

POOL PARTY 2015 WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

It would not have been so, if it weren't for our dedicated volunteers and our generous sponsors.

Special thanks go to our board and committee members:

**Kat Irvin, Cindy Samoray,
Sarah Deflon, Aaron Pressel
and Ellen Johnson**

Super Huge Thank You! to our sponsors, Mastercraft Coatings, Superior Mow and Snow and Associa/Kramer-Triad.

Finally, what a special treat to have Recycle Ann Arbor and Comcast representatives present to answer questions and provide assistance to us!



3RD ANNUAL POOCH PLUNGE

Barb DeLongchamp

Come one come all to our 3rd Annual Pooch Plunge. We have been enjoying this lovely summer in the pool and it's almost time for our best friends to do the same. For our 3rd year we will have a Doggie Swim Party with a doggie cake, treats and gift bags for our furry four-legged friends. No need to own a dog to be part of the festivities. Just come and watch the Labs dive into the pool, the Goldens paddling or the little pups running around chasing each other. It's great fun for everyone especially the kids, but the swimming is restricted to doggies. Swimsuits are not required for pooches, they can just come in their birthday suits.

Date is Wednesday, September 9th, from 5-7. Rain date is Thursday, September 10th. Feel free to volunteer, we need all the help we can get.

Call the Office to volunteer at (734) 971-0233 or Barb De Longchamp, (734) 395-4974.

**See you at the pool for fun.
Arf, arf, arf!!**





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Design and Nature Photography

Karen Tuttle of klizaDESIGN.com

CARE FOR YOUR TRASH AND RECYCLE CARTS

Ever wonder why some of our trash carts are neatly hidden behind little fences, while others are out for everyone to see? We do, too!

Ann Arbor city ordinance requires that all trash, recycle, and compost carts be stored out of sight. For folks with garages, it's easy. For us, not so easy. Because of a Pittsfield Village condo owner complaint a few years ago, the city and the condo association had a series of conversations about how to handle this situation. Originally the city mandated that everyone keep the carts behind their units, which would be a hardship for many of us, especially in winter. Eventually the city agreed that any condo unit which had a fence built to certain specifications, the carts could be stored behind the fences. While the carts can still be seen from the street, they're less

obvious. The city also approved hiding the carts behind shrubbery.

So what's the problem? Some owners haven't installed the fences or planted cart hiding shrubbery and are storing their trash and recycle carts out in plain sight. Lest we face another unpleasant face-off with the city, Pittsfield Village management will begin sending letters to each owner reminding them of their obligation to conform to city standards.

If you'd like to build your own cart privacy fence, phone or stop by the Pittsfield Village condo office for the specifications and complete a modification request. Another option is to have the condo maintenance staff build a fence for you on a bill-back basis. The cost for this is \$140.



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FIRE PITS...NO MORE

I sat around a fire pit (official name: 'portable outdoor fireplace') for the first time here in the Village over 10 years ago, at a neighbor's place; an easy walk out the back door across the lawn. On a lovely summer evening, several families gathered with their kids and dogs and we talked and roasted marshmallows until the kids got tired and we all had to head for home and our beds.

Unfortunately, as pleasant as they can be, we can no longer have fire pits in the Village. There have been several instances of damage to lawns, more than a couple of complaints from neighbors downwind from the smoke, and general concern about the potential for mishandling and using them in the wrong place—such as on the deck next to the building (yikes!).

A question came to the Modification and Maintenance committee about them this past spring. We considered a number of options: rules and regs about how and where to use them; requiring gas-

fueled rather than open flame fire pits; even the possibility of having a 'community fire pit'.

The clincher, though, was the response we got after checking with our insurance company: they will not cover damage caused by a fire pit. And if we allow them, with or without rules or specifications, then we are liable for any incident and we would have no insurance to back us up.

So the final recommendation—accepted by the Board—is that residents and owners **may not have or use fire pits of any kind in the Village**. We understand that this may not be a happy decision for some of us. But it's part of what living in community means: devising ways that we all can live closely together with the least amount of friction and restriction and the greatest amount of benefit to all of us.



Pittsfield Village
Communications
Committee

Bulletin

FOR SALE:

ELLIPTICAL EXERCISE MACHINE

Contact mawl2006@comcast.net if you are interested.

PEST PROBLEMS?

Pest Control Services are provided by Eradico Services every Thursday. They will treat for ants, spiders, bees, mice, etc. Please call the Pittsfield Village office to schedule service.

COMCAST / XFINITY

The Village has its own Xfinity representative: Terri—(734) 827-4951. Special pricing for Village residents!

Moving? Call Terri for a quick and easy transfer! Get more for your entertainment \$\$\$! Call Terri for a quick review of your current service provider!

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.

Terri—Your dedicated Xfinity representative. Call today: (734) 827-4951.

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! PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO EXTRA CHARGE TO HAVE YOUR MONTHLY ASSOCIATION FEES AUTOMATICALLY WITHDRAWN (DIRECT DEBIT)!

Specification Updates

by John Sprentall

Pittsfield Village has new specifications.

- Fire Pits
- Raised Bed Gardens
- Exterior Storage Units

Please check our website www.pittsfieldvillage.com for details and to view or to download these documents.

IN THE GARDEN

By Lisa Joseph, Horticulturist

For as long as I can remember, I've had a deep fondness of nature and of being outdoors. As a kid, I used to collect earthworms from the street after a rain and place them in a dirt pile that I had made in my red wagon. I grew up in a find-something-to-do-outside kind of family. That was my childhood, and that is what I know. I've written about my love of bats, animals, butterflies, Green Lacewings, worms and, of course, plants. I'd like to share with you another interesting insect experience I had recently. I noticed that a verbena in one of my planters was suffering from an aphid infestation.

Just as I was considering spraying insecticidal soap, I noticed a little insect crawl underneath a leaf. Taking a closer look, I realized that it was the beloved larva of a ladybird beetle, more commonly known as lady bug. The lady bug always lays her eggs in a spot with a good food source for her hungry young. Resembling black and red miniature alligators, the lady bug larvae feed voraciously on these loathsome little beasts, popping one after another into their greedy mouths. They are our friends indeed! The longer I watched that planter, the more larvae I spotted. Lesson: Before you spray insecticide on your pest insects, look around closely for the beneficial insects first. You may end up killing the good guys as well as the bad. Spraying won't even be necessary if the beneficials are on the job.

I have also been spotting the dreaded Japanese Beetles lately. This medium-sized beetle is copper-colored and shiny with an endless appetite. They have decimated my

Hibiscus and roses and are starting to feed on my Dahlia blossoms that are just beginning to open. These brutes are difficult to control. Spraying is futile. Just don't do it. They fly away and you risk hitting another insect such as a honey bee instead. The most effective control measure is to pick them off by hand and drop them into a bucket of soapy water. Wear gloves to do this task if you are squeamish. Grab them quickly before they drop to the ground or, worse, fly away. There will be a new population of them daily. Monitor your plants frequently until their feeding frenzy is over. It's devastating to wait for that magnificent Dahlia bloom to open only to have it immediately chewed up and left a tatty mess by that cursed beetle pest!

LISA'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

**TAGETES 'YELLOW PERFECTION'-
Marigold, Perfection Series.**

I'll confess that I never thought I'd be a Marigold fan. Yet, here comes this big and robust, brilliant yellow stunner that captured my heart. Nothing ruffles this plant, not drought, not deer or rabbits, not insects. This stalwart beauty blooms perfectly all summer long. I have it planted with bright cobalt blue Salvia "Cathedral" and tall magenta Gomphrena "Fireworks". This trio creates a stunning, eye-catching combination.

If you, like many people, planned your garden in June and planted a bunch of perennials that were bursting in bloom at the time but now are tired-looking and nothing else in the



garden is in bloom, then I have the answer for you. Here is a list of my favorite late summer bloomers for you to research:

- Aconitum c. "Arendsii" (partial shady areas) - Monkshood
- Anemone (partial shady areas)
- Aster "Monch" and "Purple Dome"
- Caryopteris- Bluebeard
- Eupatorium "Baby Joe"- Dwarf Joe-Pye Weed
- Helenium "Red Army"- Helen's Flower
- Lespedeza bicolor "Gibraltar"- Dwarf Bush Clover
- Ornamental Grasses
- Sedum "Neon"
- Solidago "Fireworks"- Goldenrod
- Tricyrtis (shady areas)- Toadlily
- Vernonia "Iron Butterfly"- Ironweed

It's hard to believe that August is upon us already. It seems like just yesterday I was milling around the Ann Arbor Art Fair, basking in the beautiful weather and enjoying one of my favorite summertime events. Summer slips away so quickly. Live in the moment and soak up every possible minute of this most wonderful of seasons. Next month I will tell you my fascinating story about the ootheca I found.

Until then, go outside and play!





Tidbit from the Office...

New City? New Home? Feeling a little lost?

Newcomers Welcome Service

Newcomers Welcome Service specializes in helping recent arrivals feel right at home. Get to know Ann Arbor's finest restaurants, shops and services with a FREE Welcome Packet.

Making New Neighbors Feel at Home Since 1960!

Call them at (734) 995-2200 or visit www.newcomersws.com

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR...

By: Cindy Samoray

Condo living...can take some getting used to. Especially if past experience has only been in single family dwellings; where all decisions made are independent from those around you. As condo owners, not only do we share green space and common walls: we share access to our utilities.

Take our natural gas for example, when the supply is (whether accidentally or intentionally) shut-off to your building: everyone must be home in order to have service restored. Before DTE will send out a service technician they must confirm access to everyone's home. After the gas line has been reopened, DTE must be able to enter each unit one by one to ignite the pilot-light. Which means if your neighbor isn't home or someone else doesn't have a key, the gas will not be turned on to the building and life is... unpleasantly interrupted.

Imagine for a moment this happens to your building. You come home from school or work and find a note on your door to call DTE. What is your responsibility? How will you resolve the situation? What is the Village's responsibility and what system is set-up to access other homes in your building? Those questions are important to consider now. Understand that sometimes emergency or unplanned situations occur around your home, and those closest and connected to you should be prepared.

First of all: remember if ever there is a life (medical, police, fire) threatening type of emergency call 911.

Second: for after-hours maintenance emergency call (734) 971 0233. This is the

Village office number, which is forwarded to a Kramer-Triade voice message. This will explain the afterhours – on call service process. You will not be charged for the call to ask questions, but may be if the situation proves to be less than emergent.

Third and perhaps most important of all: while it's not required to be best buds with those sharing the same building as you, we strongly encourage everyone to at least exchange phone numbers. Not only is it more pleasant to have a cordial (if not friendly relationship with those sharing a structure) but having made connections and shared contact information might come in real handy one day.

As far as the Village's responsibility, when service shut off or any other sort of situation arises during office hours – when staff is available – every effort to alert effected owners will be taken. However, because the office does not keep copies of everyone's keys, and are only able to try to reach us (phone calls or email) there is no guarantee that effort will be the answer. An established line of communication between building owners is important when unusual circumstances strike. In addition to sharing contact information consider letting your neighbor know when you will be out of town. If you aren't comfortable giving a key to one of your neighbors, leave the name and number of someone who does have a key... just in-case access to your unit is mandatory, like it would be for natural gas situations.

Hopefully this won't be a problem for any of us during our time in the Village. It's simply better to be prepared. In general, to know your neighbors name is nice. In an emergency, to know their contact information might be priceless.

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MISSION

Barb DeLongchamp

At time there has been some confusion about what the Landscape Committee has done and will do for all residents. This leads us to many requests that we, the Committee, cannot perform due to our Mission Statement, specifically the replacement or removal of "healthy plants" due to Item 7. Below please find our eight bullet points governing our decisions. Hopefully this will help all residents in your viable requests. Our mission is not to bring disappointment or displeasure. We, as all Pittsfield Village Committees, are here to help everyone; however the Landscape Committee has the fun job of planting beautiful flowers. We hope you enjoy them and our service. Thank you for everything you do to help maintain our beauty.

1. Foster resident participation and sense of community.
2. Provide plantings that enhance the inherent charm of Pittsfield Village, including all season color and design.
3. Support the City of Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation Mission to eliminate invasive plants.
4. Support a safe environment through minimal use of pesticide and herbicide applications, and encouraging clean water practices.
5. Provide a sense of Privacy while allowing for security issues.
6. Provide shade, especially for residents with significant west or south sun exposure.
7. REMOVE TREES AND OTHER PLANTS THAT ARE DEAD, DISEASED, OR DANGEROUS TO PEOPLE AND PROPERTY.
8. Clear sidewalks of snow and ice in conformance with city code.

August 2015

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

<div><h1>Pittsfield Village</h1><p>GREEN SPACES • GREAT NEIGHBORS</p><h2>August 2015</h2></div> <div>All meetings to be held in Pittsfield Village Community Room unless otherwise noted.</div>						1
2	3	4 6pm M&M Committee meeting	5	6 6pm Landscape Committee meeting	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Newsletter articles due	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 6:15pm Open Forum 6:30pm Board Meeting	28	29
30	31					



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