. That is how special it is to me. I buy the tubers from Brent and Becky's Bulbs and start them in large pots before transplanting them into my summer planters. To pot up a Dahlia tuber, choose a container large and deep enough to accommodate the size of your tuber and use a light, seed-starting potting mix. Place the tuber in the container so that the eye is about 2 inches below the surface of the soil and water in. Dahlias are native to Mexico so be sure to keep the container in a warm spot indoors. Once planted outdoors, site in an area that receives full sun.

The other all-star from the summer of 2014 is Dahlia 'Mingus Randy', tall enough for planting in the ground among the perennials. This Dahlia grows up to 42" tall and starts blooming in July with enormous blossoms of orchid pink and light yellow with pointed petals, called a cactus-type. It is such an eye-catcher! Even one of my clients who is less than enthused about the outdoors noticed this plant and commented about how beautiful it was in his garden! These taller Dahlias often require staking. When planting them in the garden, I install a grow-through support over top while the plant is still small. Trying to stake a large flopping Dahlia later in the game proves to be a challenge. It's much better to prepare ahead.

I've chosen a few new Dahlias to trial this summer. First is one called 'Karma Sangria', a cactus-type with yellow and deep pink petals. It should grow to 3 feet in height. Next is an eye-catching beauty called 'Vancouver' with white-tipped burgundy blooms on a 3-foot tall plant. Also on the list is 'Park Princess', a 3-foot tall cactus-type Dahlia, with pale to vibrant pink prolific blossoms. Lastly is one I am quite eager to see in my garden called 'Thomas Edison'. This 4' tall statuesque Dahlia with large velvety purple blooms is available from Old House Gardens Heirloom Bulbs right here in Ann Arbor! Dahlias make great cut flowers too. Don't you long for fresh bouquets in the house? I can't wait for those days, starting with freshly cut lilacs, my favorite!

On Monday, I am starting my rejuvenation. I am getting out of bed in the morning at 6:00 even though my flannel sheets are so cozy. I will not push the snooze button. I'm going to the gym again. Bite the bullet. I'll sit at my drafting table and get those garden designs completed that I've been putting off since November. I'm going to start planning my spring and summer planters. I'll do this while sitting by a sunny window. The winter sluggishness and hibernation are coming to an end. Let's rev our engines!





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Design and Nature Photography

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Just a Reminder

Trash Carts must be stored behind approved fenced areas in front of your unit or must be placed behind your unit when not placed in the street for pick up.

Please refer to Association Policies:

TRASH AND RECYCLING

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

2. 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) in front of his or her unit behind an approved trash cart enclosure installed by Pittsfield Village staff or by the owner [Cross-reference-“Storage,” Rules 2 and 3].

3. Trash Cart Enclosures.

a) Trash cart installed shall be approved specification

b) A variance from the specification must be approved by the Board of Directors. A request shall be made to the Board in writing with supporting material such as drawings or pictures.

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].

4. Collection. Trash and compostable 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 Monday 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.

5. 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 of been picked up by the City must be collected at the time of retrieval of containers.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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)



Sump pumps are coming to The Village!

Homes built prior to 1981, such as Pittsfield Village, often have what's known as a combined sewer system, where the storm water from the perimeter of the building empties into the sanitary sewer line inside each unit at the basement floor drain.

The City of Ann Arbor wants to reduce sanitary sewer overflows, basement flooding, and reduce unnecessary treatment of storm water at the water treatment plant. One way they achieve this is by re-routing storm water in the unit to a sump pump which pumps it to the City's storm water system.

This work is being done at Pittsfield Village by Perimeter LLC, one of the companies approved by the City to perform this work through their Developer Offset Mitigation Program. This stipulates that in order to build in the City of Ann Arbor, a developer must pay to remove 120 percent of the volume their development will add to the sanitary collection system.

The process takes about 3 days to complete the inside portion, including inspections, and requires 4 feet of space along the street-side wall.

You will be notified with sufficient notice if/when your unit is scheduled for this work

Colin Breed,
Maintenance Supervisor



Furnace Filters

Your furnace has been working hard all winter but the heating season is not over yet. Change your furnace filter to keep it running efficiently. Make a note of the size before you go to the store (it will be on the old one) so that you pick up the right one.



Compare to the new filter on the bottom to the filter installed 3 months ago. The photo does not show all the cob webs and dust bunnies that it holds.



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!

MESSAGE FROM COMCAST

Peace of mind and control is what the XHS Home Security from Comcast provides. You set the rules so you can know what's happening at home when you are away. Contact the Village's personal Xfinity representative, Terri at 734-827-4951 for more details. Call if you need transfers, upgrades and new service. Special pricing for Village residents!

1	2	3 6pm M&M Committee meeting	4	5 6pm Landscape Committee meeting	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 6pm Finance Committee meeting	20 Newsletter articles due	21
22	23	24 6pm Communications Committee meeting	25	26 6:15pm Open Forum 6:30pm Board Meeting	27	28
29	30	31	 Pittsfield Village <small>GREEN SPACES • GREAT NEIGHBORS</small> March 2015			

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

